

SUMMER SONGWRITING RETREAT

25-28 January 2026



6pm Sunday 25 to 12pm Wednesday 28 January 2026

Brackenridge Country Retreat & Day Spa
Martinborough, New Zealand.

Presented by **Charlotte Yates**
songwritingschool.co.nz



SUMMER SONGWRITING RETREAT 2026



DAY 1

SUNDAY 25 January 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 - WHERE ARE YOU AT?

Our first formal session.

Identifying where you're at on your songwriting path now, and where you would like to get to. What might be holding you back?

DAY 2

MONDAY 26 January 9am – 12.00pm

9 - 10.30AM SESSION TWO - FINDING YOUR VOICE

Our second session followed by morning tea

How to express yourself in your songs more effectively.



11AM - 12PM SESSION THREE - DEVELOPING A PROCESS

Our third session followed by lunch

Inspiration is wonderful but what happens when you feel stuck? Learn how to support your process and write consistently

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DAY 2

MONDAY 27 January 1 – 9pm



1 – 3PM SONGWRITING SESSIONS

Co-writing sessions followed by afternoon tea

3.30 – 4.30PM SESSION FOUR – CREATIVE CHOICE

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

Learn how to easily generate creative choices for your lyrics, melodies and chord progressions.



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

TUESDAY 27 January 9am – 3pm



9 – 10.30AM SESSION FIVE – LIVE PRODUCTION

Our fifth session followed by morning tea

Ways to share your work with an audience more successfully.

11AM – 12PM SESSION SIX – MAKING DEMO RECORDINGS

Our sixth session followed by lunch

Navigating first steps to recording your songs to share.



1 – 3PM SONGWRITING SESSIONS

Co-writing sessions followed by afternoon tea

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DAY 3

TUESDAY 27 January 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

WEDNESDAY 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:

SUMMER SONGWRITING RETREAT will be held at the Brackenridge Country Retreat, 62 White Rock Road, Martinborough, 25-28 January 2026. Set on 14 acres of farmland, we use several well appointed cottages plus a tuition space on site.



Accommodation (own room) plus all meals are included from our first dinner Sunday 25 January to our last morning tea on Wednesday 28 January. 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.

To book:

visit - **songwritingschool.co.nz**

email - **charlotte@charlotteyates.com**

phone - **charlotte yates +64 21 685561**

costs - \$NZ1305 (full fare) or
\$NZ1240 (early bird tix) or
\$NZ1195 (SWS student discount)

*Summer Songwriting Retreat is presented by Charlotte Yates Productions Ltd t/a **songwritingschool.co.nz**. All rights reserved. All prices are gst inclusive.

*Fee non-refundable less than 30 days prior to the event.

***Winter Songwriting Retreat will run at the same venue 10-13 July 2026.**

What will I come away with?

The **Summer Songwriting Retreat** is designed for songwriters looking to develop their songs and their songwriting skills. It will help you map the journey of a song from first ideas to release.

From getting your songs to connect with an audience to how to best present your work, you'll get involved in practical writing sessions plus receive plenty of indepth experienced 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, who are as keen and curious as you are to find out more about songwriting.

Get you and your songs well and truly cooking in this beautiful setting free from daily distractions. It really works plus the food is outstanding!

About the presenter, Charlotte Yates



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

charlotteyates.com
songwritingschool.co.nz

WHAT TO BRING – something to write with (pen/paper/laptop/tablet), your instrument & headphones (if relevant), your phone to record ideas or performances and at least two original songs to share.