

# WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT

25-28 July 2025



6pm FRIDAY 25 to 12pm MONDAY 28 July 2025

Brackenridge Country Retreat & Day Spa  
Martinborough, New Zealand.

Presented by **Charlotte Yates**  
[songwritingschool.co.nz](http://songwritingschool.co.nz)



# WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT 2025



DAY 1

FRIDAY 25 July 6 - 9pm



## 6PM MEET & GREET

*Please arrive in time for dinner.*

Settle into your accommodation and enjoy a locally prepared meal with your fellow songwriters.



## 7 - 9PM SESSION ONE - WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST STRUGGLE?

*Our first formal session.*

What 's your current context, what are some of the primary songwriting problems or challenges you face and where do you feel a bit stuck?

DAY 2

SATURDAY 26 July 9am - 12.30pm



## 9 - 10.30AM SESSION TWO - USING FEEDBACK LOOPS

*Our second session followed by morning tea*

How to ask for and offer feedback on your material.

## 11AM - 12PM SESSION THREE - BAND POLITICS

*Our third session followed by lunch*

Working with other players and how to play well with them consistently.

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DAY 2

SATURDAY 26 July 1 - 9pm



## 1 - 3PM SONGWRITING SESSIONS

*Songwriting sessions followed by afternoon tea*

## 3.30 - 4.30PM SESSION FOUR - THE AUDIENCE HELPS YOU WRITE

*Our fourth session followed by a little free time & dinner at 6pm*

*How to use your live performances to develop your songs*



## 7- 9PM SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

*Our first songwriters circle where you can share what you've been writing and hear what others are doing. Relax and enjoy the music.*

DAY 3

SUNDAY 27 July 9am -3pm



## 9 - 10.30AM SESSION FIVE - FEEDBACK

*Our fifth session followed by morning tea*

*Ways to share your work with an audience more successfully.*

## 11AM - 12PM SESSION SIX - PREPRODUCTION FOR RECORDING

*Our sixth session followed by lunch*

*How to plan for a significant release.*



## 1 - 3PM SONGWRITING SESSIONS

*Co-writing sessions followed by afternoon tea*

# WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT 2025



DAY 3

SUNDAY 27 July 3.30pm-9pm



## 3.30 - 4.30PM SESSION SEVEN - BURNING QUESTIONS

*Our seventh session followed by a little free time and dinner at 6pm.*

A Q & A session answering those songwriting questions you really want answered! Participants are encouraged to send in questions before the retreat which will be answered in this session.



## 7 - 9PM SONGWRITERS GIG

Our Songwriters Retreat Concert where you share what you've been writing and hear what others are doing in a 'mock' concert setting on site.

DAY 4

MONDAY 28 January 9am - 12pm



## 9 - 10.30AM SESSION EIGHT - MOVING FORWARD

*Our eighth session followed by morning tea*

How to develop a path to move you forward in the right direction for the next 12 months



## 11AM - 12PM PACKING UP AND FAREWELL.

*Please pack up ALL your kit. Please stay for the (traditional!) group photo, exchange contact details and fill in our feedback survey.*

# Booking Information:

**WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT 2025** will be held at the Brackenridge Country Retreat & Day Spa, 62 White Rock Road, Martinborough, 25-28 July 2025. Set on 14 acres of farmland, we use several well appointed cottages plus a separate tuition space on site.



Accommodation (own room) plus all meals are included from our first dinner FRIDAY 25 July to our last morning tea on MONDAY 28 July. Please let us know any special dietary requirements.

There is plenty of parking, good coffee and WIFI. Participants have free access to the pool and fitness centre. The cottages are well heated with heatpumps and open fires.

## To book:

visit - [songwritingschool.co.nz](http://songwritingschool.co.nz)

email - [charlotte@charlotteyates.com](mailto:charlotte@charlotteyates.com)

phone - charlotte yates +64 21 685561

costs - \$NZ1295 (full fare) or  
\$NZ1230 (early bird tix) or  
\$NZ1195 (SWS student discount)

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\*Fees non-refundable less than 30 days prior to the event. Payment plans available on inquiry.

\*If you require transport from Wellington Airport or you can assist with carpooling, please advise.

\*Summer Songwriting Retreat will run at the same venue 25-28 January 2026.

# What will I come away with?

The **Winter Songwriting Retreat** is designed for songwriters looking to develop their personal songwriting projects. It will suit songwriters who have had releases or who are planning them, plus those who are building repertoire for live performance. It will also suit songwriters who are looking for next steps or planning a change in direction.

You'll be involved in practical workshops, opportunities to share current material plus receive plenty of pertinent tuition in a friendly, supportive environment.

You'll have the opportunity for feedback and to ask questions, while sharing the air with like-minded people, as keen and curious as you are to expand the scope of their songwriting, live performance and recorded production.

## About the presenter, Charlotte Yates



**Charlotte** is a professional independent New Zealand singer-songwriter with a growing catalogue of eight solo and fifteen collaborative releases. She owns and operates **Songwriting School**, an online songwriting tuition subscription, and has been presenting residential songwriting retreats for 8 years.

**[charlotteyates.com](http://charlotteyates.com)**

**[songwritingschool.co.nz](http://songwritingschool.co.nz)**

**WHAT TO BRING** – something to write with (pen/paper/laptop/tablet), your instrument & headphones (if relevant) and your phone to record ideas or performances. Please bring enough material to share in workshops.