

The Dunedin Sound – Your photos wanted!

Like the memories they capture, they may be blurry, fuzzy and have faded a little with time – but Department of Music senior lecturer Ian Chapman still wants to use your pictures in his latest book.

Dr Chapman is writing a book on the music produced by bands such as The Verlaines, The Chills and The Bats from the 1970s to the early 1990s which is now described as the 'Dunedin Sound'.

Dr Chapman hopes to include images taken by former Otago students during the Dunedin Sound's hey-day, or by those who were at some of the seminal performances.

Whether the photos are big, small, black and white, colour, sharp, blurry, digital, or prints – and especially if they are previously unpublished – images will be considered for publication in the book, he says.

In return, those who submit images included in the publication will receive a copy of the book. All original photos will be returned to their owners.

As well as exploring the bands and the contribution they made to New Zealand music, Dr Chapman says the book will discuss definitions of the Dunedin Sound – the term, for example, is often equated with Flying Nun records, but he points out that not all bands signed to the New Zealand label were based in Dunedin.

Dr Chapman has written extensively on the music and career of pop-icon David Bowie and previously performed as “alter-ego” Dr Glam until he retired the character in 2014. He has also written on New Zealand music, with publications on Kiwi 'rock chicks', and most recently, New Zealand glam rock.

The book is due to be released in November 2016.

Contact Dr Chapman via the University of Otago Department of Music or email: ian.chapman@otago.ac.nz



Graeme Downes of The Verlaines, in the 'Dunedin Sound' heyday. Nowadays Graeme Downes is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Music.