



WELLINGTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA
WELLINGTON YOUTH SINFONIETTA
WELLINGTON YOUTH CHOIR
PRESENTS

EARTH

CONDUCTORS MARK CARTER
CHRIS VAN DER ZEE
ROWAN JOHNSTON

SOLOIST SOLACE WARD

FEATURING
BEETHOVEN RITCHIE
RUNESTAD MÄNTYJÄRVI HOPKINS
RAMEKA THOMAS SCHUBERT VERDI

MICHAEL FOWLER CENTRE

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025, 3PM

ticketmaster

www.ticketmaster.co.nz



The Wellington Youth Orchestra, Wellington Youth Sinfonietta and Wellington Youth Choir are joining forces for a one-of-a-kind concert at the Michael Fowler Centre on Sunday, October 19 2025. This unique collaboration promises an unforgettable afternoon of music you won't want to miss. The performers will be playing music by Runestad, Mäntyjärvi, Hopkins, Rameka, Thomas, Schubert, Beethoven and Verdi. Wellington Youth Orchestra's 2025 concerto competition winner Solace Ward will perform the Ritchie Concerto for Viola and Orchestra.

EARTH

Announcements - Jaakko Mäntyjärvi

- 1) We Regret to Announce
- 2) Ladies and Gentlemen
- 3) There are 17 Exits
- 4) Under Health and Safety Regulations

Past Life Melodies - Sarah Hopkins

Waitā - Reuben Rameka

Rockin' Jerusalem - André J. Thomas

Egmont Overture - Beethoven

Concerto for Viola - Anthony Ritchie

I n t e r v a l

Symphony No. 8, 1st movt - Schubert

Earth Symphony - Runestad

Grand March - Verdi

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (1963-)

Announcements

We begin with four Announcements, courtesy of Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi. Please give these your full attention, even if you have attended many concerts before.

Sarah Hopkins (1958-)

Past Life Melodies

In Past Life Melodies Australia's Sarah Hopkins seeks to evoke the timeless sounds of the Australian outback, celebrate the diversity of humankind - and push singers around at their technical limits. As well as sustaining an interminable pedal note they are gradually divided into eleven parts and then required to draw on the techniques of throat singing to manipulate vowels to create harmonics. These are the whistly sounds prominent in the last section.

Reuben Rameka (1997-)

Waitā

Reuben Rameka's Waitā was written as a commission for the New Zealand Choral Federation's Matariki He Reo concert at the 2024 World Choir Games. Waitā is one of the cluster of stars that together create the Matariki cluster. He is associated with the ocean and the foods gathered from it, and responsible for ocean tides and floodwaters. The piece reminds us of the conservation and environmental responsibilities that we owe to the ocean in return.

André J. Thoma (1952-)

Rockin' Jerusalem

In Rockin' Jerusalem André Thomas draws on the African American spiritual tradition, in which a common theme is trust in the freedom and salvation that will eventually be found in heaven. Some spirituals are sombre and sorrowful, but others are more upbeat, complex and syncopated - like this one.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1872)

Egmont Overture

Ludwig van Beethoven was a political animal and in his Egmont Overture he honours the heroic sacrifice of a man condemned to death for having taken a valiant stand against oppression. This was ostensibly Lamoral, Count of Egmont who was executed in 1568, in what was then the Spanish Netherlands, by the Spanish inquisition. He probably did not expect that, but the dignity with which he met his fate inspired a national uprising which eventually led to the Netherlands gaining its independence. What Beethoven was actually writing about in 1809 was the tyranny of the self-appointed Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, but the work has a universal, timeless resonance. It was used as the unofficial anthem for the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Anthony Ritchie (1960-) **Concerto for Viola No.1**

Anthony Ritchie is a son of Canterbury but has mostly been based in Otago, including serving as composer-in-residence for the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra in the 1990s, when he met a violist who would subsequently become his wife. Among orchestral players it is fashionable, to the point of compulsory, to despise the viola, but Ritchie knows what's good for him and calls it one of his favourite instruments, with a "mellow but rich tone and plaintive high register. It can be so expressive and somewhat melancholy but also capable of dynamic, lively ideas". These qualities are explored in his Viola Concerto of 1994. There are four movements, of which the last three are linked together. Near the end there are hints of Gershwin and bluegrass music.

Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828) **Symphony No. 8, 1st movement**

It is not known exactly why Franz Schubert did not finish what would have been his eighth symphony, although it is speculated that he might have been put off by a bout of syphilis. In any case, if not quite on a par with the early death of Mozart, his Unfinished Symphony of 1822 is one of music's great regrettables, and there have been many attempts since then to create a completed version. A competition to that end attracted over 100 entries in 1928, and more recently Huawei got AI to produce something, although it seems the results were rubbish. This first movement is all Schubert's own work and in it he packages memorable tunes, creative

orchestration and harmonic handbrake turns into something like the classical sonata form - Two contrasting themes are introduced, messed around with and finally restated as their best selves. If nothing else, you will probably recognise the second theme, where the cello tune goes "This is – the symphonic – that Schubert wrote but never finished".

Jake Runestad (1986-) **Earth Symphony**

In their Earth Symphony, regular collaborators US choral rockstar composer Jake Runestad and critically-acclaimed poet Todd Boss take on the largest of themes. Our planet, personified as Mother Earth, tells of her brief (in geological terms) encounter with humankind, whom she calls Mirabilia – marvels, miracles). There are five movements whose text is set out below, explaining the narrative. In the second movement the music makes reference to the Seikilos Epitaph, the world's oldest musical composition, as the story of the fall of Icarus is dramatized, while the fourth movement is a modern take of Dido's Lament from Henry Purcell's opera Dido and Aeneas.

You dam my
waters,

bleach
my corals, flood me
strangle me,
slaughter each other,
set me

on fire!

I am rage! I am war!
Where are your gods now?

Mirabilia!

What have you done,
over-blessed one?
briefest of species,
what have you done?

IV. Lament

Sleep now, my children, now your days
are done.
Nevermore shall you adore the setting
of the sun.

Sleep now, forever, lofted in time.
No seraphim to rouse thee, no carillons
to chime.

Mirabilia!
Never shall I dare to dream a dream so
bright.

Sleep now, my children, my wonder, my
light.
Never shall I dare to dream another
dream so bright.

Mirabilia!
Never shall I dare to dream a dream so
bright.

Sleep now, my children, though the
cradle fall.

You rest among the yesterdays, the
softest place of all.

Mirabilia!

V. Recovery

Alone, forever, the mirror
dims.

Empty
space.

Dormant
stone.

No, I shall not go alone.
Ivy shall recover every avenue,
seaweed swallow every drain,
and forestry sow a sorcery
over every human stain.

None shall weep,
and none shall witness,
while my wordless work is done.

Slowly,
in the shell of a factory,
a gray whale, circling aimlessly,
writes a disappearing history
in the shadows of the deep,

and none shall weep.

There will come a day
like the first day,
so heavenly,
so clear.

Mirabilia,
you would love it here.



Solace Ward

Viola

2025 WYO Concerto
Competition Winner



Solace Ward is a student in their first year of a Bachelor of Music at the NZSM, studying viola with Gillian Ansell and majoring in performance and composition. Solace began their musical education playing violin with Marise McNeill, and later Elizabeth Patchett.

In 2023, Solace was named Dux Artium of Palmerston North Girls High School and attained their LTCL diploma in viola, having previously achieved ATCL in violin. Solace has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra for several years, serving as associate principal of the viola section in 2025. They are currently principal viola of the Wellington Youth Orchestra and have previously held the same role with both the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra and the Manawatu Youth Orchestra.

Solace enjoys exploring a wide range of musical styles, including chamber music. This year, they received the Donald Armstrong Award at the NZSQ Adam Summer School. In the past they have also competed at the National Young Performers' Awards, and won Manawatu competitions on both viola and violin. As the inaugural recipient of a Young Composers' Scholarship in Manawatu, Solace was commissioned to compose a piano quintet premiered earlier this year.



Mark Carter

Wellington Youth
Orchestra Music Director



Mark Carter was born in Poole, Dorset in the UK. He studied trumpet at The Royal Academy of Music in London and the Queensland Conservatorium.

For over 25 years he has held the position of sub-principal trumpet with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He has also worked with the Cape Town Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Queensland Philharmonic, Queensland Symphony, Adelaide Symphony and Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Whilst studying trumpet at the Royal Academy of music in London he also studied conducting, taking part in conducting master classes with Sir Colin Davis and Sir Simon Rattle.

Since moving to NZ, Mark has conducted several community orchestras around the country, Wellington Youth Orchestra and Stroma contemporary music ensemble.



