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2025 National Secondary Schools' Bands

The National Secondary Schools' Brass Band and Development Band, made up of 68 young musicians from Auckland to Invercargill, represented 38 different schools, including Homeschool students.

The students assembled at lunchtime on Tuesday, 30 September, at Scots College in Wellington and immediately got to work rehearsing as a combined band under Musical Directors Linda Filimoehala (National Secondary Schools' Brass Band) and Nic Scott (National Secondary Schools' Development Band). This was followed by each band rehearsing on its own before being taken to the boarding rooms and settling into their new home for the next five days.

After dinner and some more rehearsals, it was game time to get to know each other. The students enjoyed a variety of activities, including Human Bingo, Would I Lie To You, Balloon Races, and Balloon Juggling. It was a joy to see the students making new friends and catching up with friends made in previous years.

Wednesday saw a huge day of rehearsals with over six hours of playing including rehearsals with guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence (Royal New Zealand Navy Band) and sectionals with the amazing tutors: Nicholas Garrett (Solo Cornets/Soprano); Liam Wright (Back Row Cornets); Ray Farrow (Tenor Horns/Flugel); Luke Giri-Spence (Euphoniums/Baritones); Leo Read

(Trombones); Jordan Seaton (Basses); Jeremy Richardson, Riwai Hina, Grant Myhill (Percussion). The students put in a massive effort from start to finish, and you could really hear the progress they were making.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed guest speaker Mark Carter. Mark is the Musical Director of the National Youth Band and Sub-Principal Trumpet with the NZSO. He told us stories of his musical journey from starting as a young player in brass bands in the UK to a life as a professional musician. His stories about some of the people he has met and performed with, including Wynton Marsalis and Pavarotti, were incredible. Then he told us some details about sitting on an audition panel for top orchestras and what he listens for in audition performances, which the students found very interesting and useful, before taking 15 minutes for questions.

Thursday saw another six hours of rehearsal, as well as time to get into groups for the evening Ensemble Competition. Each ensemble had 8-12 students, and they could choose their own music from a selection of about 20 tunes. Students were encouraged to have fun, and they didn't necessarily have to play their own instruments. The competition in the evening was a highlight of the week, with lots of laughs and some "creative" interpretations of the music, judged by the Boarding House Matron. The tutors and course staff also performed a medley, culminating in a moving

performance of Moana with Linda singing.

Friday morning, there was time for a short rehearsal before handing out the official t-shirts and taking band photos before piling onto a bus and heading to the Wellington Waterfront. It was great to have a large crowd for our 20-minute taster concert by the combined bands in the sun. (Phew! There had been some cold wind and rain on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.) Students then had nearly two hours to explore Wellington, visiting some of the attractions, including Parliament and Te Papa, while others focused on the fashion shops!

Saturday was the big day with the concert in the afternoon. We had a large audience in attendance, and the livestream has had over 900 views. It was a fantastic concert that showcased the exceptional talent of these young stars in the making. Luke Giri-Spence was inspirational with his virtuoso solo playing, performing solos with both bands. We were treated to 40 minutes from each band and 20 minutes from the combined bands.

Check out the **National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Facebook page**. For a link to the livestream of the concert, lots of photos, and videos of the ensemble competition.

And the course awards went to.... National Secondary Schools' Band Principal Cornet: Hugo Carter

Most Improved Player: Jeremy Kylle Contreras

Best Section:

Flugels and Horns - Mia Yee, James Peng, Lachie McGregor, Jeremy Kylle Contreras,

Paige Chatterton

Best Support Act: Oscar Stove

Best Team Player (outstanding bandsperson): Delavan Domney Mackey and Mami Koizumi

Musical Director's Award: Mia Yee and Inoke Unga

Most Outstanding Player: Daniel Hulley

Development Band:

Principal Cornet: Ariel Rofe

Most Improved Player: Spencer Keoghan

Best Section:

Basses - Niko Russell, Sione Taufa, Andrew James, Tyrese Bristowe, Alex Dunning

Best Support Act: Callum Christie

Best Team Player (outstanding bandsperson): Samuel McGregor

Musical Director's Award: Tomasi Latai Most Outstanding Player: Sophie Wood Best Audition:

Aran Quaggin-Molloy and Anessa Ginever Recognition for 5 Years' Service: Aran Quaggin-Molloy and Mia Yee

We extend our gratitude to the individuals and organisations who made this week possible: Pelorus Trust,

Lion Foundation, Ministry of Education, Pub Charity, and BBANZ Charitable Trust for their generous financial support; the NZ Army Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Navy Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Air Force Band (percussion), and Porirua Band (percussion) for their invaluable contributions; Scots College for the use of their facilities, their amazing catering, and the wonderful staff who ensured we had everything we needed; Assistant Manager Hayden Cullen for his exceptional charm and ability to get things done; all of our "Seat Sponsors" (check the Facebook page for the complete list); and the staff of Auckland Seventh Day Adventist College for their unwavering support and help with supervision.





Banding Together

Congratulations to the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Camp management and tutors for their outstanding work in running a highly successful training course.



