

Whare Flat Folk Festival

Festivals are something most of us will experience going to sometime in our lives, so why not make sure that it will be interesting and entertaining as much as it is welcoming.

Whare Flat Folk Festival is held annually in the Whare Flat valley near Dunedin. Created and run by the Dunedin Folk Club since 1975, this unique festival features workshops and concerts for all who are willing to participate. This festival begins the 30th of December and goes until the 3rd of January every year. ①

Starting out at a small group of around 50-100 locals (mostly New Zealanders), the Folk Festival grew into a roughly 500-people community by 2017, with people joining in from all over the globe. Their main objective is to get everybody involved and jamming together and communicating through song and dance rather than *just* speaking or sitting back watching. The music being shared and enjoyed has always been based around the folk feel but bounces around indie, country, swing, bluegrass, soul, r&b, rock and world music. ③

The folk fest has not been wavered by age and stands strong keeping a solid folk genre all through its life. Although, of course, bands like 'Albi and the Wolves', who are very loose with bringing different genres to the folk table (such as rock, pop, country and swing), create a contrast in this fest compared to someone like 'Tiny Pieces of Eight' who delve into hillbilly blues and psychedelic folk. Both these examples show there is a diverse range but keep loyal to the folk setting that had been big and bold from day one. ②

New Zealand has always been a place of diversity, and this festival ropes together all the good of New Zealand culture and creates a safe space for expression and workshops to nurture talents that need to be heard. The Whare Flat Folk Festival is a genius way to get tons of people involved and working together for everybody's musical improvement or entertainment. This festival is one unique experience that will not be easily forgotten. ③

Sources:

<https://www.whareflat.org.nz/>

<http://www.nefc.org.nz>

https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Folk_music