

KIWICORDER

A resource for recorder ensembles

WRITTEN BY JUDITH & MICHAEL BELL REVIEWED BY CELIA STEWART

I was very excited when I heard Judith had received funding from MENZA's Networks of Expertise fund to create a resource for recorder suitable for use in New Zealand primary schools.

Kiwicorder does not disappoint! It features thirteen delightful original compositions scored for various combinations of descant, treble, tenor and bass recorder. Easy and advanced descant parts ensure the resource is accessible to a wide range of abilities. Two of the pieces are composed by Judith's son Michael and the other eleven by Judith.

With superb backing tracks featuring some of Christchurch's best musicians, a school which may have players with only a three note repertoire can still perform with an easy decant part against the backing track which will be satisfying for the players and entertaining for an audience!

Many of the pieces have titles reflecting Judith's love for Christchurch and its surrounds and many have a backstory. For example, the first track, *Limpet and Barnacle Rock* where the name reflects the main rhythm of the piece was inspired by Judith's early trips to the beach with her young children exploring the rocky shoreline. The word rock in the title is a play on coastal rock and the rock genre. The piece has parts for three descants at different levels

TranzAlpine Blues has a range of tempi reflecting the different speeds of the train as it goes up into Arthur's Pass and back down to the ocean. If you listen carefully you can hear the train whistle.

Judith also explores a range of genres from gentle melodies through to blues and rock. *Memories* is a lovely lyrical piece written for a duet of descant recorder and another instrument which could be a flute or a second recorder. *Go E'sy Blues* is all about the minor blues in a laid back swing style and only uses 4 notes, E, G, A and B, for the melody with opportunities for children to improvise on the same four notes. *Lyttelton* is in the style of an Irish jig and reflects the fact that Lyttelton is the port where the ships first arrived with British settlers in the Canterbury region, bringing with them their musical heritage.



One of Michael's pieces, *Rock-Order* could almost be considered to be in a heavy metal style and the children will love performing it with its funky backing track.

Another popular one with older children will be *8 Bit* which is based on the old 8-bit gaming style of music, and it also has 8-bit binary coded messages in the advanced recorder part and the opening drum solo.

Along with a range of genres, Judith also challenges the players with some interesting time signatures – 5-4 Dance is just that and the main theme of *Journey into the Void* has 7 beats in the bar.

The final piece in the resource is a gentle soundscape titled *Whenua* which features the beautiful playing of Mahina-Ina Kingi-Kau on taonga puoro along with some stunning imagery.

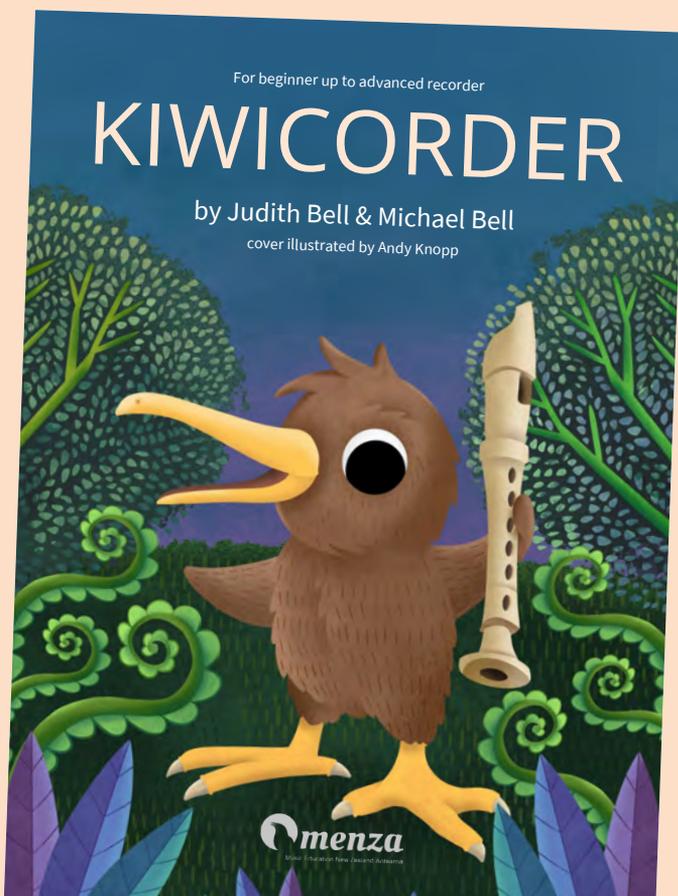
Kiwicorder will be free to all schools and will be released as a digital resource with lead sheets, backing tracks, play-along videos and teaching notes. It is going to be a wonderful addition to our schools and will guarantee the engagement and enthusiasm of our tamariki as they learn this very precious instrument. Look out for it!



CELIA STEWART

BIO: Celia is Music Director of the Christchurch School of Music where she also runs foundation music classes for pre-schoolers and junior school students and teaches flute, recorder and piano.

Along with Judith she is co-director of a children's music festival, Strum, Strike and Blow a festival for recorders, ukuleles and tuned percussion. With training in both Orff Schulwerk and Kodaly, she is a regular presenter of workshops in early childhood and primary music education throughout NZ.



For beginner up to advanced recorder

KIWICORDER

by Judith Bell & Michael Bell

cover illustrated by Andy Knopp

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Music Education New Zealand Association