The sight and sound of 68 talented young musicians performing to a very appreciative audience at Scot's College was a testament to your dedication and the potential of our future generation of brass band members. Well done, Band Managers Malcom Barr and Hayden Cullen, Musical Directors Linda Filimoehala and Nicholas Scott, guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence, and the many volunteers who generously gave so much to provide a fun-filled week of learning and musicmaking. Most importantly, witnessing the camaraderie and friendships formed at these annual training courses is exciting. Undoubtedly, many will develop into lifelong friendships similar to those I cherish highly and have been vital in keeping me involved in brass banding for over 45 years.

Congratulations also to the 34 members selected by Musical Director David

Bremner for the 2026 National Band of New Zealand, especially those in their first National Band. Wearing the silver fern as a national representative is an honour and privilege, and we are all excited to learn more about the band's plans for next year.

The National Band of New Zealand is just one piece of the rich history and enduring legacy of our brass bands. Few musical organisations within New Zealand can boast longevity of continuous service to their local community comparable to brass bands'. It highlights the key role bands have played and continue to play in towns and cities throughout the country. We have prospered through three centuries due to our commitment to serving the communities that support us and by providing a healthy and nurturing environment for musicians of all ages. One can only guess at the thousands of players who, over the years, have had the opportunity to learn and perform music in a family-friendly brass band environment in almost every town in New Zealand.

We must continue to evolve to ensure we will be around for at least another 100 years. Our Annual Conference and AGM, on Saturday, 8 November, and Sunday, 9 November, in Wellington, is an ideal opportunity for conductors, players, and administrators to share ideas and discuss our future direction without the pressures

of contest. The free workshops, designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to lead our community forward, will cover various topics, including Score Preparation, Music in Schools, Marketing and Social Media and Something for Treasurers. Our guest speaker this year is Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation. The day will round out with some social time and an opportunity for further discussion on what is important to you and your band.

The next day, many critical decisions on your organisation's future are made and endorsed by those in attendance at the AGM. This is not just a meeting, but a platform where your voice matters and can shape the future of our brass band community. We appreciate that there is a cost to attend; however, we have done our best to provide more value to our members by adding the conference workshops. Ensure your voice is heard by supporting this year's conference and AGM, as your participation is crucial in shaping the future of our community.

Shin S

John Sullivan – President Brass Band Association of New Zealand



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125 Years for Levin

On 21 April 1900, the then Levin Municipal Band was formally established. Over the years, it has grown in stature and reputation, becoming a cornerstone of the community. Following the 1989 New Zealand local body reforms, resulting in the amalgamation of the Levin Borough Council and Horowhenua County Council into Horowhenua District Council, the band's name was changed to Levin and Districts Brass. The band will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding with a concert at The Village Hall, Speldhurst Country Estate, Levin, on Sunday, 7 December, followed by a dinner for current and past members. The concert will feature cornet soloist, and the band's musical director, David Maas, the current Slow Melody Champion of New Zealand.

Levin and Districts Brass, the 2025 C Grade Champion Band of New Zealand, has recently achieved a significant milestone: promotion to the B Grade. This is a testament to the band's dedication and talent. Currently, the band is in a phase of growth and consolidation, with a full

project underway for the purchase of new percussion instruments. The band is also in the process of establishing a brass youth academy.

As the band works towards a busy December, the anniversary concert will be the culmination of a busy week of activities for the band, starting on Wednesday,

3 December, with eight hours of carolling at the Levin New World Christmas Club Day (in four shifts of two hours). On Friday, the 5th, the band travels to Marton for an evening concert at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. On Saturday, the band will participate in the Levin Christmas Parade, followed by a BBQ and fellowship at the band room. (If you can't make it to the Levin concert, get along to the Marton concert as the

to visit the band during any of these events and to attend the 125th Anniversary concert and dinner.

For further information about the anniversary events, please email secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com and see the Gig Guide on page 5

LEVIN & DISTRIÇTS BRASS PRESENTS



Gig Guide

Saturday 1 November

Woolston Brass presents Curtain **Up**, an evening of Broadway magic, 7.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Tickets **HERE**

Sunday 2 November

New Brighton Silver Band join with 'The Champion Centre' (Burwood Hospital) for their picnic and fundraiser day. Larcombs Vinevard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston. From 2.00pm.

Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association AGM, 3.00pm at the Addington Brass bandroom, Vulcan Place, Christchurch.

Spooktacular Brass: presented by Tauranga City Brass Auxiliary, 6.00pm at Wesley Methodist Church, 100 Thirteenth Avenue, Tauranga South. Tickets Here

Saturday 8 November

BBANZ Conference workshops. A free event - all welcome. At the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, from 10.45am.

Sunday 9 November

BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the West Plaza Hotel from 9.00am. All welcome.

Thursday 13 November

Kumeu Vintage Brass in concert, 11.00am at Maygrove Village, 65 Tauranga Place, Orewa.

Wednesday 19 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Hornby Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

Saturday 22 November

NBS Nelson City Brass in concert with Tom Hutchinson, principal cornet of the Cory Band, plus the Young Musician of the Year competition. More details **HERE**

Sunday 23 November

Porirua City Brass presents **Encore!** 2.00pm at Pataka Art + Museum

17 Parumoana Street, Porirua City Centre, Porirua. Tickets HERE

Tuesday 25 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Papanui Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November

NZ Tongan Brass Band National Championships at the Lesieli Tonga Auditorium, Mangere East, Auckland. Contact Kalino Pongi at k.pongi@tmsc.co.nz for details.

