

A photograph of young musicians in a youth orchestra. In the foreground, a young man with dark, curly hair is focused on playing a violin, his eyes closed and hands positioned on the instrument. Behind him, another young person is also playing a violin. The background is slightly blurred, showing other members of the orchestra. The overall atmosphere is one of concentration and musical performance.

WELLINGTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
INCORPORATED

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



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## OUR PEOPLE IN 2020

### Thanks to our Officers

*Patron:* The Mayor of Wellington, Andy Foster  
*President:* Christopher Blake  
*Vice-Presidents:* Sir William Southgate Hon D Mus (Otago)  
Joan Clayton  
Kathy Ryan  
*Life Member:* Michael Vinten

### Thanks to our Board

#### *Officers*

Chair – Tom Gott  
Secretary – Lynley Sinclair  
Treasurer – Natalia Reid

#### *Members*

Jane Bulpin (NZSO Rep)  
Martin Riseley (NZSM Rep)  
Anne French (WYO Manager)  
Mark Carter Music Director (WYO)  
Lucas Baker (WYO player rep, social media)  
Grant Baker (WYO Librarian, social media)  
Cindy Waldron (WYS Chair/Manager)  
Simon Brew Music Director (WYS)  
Elena Salmond (WYO/WYS player rep)  
Janice Chung (WYS player rep)  
Adrian Lumsden (Administrator)

### A heartfelt thanks to our donors, funders, and sponsors

Without your help, talented young Wellingtonians would miss out on the fantastic musical training that our organisation provides. Your support helps us offer full and partial scholarships, so that no one need miss out. It helps us employ professional conductors, offer sectional tutorials by NZSO players, perform public concerts, and do a better job of administering our organisation. Thank you!

### Sustaining support

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra  
New Zealand School of Music

### Donors

Kim and Ian New  
Tom Gott  
Anne French Consulting Ltd

### Grant support

Wellington City Council Arts and Culture Fund  
The Savage Fund (Nikau Foundation)



## CHAIR'S REPORT

'Annus horribilis' has been used more than once to describe 2020, both globally and in New Zealand. We began the year full of enthusiasm for both the Wellington Youth Sinfonietta and the Wellington Youth Orchestra, with the promise of much lively music-making to look forward to. The months of March, April, and May dented these dreams with the lockdown and the restrictions on gatherings as we moved from level 4, through levels 3 and 2 to level 1 on 8 June. This had a significant impact for our ability to rehearse in the New Zealand School of Music and concerts were off the agenda.

But the COVID 19 restrictions did not dent the enthusiasm of our players, Music Directors, Orchestra Managers and parent helpers. During this time players continued to play on their instruments, organised virtual meetups, and kept the music going and going. Orchestra Board members, Music Directors and Managers kept up a steady rhythm of meeting and planning. A big concern was our financial viability and how we would cope with loss of income from player fees, concerts, and from granting bodies which were also experiencing restrictions on funding. This meant some sacrifices from our Music Directors with reduced fees, for which we are eternally grateful. Thank you, Mark Carter and Simon Brew.

I would like to thank all those players and parents who 'hung in there' to stay with us over the course of the year. Some players and parents were able to either donate their subscription fee or have it carried over to 2021. Thank you. This really helped our cash flow for the year. It was much appreciated.

Thanks to all of the voluntary expertise and time that people gave us willingly, in particular Chris Carson of Carson Associates NZ for donating his time as the independent reviewer of our performance report, and to Rachel Robinson of Scenario Communications Ltd for her time and creative energy for the production of our beautiful 2019 Annual Report.

Our orchestras excelled, largely due to the skill and commitment of our Music Directors, Mark Carter and Simon Brew. We are extremely lucky and grateful for their talent and willingness to go the extra mile for our players.

Thank you to our Orchestra Managers, Anne French (WYO) and Cindy Waldron (WYS). They did a great job in holding everything together over the year. Thank you also to my colleagues on the orchestras' Board, including our wonderful student representatives, for their contribution to the effective governance of our orchestral arrangements through the year.

Finally, many thanks for all the support that parents and caregivers have shown over 2020.

Wonderful music-making in rehearsals and concerts in the second half of the year exceeded all expectations and truly transformed the year for us into more of an 'annus musicalis'.



Tom Gott

## HALL OF FAME – ALUMNI UPDATE



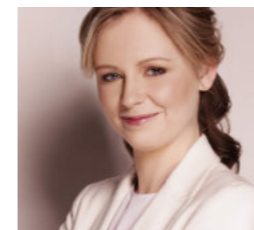
**Sophia Tarrant-Matthews (violin)** won the NZSO's Alex Lindsay Award in September 2021. She recently completed her Masters of Arts with distinction at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and is currently studying for her professional diploma at the Royal Academy of Music. She is also Concertmaster of the Foyle Future Firsts, a development scheme run by the London Philharmonic for outstanding musicians, to bridge the transition between music education and the concert platform. More information here: <https://www.lpo.org.uk/education/foyle-future-firsts.html>



