

Haydn Rawstron

Condell's House 1964–1967 College No. 7610

Haydn John Rawstron MNZM

As heritage campaigner, philanthropist, musician and opera manager, Haydn Rawstron has championed New Zealand heritage and music on an international stage of global connections. He has converted the UK response to such initiative into endowments for the promotion and benefit of young New Zealanders. Awarded the Chevalier (knight) de l'ordre des Arts et Lettres by France for his services to opera and music, and honoured with membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his philanthropic, cultural and heritage achievements, Haydn Rawstron is renowned in both business and music.

In Britain, he initiated and drove sesquicentennial celebrations for both New Zealand and Canterbury, created one of the most successful European opera management agencies of the 1990s and 2000s, and established long-term links with Oxford University for the benefit of young Cantabrians. In Canterbury, he co-founded the Christchurch Arts Festival, set up the charitable John Robert Godley Memorial Trust to purchase the historic Lansdown(e) Homestead and Gardens, and, in 2013, invented narropera (narrative-opera), a new art form designed to engage the next generation of opera lovers, internationally.