Friday 5 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Kaiapoi Club, Kaiapoi. Tickets \$5.

Sunday 7 December

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary concert, 2.00pm, at The Village Hall, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Door Sales only, cash or EFTPOS, adult \$20/child \$5.

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary dinner, at The George Café, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Fellowship from 4.30pm with dinner at 6.00pm. To attend, please confirm by RSVP to secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com by Sunday, 23 November.

Friday 12 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

Saturday 13 December A Christmas Celebration:

Auckland City Brass returns to St Matthew-in-the-City for a festive spectacular featuring tenor Christopher McRae, at 7.30pm. Tickets via Eventfinda.

Sunday 14 December In Your Community: Town

Takeover by all three Woolston bands in central Christchurch, 1.30pm-2.00pm, at the Bridge of Remembrance, Cathedral Square, and the Margaret Mahy Playground. Then all three Woolston bands to perform together in the North Quad of the Christchurch Arts Centre 3.00pm-4.30pm. Free outdoor concerts.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor

bbanzeo@gmail.com

Free Workshops

As part of the AGM weekend, BBANZ will host a series of workshops on Saturday, 8 November covering various aspects of banding, ensuring there is something for everyone's particular strengths and interests. The workshops, including lunch, are free and open to everyone.

Email bbanzeo@gmail.com to register.

10.45 - 11.00	Welcome and introduction
11.00 - 12.00	What's the Score: David Bremner offers tips on preparing a score for a concert or contest.
12.00 - 1.00	Lunch

	Room 1	Room 2
2.00 - 3.00	Brass Music in Schools: Vickie van Uden will inspire you to get a programme running.	'Know your value: the vital role of treasurer in keeping the band going, with Carolyn Cordery, Adjunct Professor of Victoria's School of Accounting and Commercial Law.
3.00 - 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 - 4.30	Promotion: Cameron Burnett from the NZ Army Band gives tips on how to use social media to tell your story and boost engagement.	Got Issues? Leigh Martin explains how BBANZ has been helping individual bands with their training and development issues. Plus, the exciting plans for 2026 with an international guest.



Bands on Air

Keep an ear on RNZ Concert from Monday, 17 November to Friday, 21 November, for highlights from the 2025 National Championships starting at 1.00pm in Days with Nick Tipping.

The broadcast will include selections from the A Grade section as well as solo performances from the Champion of Champions and 'An Evening of Melody'. Check www.rnz.co.nz/concert/schedules for details.



WAIBOP Contest

It's Saturday, 20th September, the third weekend of spring. The sun is out, and a strong smell of fresh coffee hangs in the air. Soon, brass band musicians, young and old, emerge from their cars and descend upon Southwell School Auditorium, in the heart of Hamilton.

This year, it's Hamilton's turn to host the Waikato Bay of Plenty contest. Some of you will be familiar with Southwell School, as it hosted the B and D grade bands of the 2019 National Contest. What a fantastic place! Plenty of room, and everything under one roof. Today is the Solo and Party contest. More than 100 entrants of all ages and abilities. We were delighted to have Grant Langdon and Riwai Hina as adjudicators. They had the unenviable task of critiquing more than 20 performers in both Open Slow Melody and Variation classes.

As in previous years, they were assisted by a local adjudicator. This year that was Sergio Marshall, who tackled everything from nervous 10-year-old Novices to exceptional Open class duets.

The excitement turned to nervousness and for some sheer terror, but they were all soon put at ease by our wonderful supervisors, Marilyn Edgecombe, Stephen Clayton and Tinka Adamson. And then it was done for another year. Time for coffee and a sausage roll!

The always reliable and beautiful playing of Lisa Marshall took out the Championship Slow Melody title, with the technically dynamic and always impressive Chris Lawrence winning the Championship Variation.

And as the sun set, the halls were cleared, the cafe restocked, ready to converge again on Sunday for the Bands' competition.

And so it began. Another beautiful Waikato spring day and the smell, you guessed it, of coffee and sausage rolls filling the air.

Today was special as we welcomed the next generation of superstars in the making, Tauranga City Auxiliary Brass, performing for the first time. We also witnessed another new beginning: Koru Brass Hamilton.

We all recognise a Koru, but what does it represent? It represents a fresh start, marked by personal growth and development, and unwavering hope for the future. How appropriate then that Hamilton Auxiliary Brass burst out of the shadows of their big brother with new musical director, Michelle Panko.

So, to the performances themselves. All seven bands impressed with very diverse programmes. The D Grade contest between Koru Brass and Kerepehi Brass was very close. Each took a share of the prizes, with Koru Brass winning the D Grade Aggregate by just one point.

It was equally close among the Open grade bands. Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass, under musical director Andrew Leech, and Hamilton City were separated by only the public appeal points, with a narrow win to Eastern Bay. There were very strong performances by Tauranga City and Matamata Brass, also.