**Alice Gott (cello)**. Sir András Schiff, the renowned conductor and pianist, has asked her to play as cellist in his famous chamber orchestra, the Capella Andrea Barca. Schiff forms the orchestra by hand picking talented soloists and chamber musicians. The Principal Cellist of the ensemble is Christoph Richter, Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music. More information about the Capella Andrea Barca here: <https://www.kajimotomusic.com/en/artists/k=274/>

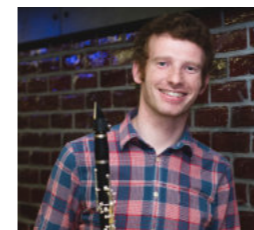


**Alexis French (trumpet)**, has completed his DMus studies, and is now on the faculty at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University – as well as teaching trumpet (in French) at the Université de Montréal. He has a busy performing and touring schedule coming up, including touring to New York City with McGill's Jazz Orchestra I, which he directs; playing with the Orchestre National de Jazz de Montréal and CODE Quartet; and a trip to Ukraine planned for 2022 with the tenor saxophonist Bogdan Gumenyuk. More information here <https://www.mcgill.ca/music/ensembles/jazz/big-band> and here <https://www.allaboutjazz.com/musicians/code-quartet>



**Gemma New (conductor)** has had a busy year, including visits to New Zealand to conduct the NZSO. In October 2021, she had her debut performance in the UK with the Hallé Orchestra, a performance described as 'a dazzling aural experience'. Here is a review of that performance: <https://bachtrack.com/review-manchester-gemma-new-laura-van-der-weijden-the-halle-copland-walton-october-2021>

New is currently Music Director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Resident Conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Principal Guest Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. She will be back in New Zealand next year to work again with the NZSO.



**Nick Walshe (clarinet)** is now Principal Clarinet for Orchestra Wellington and Co-Principal Clarinet with the Royal NZ Air Force Band, after completing postgraduate studies at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

## WYO MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2020 has been a difficult year for WYO due to the obvious reasons around Corona Virus. We cancelled our first two projects of the year. The second project was to be with guest conductor Andrew Joyce. We had two rehearsals at the beginning of the year before we had to stop rehearsing.

We held our auditions either by video recording or in person in early March. Many applicants were successful in attaining the standard required for WYO. Others were encouraged to apply for WYS. Several applicants made the step up from WYS into WYO. It is great seeing WYS players coming through. But we could always do with more string players. The intake from NZSM is still low. We need to think of a way to make WYO more appealing to NZSM students. I have spoken to teachers about their students being a part of WYO and do not understand why they are not encouraging them to gain the orchestral experience.

We held our annual concerto competition. Applicants were asked to perform up to 10 minutes from their chosen concerto in the first round. The standard was much higher than previous years and we ended up with two players going through to the next round Lucas Baker (Violin) and Benedict van Leuven (Clarinet). Hamish McKeich and Donald Armstrong were invited to be on the panel for the final round, when we heard the finalists play a complete performance of their chosen concerto. It was an exceedingly difficult decision to separate these performances, so we offered them both the opportunity to perform their concerto. Ben performed the Weber Clarinet Concerto No 2 in the final concert of 2020, and Lucas played the Barber Violin Concerto in the first concert of 2021. Ben left New Zealand to study overseas in August 2021.

We had a successful sectional evening with members of the NZSO. This is always a great help and the effect is very noticeable in the following rehearsals.

Due to level two restrictions we were unable to rehearse at NZSM, so we used the Conference Centre at St. John's in the City. This is an acceptable alternative venue to the ACR. We had our next rehearsal at the MFC. This was in conjunction with the NZSO education programme. Miguel Harth-Bedoya took this rehearsal and it was a fantastic opportunity for all the players in WYO. I would like to thank the NZSO for making this possible.

Our only concert of the year was performed twice: at St James Lower Hutt on the 3 October and at St Andrews on the Terrace on the 4 October.

### Repertoire

Saint-Saëns: *Danse macabre*, Op 40  
Weber: Clarinet Concerto No 2 in E flat, Op 74 (clarinet: Benedict van Leuven)  
Rimsky-Korsakov: *Capriccio espagnol*, Op 34  
Mussorgsky, orchestrated by Ravel: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

The rehearsals were all well attended, much better than previous years. Even though it has been difficult circumstances the orchestra sounded fantastic in both concerts, an almost full St Andrews was great to see. We are obviously doing something right

Finally, I would like to thank the board for making a success out of a very unusual year. Also my thanks to Grant Baker, who has been the librarian this year, even though he has not been playing in the orchestra.



