Developing the CBR Neurological Singing, Choir & Voice Network in Aotearoa New Zealand

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2009 Launch of the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) and the CeleBRation Choir for people experiencing communication challenges related to a neurological condition (Fogg & Talmage, 2012)

2009 SLT-led Brainwave Singers established (Bay of Plenty DHB) (Matthews, 2013, & doctoral research)

From 2010 NZ-wide impact Independent formation of several other choirs (led by RMThs, SLTs, community musicians) and interest from other communities

From 2010 Research CBR doctoral, MSc & BSc (Hons) research: singing for people with Parkinson’s disease, quality of life, rhythm & melody

2016 CBR Symposium 2017 CBR Choirs Workshop in collaboration with NZ Music Therapy Week

CeleBRation Choir - weekly sessions, occasional performances, mixed methods research - funded by the CBR, grants and donations

Choral-singing is addictive

2010-2011 SPICCATO Study CBR feasibility study (Stroke & Parkinson’s: Investigating Community Choirs and Therapeutic Outcomes) (Talmage et al., 2013)

From 2017 Voices in Harmony Doctoral study: How can I, as a music therapist, collaborate with communities to maximise the benefits of group singing for adults living with a neurological condition? Supervisors: Dr Te Oti Rakana (School of Music), Prof Suzanne Purdy (Speech Science), and Dr Daphne Rickson (Music Therapy, Victoria University of Wellington).

2015-2017 Community Engagement Thematic analysis of interviews with choir leaders (RMThs, SLTs, musicians): Labels: choirs, groups, therapy? Interprofessional field of practice Inclusive & specialist contexts Cultural values and roles Goals: QoL, communication Co-working and skill sharing Collaborative research Sustainable funding

International links:
Bron Jones & Stroke A Chord (Australia), Asia Pacific Community Music Network, Aphasia Choirs Go Global, Dr Cathy Warner & Laura Fogg-Rogers (UK), Dr Yoon Irons (Australia), Dr Trish Vella-Burrows (UK),

References
Jenkins et al. (2017). Quality of life for individuals with a neurological condition who participate in social/therapeutic choirs. Disability and Rehabilitation, 39(15-16), 1540-1546
Matthews, R. (2013). Do re mi: Does voice and choral singing therapy (VCST) improve the prosodic element of hypokinetic dysarthria in people with Parkinson’s disease? Disability and Rehabilitation, 36(5-6), 430-433
Rogers et al. (2016). Choral singing therapy following stroke or Parkinson’s disease: an exploration of participants’ experiences and benefits. Disability and Rehabilitation, 38(5), 430-433
Thematic analysis of interviews with choir leaders (RMThs, SLTs, musicians): Labels: choirs, groups, therapy? Interprofessional field of practice Inclusive & specialist contexts Cultural values and roles Goals: QoL, communication Co-working and skill sharing Collaborative research Sustainable funding

www.cbr.auckland.ac.nz/choir  www.facebook.com/CeleBRationChoirNZ  E: cbrchoir@auckland.ac.nz