And just like that, it was done. Special thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers. In particular, Hamilton Creative Arts Council and Creative Communities, Intawood Products,

Brain Bloom Room and Jobe Valves. And to all those who gave freely of their time to make the weekend such a success.

Next year we'll be in another corner of our region, the mighty Te Awamutu, to meet up with old friends and make fantastic music together again. Until then, what's next on your banding calendar?

Ngā mihi, Ross McAdam President, Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Association





WAIBOP Contest Results

- Masi Funaki, Koru Brass Hamilton
- 2= Oliver Vikultseva, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 2= Arlo Shallard, Tauranga Auxiliary
- 2= Jakeem Van Wyk, Tauranga Auxiliary
- 2= Ethan Klem, Tauranga Auxiliary

Under 16 Slow Melody

- Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass Lizzie Barr, Hamilton City Brass
- Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

Under 16 Variation

- Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass
- Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
- Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

Under 19 Slow Melody

- Pire Pio Wilson, Matamata Brass
- Hoani Wilson, Matamata Brass

Under 19 Variation

Pire Pio Wilson, Matamata Brass

Intermediate Social Class

Sue Williams, Kerepehi Brass

Open Percussion

- Charlie Garica-Gill, Hamilton City Brass
- Claire van der Goes, Koru Brass Hamilton
- Ayesha Brooky, Matamata Brass

Open Slow Melody

- Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- Ian O'Malley, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- Sarah Carroll, Te Awamutu GoBus Brass

- Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- Mason Holloway, Hamilton City Brass
- Danielle Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

Veterans Slow Melody

- Richard Edgecombe, Hamilton City Brass
- Kerry Wood, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- Keith Patey, Tauranga City Brass

Veterans Variation

- Keith Patey, Tauranga City Brass 1
- Richard Edgecombe, Hamilton City Brass
- Gaynor Krippner, Te Awamutu GoBus Brass

Championship Slow Melody

- Lisa Marshall, Hamilton City Brass
- Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

Championship Variation

- Chris Lawrence, North Shore Brass
- Jeremy Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
- Jeshua Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

Pire Poi & Hoani Wilson, Matamata Brass

Primary School Ensemble

Kerepehi Primary School

Junior Ensemble

- Kerepehi Brass
- Hamilton Auxiliary Brass

Intermediate Social Class Duet

- Etuini & Lavinia Halapua, Koru Brass Hamilton
- Ayesha Brooky & Josh Adamson, Matamata Brass

- Andrew Leech & Ian O'Malley, EBOP Brass
- Ben & Jeremy Thompson, Tauranga City Brass Chris & Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass

Open Quartet

- Hamilton City Brass
- Tauranga City Brass

Open Ensemble

- Te Awamutu GoBus Brass
- Hamilton City Brass
- Matamata Brass

D Grade Ensemble

- Kerepehi Junior Band
- Te Awamutu GoBus Brass
- Tauranga Auxiliary

National Band of New Zealand

The Brass Band Association of New Zealand takes great pride in announcing the National Band of New Zealand for 2026-2028.

The recruitment process attracted an exceptional calibre of applicants, with more than sixty auditions submitted. From these, Musical Director David Bremner has selected a very strong band for the upcoming projects. The high standard of performances made for some very difficult decisions, and David extends his sincere congratulations to all who applied, for the quality of their auditions.

The band's first event will be to convene for a weekend early in the new year to record pieces for promotional use, as well as to start building a programme of concert music. There will also be promotional videos and brief interviews with selected members. This is to produce a full promotional pack for marketing purposes.

David and the band's management team are excited to get this project in place and are working on a three-year plan for the band. More information to come...

	0 110	w III o
Musical Director	David Bremner	Wellington Brass
Principal Cornet	Anthony Smith	Woolston Brass
Soprano Cornet	Colin Clark	North Shore Brass
Solo Cornet	Chris Lawrence	North Shore Brass
Solo Cornet	Mason Elliot	Koru Hamilton Brass
Solo Cornet	Raynor Martin	Woolston Brass
Solo Cornet	Brendan Agnew	Wellington Brass
Repiano Cornet	Semisi Ahoatu	North Shore Brass
2nd Cornet	John Sullivan	North Shore Brass
2nd Cornet	Megan Gooding	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
3rd Cornet	Daniel Dalgleish	Wellington Brass
3rd Cornet	Graham Hickman	Woolston Junior Band
Flugel Horn	Kevin Hickman	Woolston Brass
Principal Horn	Mike Ford	NBS Nelson City Brass
1st Horn	Hazel Wilson	Woolston Brass
2nd Horn	Anne Filimoehala	North Shore Brass
2nd Horn	Te Reo Genefaas	Hamilton City Brass
1st Baritone	Ross Gerritsen	NBS Nelson City Brass
2nd Baritone	Michael Robertson	NBS Nelson City Brass
Principal Euphonium	Luke Giri-Spence	Wellington Brass
Euphonium	David Mallett	Woolston Brass
Principal Trombone	Aishah Leitner	North Shore Brass
2nd Trombone	Jack McKenzie	Woolston Brass
2nd Trombone	Mark Bingham	Auckland City Brass
Bass Trombone	Ben Robertson	Wellington Brass
Principal Eb Bass	Nicholas Scott	Wellington Brass
Eb Bass	Nigel Seaton	Woolston Brass
Eb Bass	Jordan Seaton	Woolston Brass
Principal BBb Bass	Lachlan Grant	Auckland City Brass
BBb Bass	John Mason	Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
Principal Percussion	Rachel Thomas	North Shore Brass
Percussion	Keina Rollinson	Woolston Brass
Percussion	Grant Myhill	Wellington Brass
Percussion	Fraser Bremner	Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
Percussion	Jeremy Richardson	Wellington Brass

