

# Keep Our Town Hall

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Dear Architectural Centre Members

As you may know the Christchurch Town Hall was damaged in the earthquakes of 2011. The Christchurch City Council is considering the future of the building and a decision is expected soon. We are extremely concerned that the building will be demolished for narrow, pragmatic reasons. We believe the Christchurch Town Hall is of such architectural and cultural significance that every effort should be made to ensure its survival and wish to enlist your support.

The Christchurch Town Hall is the only work of architecture in New Zealand that has had a notable influence on other buildings around the world. Its acoustics were groundbreaking and it was the first hall in the world to solve the problem of the oval-shaped auditorium. For this reason it is of worldwide significance. The acoustics of the Christchurch Town Hall have been acclaimed by many of the world's most celebrated musicians, including Yehudi Menuhin and Leonard Bernstein.

The town hall has been the venue for a wide range of civic, educational and cultural activities, including: University graduation ceremonies, primary and secondary school music festivals, school prize givings, CANTAmaths, science fairs, organ recitals, orchestral and choral concerts, band and chamber music concerts, operas, musicals, international artists' solo performances, theatrical performances, charity dinners and balls, conferences and annual meetings, live comic performances, debates, public talks, popular music performances, the funerals and memorials of public figures, political meetings, religious assemblies, citizenship ceremonies and the 1974 Commonwealth Games. For nearly 40 years the Town Hall has been Christchurch's public living room.

You can express your support for the repair of the Christchurch Town Hall by writing a letter or email addressed to the Mayor and Councillors of Christchurch, sent to Keep Our Town Hall at the PO Box above or by email.

If you do not have the time to write a letter in support but would like to add your name to a register of people who support the retention of the Christchurch Town Hall please reply briefly by post or email.

Since it opened in 1972 the Christchurch Town Hall has become recognised as one of the world's finest concert venues. It deserves to be enjoyed for more than just forty years. With your support it can.

Sincerely

Sir Miles Warren ONZ, KBE, FNZIA  
Maurice Mahoney ONZM, FNZIA  
Assoc. Prof Dr Ian Lochhead MA (Auck), PhD (Bryn Mawr)  
Dr Jessica Halliday PhD (Canterbury)  
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