Mark Carter



## WYO PLAYERS

### First violin

Lucas Baker\*\*  
Peter Gjelsten  
Germaine Ambray  
Hiromi Beran  
Sayaka Kirkman  
Rachel McSweeney  
Sam Merton  
Shanita Sungsuwan

### Second violin

Hayden Nickel\*  
Iris Aitken  
Penny Cooke  
Jess Jenkins  
Jasmine Jessen  
Joshua Langford  
Harry McKee  
Milliann Lim

### Viola

Lauren Jack\*  
Veda Xue  
Ella Dowsett Farmer  
Hamish Baguley  
Craig Drummond-Nairn+

### Cello

Bethany Angus\*  
Jack Moyer  
Benjamin Carter  
Freya McKeich  
Amy O'Grady  
Veronica Pot  
Emma Ravens  
Rachel Zhou  
Chirath Na Nakorn  
Stella Milena (Milli) Nixon

### Bass

William Taber\*  
Alex Huang  
Jandee Song

### Flute

Samantha McSweeney\*  
Ainslee Smithers  
Keeson Perkins-Treacher

### Oboe

Kristina Orr\*  
Elena Salmond  
Silkie Whitworth

### Cor anglais

Leah Thomas  
Elena Salmond

### Clarinet

Benedict van Leuven\*  
Alana Saunders  
Sam Toplis

### Bassoon

Breanna (Bre) Abbott\*

### Trumpet

Vincent Brzozowski\*  
Isabella Thomas  
Nina Noble

### Trombone

Sarah Rathbun\*

### French Horn

Kate King\*  
Lauren Lancaster  
Isabella Faulkner

### Tuba

Sam Zhou\*

### Timpani

Hamish Goodhue\*

\*\* *Concertmaster*

\* *Section principal*

+ *Guest player*



# WYS MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2020 was a year that showed the growth and solid foundation that the Wellington Youth Sinfonietta had built over a few years. The year started with an excellent number of enthusiastic players and maintained a reasonable programme through a difficult year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We held our annual *'Bring a Friend Day'* early in the year, which again brought in many key members of the orchestra and put some ownership of growing the orchestra in the players' hands.

But Covid put a delay on many of our plans. We were unable to rehearse after mid-March, and access to the Adam Concert Room for our Saturday rehearsals was delayed, increasing our costs as we had to source alternative venues. However, throughout the year the orchestra remained in good spirit. A number of player-led initiatives took place throughout the lockdown period, such as a quiz and music listening sessions.

Whilst the year was a difficult one, we did manage to hold our annual combined workshop with the Kapiti Youth Orchestra. The two-day workshop is incredibly beneficial for students and, as always, the collaboration was well attended by both orchestras. The group played a variety of music and the musicians benefited from sectional tutorials by members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, thanks to the generosity of the NZSO. At the conclusion of the weekend we held a small but successful joint concert.

Once the lockdown restrictions were behind us, and with the country in Level 2 restrictions, we were able to present our final concert for the end of the year. We featured music by Beethoven, noting it was the anniversary year for the composer. The orchestra played movements from both Beethoven's First and Seventh Symphonies. This concert was very well received, and was a highlight of the year, which had had so few concerts due to nationwide restrictions.

Throughout the year, we were well supported by parents, particularly Cindy Waldron. A huge amount of thanks is due to Cindy for holding the group together through a difficult year, also Anne for scheduling and managing the shared morning teas (when restrictions permitted).

As always, the Board has been supportive and visionary in continuing to grow and nurture WYS. My deep gratitude to them, to the many parents and caregivers who actively supported the orchestra, and lastly to the players for all their work in making the year the best it could be.

Wellington Youth Sinfonietta continues to be a vital part of the city and a core component of the opportunities that young people should have available to them.



Simon Brew



# WYS PLAYERS

## Violin

Alice Carter  
Anastasia Reid  
Asaki Watanabe  
Ashlee Shum  
Christopher McLellan  
Cordelia Waldron  
Dan Walker  
Dianne Taylor  
Emilia Gray  
George Walker  
Giacomo Solinas  
Iris Aitken  
Isabelle Faulkner  
Jaclyn Shelley  
Jennifer Liu  
Leo Malcolm  
Lisa Artmann  
Max Wallace  
Ollie Robinson  
Penny Cooke  
Philip Liu  
Rhea Homroy  
Richman Tan

## Viola

Aidan Malcolm

## Cello

Benjamin Carter  
Devon Gillum  
Elizabeth (Libby) Watson  
Freya McKeich  
Imogen Waldron  
Oscar Watson  
Rachel Zhou  
Reilly Blennerhassett  
Sarah Artmann

## Oboe

Elena Salmond  
Isla Richards

## Flute

Alice Whitaker  
Keeson Perkins-Treacher  
Lilly Merrall  
Luke Sutton

## Clarinet

Zachary Thirkell

## Trumpet

Flynn Hogan  
Louis Craig  
Martin McKee

## Trombone

Janice Chung  
Toby Spargo

## French Horn

Liam Hogan



# INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT

for the Year ended 31 December 2019



Wellington Youth Orchestra Incorporated  
**FINANCIAL REPORTS 2020**



# Wellington Youth Orchestra

## Pictures at an Exhibition

Mussorgsky / Ravel

Music Director Mark Carter

Weber Clarinet Concerto No 2

Benedict van Leuven, clarinet

Saturday 3 October, 3:00pm

St James Church, 71 Woburn Road, Lower Hutt

Sunday 4 October, 3:00pm

St James Church, 71 Woburn Road, Lower Hutt

*Sponsorship  
and hirage*

Anne French  
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hakari26@icloud.com

*How to join, auditions,  
and  
general enquiries*

admin@wyos.org.nz

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Manager*

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giggettedeboot@gmail.com