News from The Hutt

This September, Hutt City Brass took the reins in hosting the Wellington District Brass Band Association band contest. This year's district contest was a unique blend of musical prowess and variety, following the format trialled last year. Each of the six competing bands showcased their talent in a set of up to 50 minutes, featuring a major work, a solo, a sacred item, and a work by a New Zealand composer. The remaining time was filled with an entertaining programme, making for a day filled with diverse musical experiences.

WDBBA welcomed Squadron Leader David Gallaher MNZM as music judge and BBANZ Board Member Emily Richards as entertainment judge.

Four bands, including the newly promoted Levin and Districts Brass, competed in section 1. Section 2 saw the participation of Upper Hutt and Buzzing Brass. Despite some technical hiccups that prevented the visual presentations some bands had prepared from being shown, the day was filled with great music. The banding spirit was alive and well, with many people from across the region coming together on what was a typical windy Wellington day. The McDonnell Family Shield, a stunning new trophy crafted in pohutukawa by Allan McDonnell, was presented to the best performer of a New Zealand work in section 1.

Results:

Section 1

Sacred Item: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Levin and Districts Brass Entertainment: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City

Major Work: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City Brass

Aggregate: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City

Best soloist: Matthew Stein (Cornet), Wellington Brass

Best performance of a NZ work: Wellington Brass for *The Light of the World* by Dean Goffin.

Section 2

Sacred Item: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Entertainment: 1st Buzzing Brass Wellington, 2nd Upper Hutt Brass

Major work: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Aggregate: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Best soloist: Jack McDougall (Euphonium), Buzzing Brass and Lance Kedzlie (vocalist), Upper Hutt

Best performance of a NZ work: Upper Hutt Brass for *Kinloch* by Jack Bewley

Following our successful organisation of the district contest, Hutt City has had a bustling October. We were honoured to supplement the brass section at the recent Orchestra Wellington concert, where we performed a suite from Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. This collaboration provided a wonderful insight into the world of orchestral music. After joining the orchestra

for two rehearsals, the performance at the Michael Fowler Centre, attended by a large crowd, was a resounding success.

The following day, the Salvation Army Cuba Street band joined Hutt City for a concert - this being the third year we have performed a joint concert, it has become a popular fixture in our annual calendar. The audience, filled with joy and camaraderie, loved the range of music performed; the crowd favourite was Goff Richards' Breezin' Down Broadway', with some audience members even conducting along from their seats!

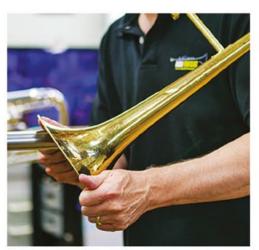


Wayne Kedzlie from Upper Hutt Brass and adjudicator David Gallaher.





All Brass and Woodwind repairs done in house minor adjustments through to full restorations!







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NZ Test Works

BBANZ was delighted to receive almost 40 submissions to be considered for the test selections for the 2026 National Brass Band Championships. These were evenly distributed across the four grades, which was also pleasing.

Entries opened on the 25th of February, and composers had until the 31st of July to submit their works for consideration.

The music was anonymously assessed by three leading figures in the brass band world, who provided feedback on each piece before indicating which works they thought should be shortlisted for selection. Our international panel of experts was pleased to see such a high level of work being submitted, and they spent quite some time studying and assessing the works before creating their shortlist. Our incoming adjudicators then made their final selections from this list.

Panel chair **Professor Philip Wilby** expressed his enthusiasm, stating that it was "indeed very encouraging to see so much creativity and expertise on show for the future of brass banding in New Zealand". He described the works as "fascinating and varied". **Dr Tom Davoren** praised the "strong music in the field", and **Dr Liz Lane** also shared her enjoyment of reading the scores and getting to know the music of our composers.

Here are the programme notes from the composers, and a few highlights from the panel's comments about each of the selected works:

A Grade: Taniwha (Scott Kennedy-French)



In Māori mythology, taniwha are powerful, semi-aquatic, supernatural creatures that inhabit dangerous waterways, ranging from rivers and deep pools in caves to the

seacoast. They are mainly to be found in places with perilous or deceptive currents or waves. In some instances, they act as fierce guardians of places, tribes, or individuals, sometimes as notorious punishers of taboobreakers, and sometimes as predatory monsters who eat men and abduct women.

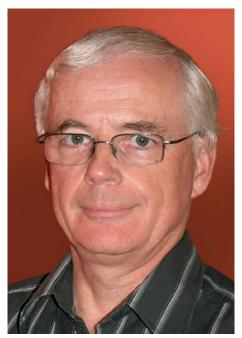
A sinfonia selvaggia (wild symphony) for brass band. In three movements, played as a single sequence. The fast outer movements share elements, such as tempo and core thematic material, that unify the work, much like a rondo form (A-B-A). At the same time, each also contains and develops individual materials and character. These turbulent outer movements are contrasted with a slow, atmospheric, and lyrical inner movement that features extended rising solo voices and culminates in a rich, chorale-like conclusion.

