

Review of "This is My Life – Gary Daverne ONZM

by Rita Barnea, Editor, USA Accordion News.

Gary Daverne ONZM has recently released a pictorial slideshow, "This is My Life" looking at the illustrious life of the New Zealand composer, orchestral conductor and record producer. Gary was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1996.

He held the position of Music Director/Conductor of the Auckland Symphony Orchestra from its formation in 1975 until 2010 when, on retiring, he was appointed Music Director Emeritus. Daverne has also conducted many major orchestras around the world.

He has composed music for symphony orchestras, brass and military bands, children's songs and musicals with more than 500 television and radio advertising jingles, film soundtracks and pop songs.

Daverne is New Zealand's most prolific composer and arranger of music for the accordion. As a music producer Daverne has released over forty albums achieving one Platinum and two Gold records.

Since his retirement from the Auckland Symphony directorship position, he has gone back to his pop and rock 'n' roll roots as a record producer, digitally re-mastering, mainly for internet re-release on his Viscount label, archive recordings that he produced in his earlier years, along with producing new recording projects.

He is still actively involved as a guest conductor with orchestras and as a musical arranger and composer.

During the 2014/15 period, Gary was musical director for three highly successful children's musicals at the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre in Auckland. Two of these musicals: Robyn Hood – Outlaw Princess (words by John Reynolds) and Cats of Ponsonby (words and story by Ray Prowse), Gary had composed the music for some 40 years ago but had recently revised and updated. The third show was The Rockin' Tale of Snow White.

Other recent compositions by Gary include: Auckland March (performed by World Accordion Orchestra at 2009 Coupe Mondiale), Silver Fern March, 2nd Rhapsody for Solo Accordion and Orchestra (<https://youtu.be/VWjcGTf2Cxo>) and Dardanelle, a major work for orchestra and choir commissioned in 2016 by Turkey for their 100-year Gallipoli centenary.

In June 2015 he released his first book, *From the Podium*, sharing tales from his life of forty years conducting orchestras and choirs around the world. See <http://www.garydaverne.gen.nz> for details.

The superb video includes the soundtracks of his original compositions with photos of Gary, his awards, the ensembles he has conducted, the programs, and the important, talented people he has met during his musical career. You will also see photos of Gary as a young man in the various bands he played with as well as the instruments he plays. It is a personal account of the many fabulous experiences he has had and which he now wants to share with the world.

I really enjoyed Gary's video, learning about all the musical activities he has been involved in since he was a child. His life of enjoying music, people, and places. Above all, he is a person who shares in a kind and friendly manner.

Gary has contributed immensely to the accordion world with his compositions, both solo and ensemble. Over the years, Gary conducted his Auckland Symphony Orchestra featuring many outstanding accordionists from New Zealand (Tracey Collins, Kevin Friedrich, Harley Jones and Stephanie Poole) as well as Mary Tokarski and Betty Jo Simon (from USA).

See the attachment which will tell you about his CD's and give you the necessary information to order them. I highly recommend acquiring his CD's and compositions.

For more information on Gary Daverne, please visit <http://www.garydaverne.gen.nz/>

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