

WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT 10-13 July 2026



6pm FRIDAY 10 to 12pm MONDAY 13 July 2026

Brackenridge Country Retreat & Day Spa
Martinborough, New Zealand.

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



WINTER SONGWRITING RETREAT 2026



DAY 1

FRIDAY 10 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 11 July 9am - 12pm



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

Finding and working with other players. How to play well with them consistently.

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DAY 2

SATURDAY 11 July 1 - 9pm



1 - 3PM SONGWRITING/PROJECT SESSIONS

Individual songwriting/project 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 12 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 & PERFORMANCE

Our sixth session followed by lunch

How to plan for a significant release.



1 - 3PM SONGWRITING/PROJECT SESSIONS

Individual songwriting/project sessions followed by afternoon tea

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DAY 3

SUNDAY 12 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 to 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 13 July 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 2026 will be held at the Brackenridge Country Retreat & Day Spa, 62 White Rock Road, Martinborough, 10-13 July 2026. Set on 14 acres of farmland, we use several well appointed cottages plus a separate tuition space on site.



Accommodation (own room), tuition plus all meals are included from our first dinner FRIDAY 10 July to our last morning tea on MONDAY 13 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

email - charlotte@charlotteyates.com

phone - charlotte yates +64 21 685561

costs - \$NZ1327 (full fare) or
\$NZ1255 (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/to Wellington Airport or you can help with carpooling, please advise so we can assist with arrangements.

What will I come away with?

The **Winter Songwriting Retreat** is designed for songwriters looking to develop their personal songwriting projects further. 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 support 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/mentoring 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 sixteen collaborative releases. She owns and operates **Songwriting School**, an online songwriting tuition subscription, and has been presenting residential songwriting retreats for 9 years.

charlotteyates.com

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 live in workshops (at least two songs).