PW: This score has many excellent qualities, being aurally fresh and harmonically inventive.

LL: Exciting. Nice shapes through the band. Lots of rhythmic vitality in percussion. Vibrant last movement with plenty of intricacy. A long, dynamic build-up to the unexpected end – skillfully done!

TD: More abstract than your typical brass band test piece. Motivic development is strong but non-traditional. Very strong piece.

B Grade: Images (David Woodcock)



The title *Images* reflects the work's unfolding narrative: a sequence of contrasting musical episodes that evolve from a central motif. Though varied in character, each section is connected by a thread of thematic continuity, creating a vivid tapestry of sonic impressions.

The piece is driven by the rising and falling motion of the initial motif and its associated

upbeat. A strident, forceful opening is soon replaced by a period of calmness and serenity, abruptly disturbed by the timpani and low brass, ushering in a dark, menacing atmosphere that gives way to a mysterious and shadowy episode. A fanfarelike moment emerges, which evolves into a winter landscape. The original motif reappears in a fragmented form, with the menacing theme never far away, blending earlier elements into a turbulent and chaotic milieu. From this disorder springs a playful, even banal interlude, which morphs into a restless, nervous passage that assumes a demonic, dark character. A canonic section built over bare fifths evokes echoes of earlier music, only to be interrupted by a strident, sarcastic outburst. This is followed by a lighter moment, reminiscent of the earlier playful section, but which soon turns more sinister.

As the work draws to a close, the music becomes reflective and wistful, then brooding, before shifting into a brighter, more lighthearted mood, and ultimately to a majestic and climactic conclusion —a powerful resolution to this journey through sound and emotion.

PW: Immediately arresting. Pure musical shapes are attractive, with an interplay between solo material and massed sounds. This is an excellent submission, ideally designed for B Grade bands.

LL: Lots of dramatic contrast. Effective moments including texture, angularity and unexpected chords. Sophisticated approach to band writing.

TD: Very strong piece. Engaging motifs are developed well. Great contrasts in style in sections, but still holding continuity with the rest of the piece.

C Grade: Where the Light Falters (Kodi Rasmussen)



Unfolding across four interconnected sections, Where the Light Falters explores the tension between regimental drive, darkness, and fleeting glimpses of light. The piece opens with distant, precise snare drum semiguavers and a dark bass motif, which swell into a commanding brass fanfare. This triumph quickly unravels into a cynical, dance-like episode—a jester's tune weaving through moments of lyrical warmth in the horns. The dance transforms briefly into harmony and light, though its joy remains fragile. A reflective third section follows, almost sacred in tone. A cornet cadenza laments before a trombone's fierce reply, leading to a chorale-like passage driven by the euphoniums. Earlier themes re-emerge, now softened and luminous, building toward a hopeful, prayer-like climax. The finale unites all past material—the cynical dance, brooding motifs, and triumphant fanfare into a dramatic conclusion. Yet its closing twist, a sudden plunge back into darkness, leaves one question lingering: have we conquered the shadows, or merely learned to live with them?

PW: This is an outstanding composition. It is perfectly designed for its purpose, fitting the best Section C bands perfectly. Equally, it will bring out the very best performances from its executants and be totally involving for the audiences. It has a variety of texture, with clean tuttis contrasting with eloquent solos and precious moments of chamber music. If its final pages were to be longer, I would not complain, and best of all, it is a complete experience, allowing the composer to make a perfectly judged personal statement. In short, it has everything that could be asked of a lower section score. Bravo!

LL: Interesting build-up at the beginning

to full band. Good use of texture and developing motifs. Nice reference later on to earlier material. Would be engaging to play.

TD: A good piece. Well-paced, the motivic material is convincing and develops well. The music has good clarity and is well organised. With solos and section ensemble sections, it should prove an effective test.

D Grade: *Elegy for Brass Band* (Fraser Bremner)

The composer, Fraser Bremner, wrote this work based on his own experiences with personal loss and his focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. In the Oxford Dictionary, the word *Elegy* is described as a poem of serious reflection and, sometimes, a lament for the dead. Although this piece of music isn't so much about the loss of life, it is focused on the loss of things that are meaningful to a person. The composer's focus for this work was on moments in his life when he struggled due to loss and how he managed to find positivity in these challenging situations.

Elegy was written for the Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass and their Musical Director, Andrew Leech, and dedicated to both Andrew & Bronwynne Leech for their years of continued friendship and love.

PW: This short score has much to commend. It shows natural invention and variety. This piece will be welcomed by performers, listeners and adjudicators alike.

LL: Engages the listener from the outset. Lovely use of lyricism. Nice how the return of the original theme at Fig. F is different. Lovely ending.

TD: Well-considered use of doubling. Full band scoring has clarity and consistency.

The phrasing/articulation is detailed, but not overmarked.