**Christiaan
Van Der Zee**

Wellington Youth
Sinfonietta Music
Director



Christiaan van der Zee is a professional violist, music educator and maths teacher. Trained in South Africa, Wellington, Germany and USA, he was also a founding member of the Tasman String Quartet. The Tasmans were participants, finalists and prize winners in several international competitions in the USA, Germany and Australia, and also toured for Chamber Music New Zealand.

Alongside his work as a maths teacher and Music Director of WYS, Christiaan is Principal Viola in Orchestra Wellington and plays regularly with the NZSO. He is an active chamber musician and runs the Karori Classics chamber music for charity series in Wellington together with a group of wonderful volunteers.

Christiaan loves working with young people in a music setting and since 2012 he has been specialising in the training of youth ensembles and youth orchestras.



Rowan Johnston

Wellington Youth Choir
Music Director



Rowan Johnston is HOD Music and Director of the recently launched Chilton Music Academy at Chilton Saint James School in Lower Hutt. He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma and Masters degree (1st Class) in conducting from the University of Auckland where he studied under Dr Karen Grylls CNZM.

Before taking up the directorship of the Wellington Youth Choir in 2023, Rowan conducted the internationally-acclaimed choir Choralation from Westlake Girls and Boys High Schools, the Auckland Youth Choir and was Director of Choirs at Auckland Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

For the last three years, Rowan has co-conducted the Aotearoa Academy Choir and was recently appointed as Music Director of the New Zealand Youth Choir. He is a regular guest conductor at the Australian National Choral School and in demand nationally and internationally as an adjudicator, conductor and choral clinician. Rowan is a National Choral Advisor for the New Zealand Choral Federation and, as a singer, is a member of the Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir.



WELLINGTON YOUTH CHOIR

Wellington Youth Choir is a self-run, mixed group of singers between the ages of 18 and 27. It is made up of around 50 university students and young professionals living in the Wellington region. The choir provides a bridge between school and community choirs for young singers. As well as giving experienced singers the opportunity to continue singing to a high standard, the choir is also a good place for those who are wanting to get involved in choral singing for the first time.

Soprano

Aimee Waterhouse
Cassandra Bahr
Chloe von Randow ++
Eleni Prebble
Eliza Cartmell
Emily Garratt
Ernestine Diot
Fi Quinn
Gemma Bennion
Hannah Francis
Helen Oliver ++
Jasmine Henriquez
Kell Crowther
Kitty Sneyd-Utting
Louisa Boyer
Milla Ellis Wood
Phern Evans
Rheya McCowan

Sally Zhang

Si'ai Faulalo
Sofia House
Sonya Li-McHenry
Sophie Spooner
Yulara Oike

Alto

Abi Wells
Amy Noble
Anika Winders
Arihia Thomason
Charlie Withers
Fiona Bogunovic
Freya Kersey ++
Freya Said
Hannah Flacks
Isabella Bostock
Jasmine Starr

Jess Bleach

Jo Ellithorpe
Kendyl Wilson
Keying Huo-Smith ++
Klara Talantseva
Madi Jagger
Roo Spence
Sarah Harwood
Violet Patterson

Tenor

Adam Neilson
Francois Murrell
Josh Long ++
Kevin Peng
Leo Clarke
Philip Oliver ++
Seamus Leathley

Bass

Ben Wylde Neuang-Keo
Bernabé Jiménez
Charle Rainey ++
Charley Milner
George Baker
Johniel Bocacao ++
Jordan Gunn
Leilani Woodmore
Lias Morris
Max Dunn
Ned Rainey
Noah Walker
Sean Brownlow
Y Bjors

++ Section leader.



WELLINGTON YOUTH SINFONIETTA

Wellington Youth Sinfonietta is the training orchestra for the Wellington Youth Orchestra. It provides orchestral training for players from about Grade 5 level upwards.