The call for scores extended to solo works for the Open Brass sections. Again, we were delighted by the number and quality of works received. As you will see from the list below, the majority of pieces are by New Zealand composers. For information on where to purchase the pieces, use this link

Open Brass Solos, title and composer

Soprano Cornet

Luciferous, Steven Booth (NZ)

Championship Cornet *Chaos for Cornet,* Fraser Bremner (NZ)

Amateur Cornet

Two Contrasting Scenes, Jack Bewley (NZ)

Flugel Horn

Silver-backed Fox, Andrea Hobson

Tenor Horn

A Rhapsodic Spirit, Grant Pitcher (NZ)

Raritone

Pulcinella, Philip Sparke

Euphonium

Concerto for Euphonium (Piano), Philip Wilby (Movement 1 of Part One only)

Tenor Trombone

Caricatures for tenor trombone and piano, David Woodcock (NZ)

Bass Trombone

Bassically Speaking, Brian A Hodges (NZ)

Eb Bass

Variations on the Bear Went Over the Mountain, Dale Vail (NZ)

BBb Bass

GBC, Fendall Hill (NZ)



Next-Gen

In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews 18-year-old Aran Quaggin-Molloy, who plays for Hutt City Brass, Wellington Youth Orchestra, and the school orchestra, choir, jazz combo, and rock band at Scots College, Wellington. Aran has recently been selected for the National Youth Band for the first time.

What was your first musical experience?

My first musical experience I remember is seeing my mum play trumpet in a Big Band, and I was always fascinated by what the drummer was doing. So, I asked my mum for drum lessons at the age of 7, and soon after, I joined Buzzing Brass. From there, I branched out from drums to percussion. After my first NSSBB course in 2022, I wanted to push myself and joined Hutt City Brass. The rest is history;)

Describe how musical ability runs through your family.

My great-grandfather played the cornet in a brass band in the UK, and that's how my mum started learning cornet. My mum and I both now play in Hutt City Brass, and I'm sure it's the highlight of her week. Unfortunately, my dad is completely tone deaf and can't even sing in tune.

To date, what have been some of your musical highlights?

Some of my highlights include the first time I played timps on stage in *Dances and Alleluias* for Hutt City Brass at the nationals in 2023. I was also honoured to be able to play the bass drum part for *Tchaikovsky 4* with the NZSO at the Young Artists Showcase. A recent highlight would be playing *Lady Macbeth* with Orchestra Wellington at their most recent concert.

What have you gained from being in the Secondary Schools' Brass Band?

I think the secondary schools' courses have been a real highlight for me, as playing with so many other amazingly talented musicians my age has been so humbling and has also allowed me to make lots of lifelong connections with people. I then love being able to catch up with all these people at Nationals.

What sort of things would you like to see happen to support young players?

The NSSBB is a great opportunity for young players, and I'd strongly recommend it to anyone for many reasons.

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

I've met many great players along the way who've influenced me to try different styles, new groups, and to perform on stage to develop my confidence.

What's the best thing about being in a brass



band?

The whole reason I will always prefer playing percussion in a brass band over an orchestra is the amount of experience you get. The sheer amount of percussion playing compared with orchestral playing is what makes it for me. I like to be able to play without having to count hundreds of bars rest and be able to play as loud as I want!

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you with your achievements thus far?

I'd like to thank my teacher, Thomas, who's always pushed me to be better and better every week, and my parents for driving me around to every rehearsal and concert and putting up with loud percussion in the house.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

I aim to begin studying music at Te Kōkī NZSM next year, but I still haven't decided if it's jazz or classical performance. But either way, I'll always continue with brass banding. Quickfire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? Drum and Bass

Other interests? Making my own digital music on Ableton Live

Favourite food? Chicken burger

Favourite place? Isle of Man

Favourite film? Inception

Favourite instrument? Drum kit with double kick pedal

Favourite piece of music? Test Drive from How to Train Your Dragon

What do you dislike most? The rain and injections

For the more technical amongst us, what make of instrument do you play?

My drum kit is a Pearl Roadshow with Zildjian A Custom Crash, Zildjian Sweet Ride, Zildjian Planet Z Crash/Ride, and Meinl Sand Hats. My marimba is the 5 Octave MK - Omnia by Monkman Studios.

NYBB 2026

The NYBB management team is delighted to announce the details of the concert in Auckland scheduled for the end of January 2026, marking the first concert under the baton of Musical Director Mark Carter.

The concert is called 'Resonance', a very appropriate name as the band will be playing a number of works featuring the organ. Programme highlights include the classic brass band works Cloudcatcher Fells by John McCabe and Tam O'Shanter's Ride by Denis Wright, the Finale from Saint-Saëns' Symphony No 3 (also known as the Organ Symphony) featuring the organ, and Uranus from Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite. We are also very proud to feature the 2025 Champion of Champions, NYBB member Keina Rollinson from Christchurch, playing the Finale from Concerto for Marimba and Strings by Emannuel Séjourné, arranged for brass band by Brendan Agnew.

The concert is at 2.00pm on Saturday, 24 January at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. Tickets are on sale now via TryBooking, and door sales will also be available on the day.

It would be wonderful to get a full house to watch this talented group of young musicians perform, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there!





Planning to commence tertiary study in 2026 at Otago University or Polytech?

We are calling for applicants for the

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lesgreenscholarship@gmail.com

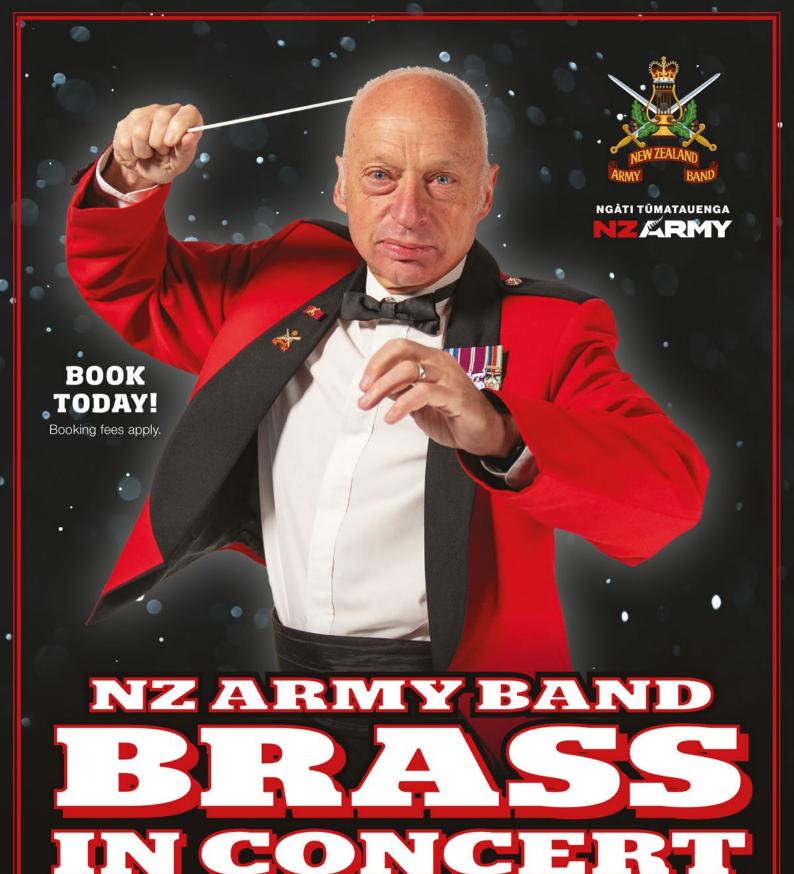
Phone enquiries: 0272215208 Entries close 15 November 2025.



- Constitution preparation & re-registration to meet Incorporated Societies Act 2022 requirements
- . Funding Applications completion and submission
- Asset Cataloguing
- BAM Installation, set up, and on-going management



Optimise your Band's membership and asset records with Band Asset Manager



11 November, 7.30pm

Lake Wānaka Centre

Tickets available at eventfinda.co.nz

12 November, 7:30pm

SIT Centrestage Theatre, Invercargill

Tickets available at iTicket.co.nz

13 November, 7:30pm

Mayfair Theatre, Dunedin

Tickets available at eventfinda.co.nz

More Free Workshops

The NZSO brass and percussion section is on tour in December throughout the North Island, during which David Bremner, NZSO principal trombone, is offering free workshops for bands before the concerts. Named *Brass Ready - the Art of Preparation*, David will share invaluable tips on getting mentally and physically ready for a performance. The dates and venues of these workshops are listed opposite.

Following the workshop, internationally acclaimed musician and conductor Gail Williams joins the NZSO Brass and Percussion for a celebration of all things brass in the concert programme *Summer Brass*

After 20 years with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Williams is currently the Principal Horn of the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, a founding member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and is in demand as a soloist and pedagogue throughout North America, as well as in Europe and Asia.

Summer Brass is a great concert for the whole whānau, featuring a mix of bold classics, fantastic fanfares and even the odd Christmas carol or two.



FREE WORKSHOPS BY DAVID BREMNER, NZSO

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PRINCIPAL TROMBONE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9
WHANGANUI

PUKENAMU DRIVE, WHANGANUI.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

ROTORUA

5:00PM, BRASS WHANGANUI BANDROOM, 7

5:00PM, ASHER HALL, 1 DALTON STREET, NAPIER

5:00PM, LITTLE THEATRE 1-8 AMOHAU STREET,

PERFORMANCE



NZSO Brass section workshop at Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School.



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National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

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Course Manager: Malcolm Barr manager@nssbb.org

M: 021 606 428

2026 National Contest in Wellington 8 to 11 April Contact person Mike Sander mike.sander@tpl.co.nz

AGM and Conference

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand will be held in Wellington on Sunday, 9 November at the West Plaza Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Registration is from 9.00am with the AGM running from 9.30am to approximately 3.30pm.

Conference

The 2025 BBANZ Conference will be held on Saturday, 8 November, with free workshops also at the West Plaza Hotel.

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If you would like to support the activities of the National Youth Brass Band please contact the Executive Officer.

Life Members of the BBANZ

Graeme Aldridge MNZM, Betty Bremner, Trevor Bremner MNZM, Kevin Dell ONZM, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Leigh Martin JP, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuyzen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

Life Members who have served BBANZ

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