FIRST VIOLINS

An Pham
Alistair Dong
Annika Bonk
Christina He
Edward Taylor
Fengyao Liu *
Hamish Harrison
Hannah Stark
Izabela Ibanez
Jamie Zhuge
Kitty Grottrian
Leo Wallace
Lily Zhou
Moon (Jiyue) Liu
Nadia Roach
Olivia Zhou
Olivia Pinkney
Solomon Chen
Whitney Wu
Zishan Jin

SECOND VIOLINS

Aleksa Sekicki
Alexandre Abenoja
Amber Li
Anastasia Wongcharupan
Angela Wang
Charlotte Vesel
Elissa Hearn
Felix Van der Zee
Florence Ashby
Gloria (Juanling) Zhang
Hamish Wood
Iluka Beaven
Jina Yoon
Nina Buescher
Pia Dhabuwala ++
Ron Salz
Rosa Buescher
Ryan Teng
Sofia Water
Toscane Farcy
Zoey Lin

VIOLAS

Allen Abenoja
Clara Van der Zee ++
Maximilian Monaghan
Tara Kendon

CELLOS

Alex J Jenkins
Anneliese Diettrich
Antonia Saunders
Ethan Li
Isobel Heath
Juliet Grottrian
Kerriann Lim
Liam Whatman
Lilja Leppänen ++
Michaela Pierce
Nathaniel Wood
Patrick Townend
Sarah Zhou
Selina Yap
Thomas Burns

BASSES

Henry Dickson ++
Maja Petersen

FLUTES

Claire Zhong ++
Felicity Cornejo
Fiona Ma
Natalija Sekicki

OBOE

Leo Gore

CLARINETS

Felix McDougall
Sofiya Page ++

TRUMPETS

Aiden McElrea ++
Emilia Espinoza

TROMBONE

Matilde Espinoza

BASS TROMBONE

Nathaniel Elliott

PERCUSSION

Derek Wu

PIANO

Amelia Guldborg

Players are listed alphabetically

* Concert Master

++ Section Principal



WELLINGTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Wellington Youth Orchestra is the only full-size symphonic orchestra for young players (Grade 8 and above) in the Wellington region.

FIRST VIOLINS

Alan Kao *
Alice Carter
Ambrose Tarrant
Ariel Tsai
Catherine Harrison
Craig Bebbington
Edgar Watson
Eros Li
Ivy Wu
Natalija Sekicki
Vivienne Lim
Xavier Ngaro

SECOND VIOLINS

Acacia Siggilekow
Amelia Townend
Aubane Farcy +
Christina Chen
Geordie Taylor
Katie Chan
Lucas de Groot-Tsuji ++
Michael Fei
Niamh McCauley
Patrick Jones
Samuel Yuan

VIOLAS

Abigail Zhao
Jimmy Onslow-Osborne
Milliann Lim +
Nadia Roach
Solace Ward ++

CELLOS

DJ Hopkinson +
Imogen Waldron
Lilja Leppänen
Liam Whatman
Olly Wilkinson
Phoebe Champion
Reilly Blennerhassett
Sarah Zhou
Tomos Christie ++

BASSES

Evelyn Patterson ++
James Parker

Players are listed alphabetically

** Concert Master*

++ Section Principal + Assistant Principal

◆ guest player

FLUTES & PICCOLOS

Althea James ++
Anastasia Bell
Fleur Locke-Brook

OBOES

David Liu
Rodney Bane ◆

CLARINETS

Frida Paramo Granwal
Sofiya Page

BASSOONS

Chloe Geidelberg
Tor Chiles ++

HORNS

Shadley Van Wyk ◆
Vivian Reid ◆
Campbell Smith ◆
Bec Luton ◆

TRUMPETS

Lena Krakowiak
Ned Shaw
Tomas Metz

TROMBONE

Nick Blitch
Leo Read ◆

BASS TROMBONE

Aidan Van Ausdall

TUBA

Sam Zu ◆

TIMPANI

Aran Quaggin-Molloy

PERCUSSION

Ben Whitton ◆
Mone Isoda ◆

HARP

Jessica MacBrayne

Support Us

Help nurture young talent by supporting the Wellington Youth Orchestra (WYO) or Sinfonietta (WYS). Become a sponsor, regular supporter, or make a one-time donation—every contribution counts. Choose a sponsorship tier (Bronze to Platinum), sponsor a chair, or give to what matters most to you: new music, conductor salaries, or even rehearsal snacks.

All donations are tax-deductible (Charity #CC33527).

Donate via internet banking:

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Name: Wellington Youth Orchestra Inc.

Ref: Donation

Email admin@wyos.org.nz for a receipt.



WYOS Mailing List

Acknowledgement

A heartfelt thank you to the WYO Committee and all the incredible volunteers, supporters, and contributors who gave their time, energy, and passion to make the WYO Earth concert possible. Your dedication behind the scenes is what brings the music to life on stage—thank you for making it all happen.

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

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