



NEW ZEALAND

Mouthpiece

The Official Journal of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand

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NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BRASS BANDS

TŪ MĀĪA

1PM, SATURDAY
4 OCTOBER

SCOTS COLLEGE
WELLINGTON

STANDING STRONG

MUSICAL DIRECTORS: LINDA FILIMOEHALA & NICHOLAS SCOTT
GUEST SOLOIST: LUKE GIRI-SPENCE

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Banding Together

As this month's edition of the *Mouthpiece* goes to press, 70 young musicians assemble in Wellington with the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Bands.



A camp of this size is a major logistical and financial undertaking. The management team, Malcom Barr and Hayden Cullen, have worked tirelessly to ensure the event is safe and rewarding for everyone involved. BBANZ is very grateful to the volunteers supporting the management team, musical directors Linda Filimoehala and Nicholas Scott, plus guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence. I am very confident it will be a huge success and a wonderful learning experience for the young musicians attending.

I am looking forward to joining what I am sure will be a large audience to hear the bands perform at their concert at Scots College on Saturday, 4 October.

Funding our representative bands remains a significant challenge. Gaming Trusts

continue to be a primary source of funds for both BBANZ and our member bands, which is why we felt it necessary to actively engage in the review of the Online Casino Gambling Bill introduced by the Government. It was a privilege to present an oral submission on behalf of the brass band community. After hearing numerous other presenters, it became clear that nearly all sporting and arts organisations share our opinion that the Online Casino Gambling Bill should be amended to incorporate the principle from the Gambling Act 2003, ensuring that gambling revenues benefit the community, as is the case with Class 4 operators. Hopefully, the select committee will give clear feedback to the Government along these lines.

BBANZ is YOUR organisation. Despite what many believe, it is not the Management Committee that sets the rules and regulations or the direction of brass banding in New Zealand, but YOU, the players, member bands and District Associations. The annual conference is an ideal opportunity for conductors, players and administrators to share ideas without contesting pressures. Join us in Wellington on Saturday, 8 November, to hear Jessica Palalagi, General Manager

of The Arts Foundation, and participate in the workshop sessions covering Score Preparation, Music in Schools, Marketing and Social Media and Something for Treasurers. The next day, our AGM is where vital decisions on the future direction of your organisation are made or endorsed by those in attendance. Proposed changes to our Bylaws impact you and your band, so ensure all remits are reviewed in your bandroom and that your band representative is well-prepared to voice your opinion.

It is vital that we have input from as many bands as possible in setting the direction of our movement, so I look forward to catching up with you all next month. And as this year's conference and AGM are in Wellington, it is also an ideal opportunity to review your planning for next year's National Contest, such as checking accommodation and rehearsal venues.

John Sullivan – President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand



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

We are calling for applicants for the

Les Green Brass and Percussion Scholarship

A \$3000.00 scholarship spread over 3 years for first-year students

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lesgreenscholarship@gmail.com

Phone enquiries: 0272215208

Entries close 15 November 2025.



Seeking Expressions of Interest - Musical Director

About Us

Upper Hutt Brass is a community-focused brass band of around 25 members, with a proud history of performing at events, ceremonies, and concerts across the Upper Hutt region for more than 100 years. Our ANZAC parade is one of the largest in the country, with 3,000–4,000 attendees, and our recent Last Night of the Proms was performed to two sell-out shows at our local premier theatre, and received rave reviews. We are proud to be a band that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Our Achievements

- The only C Grade band in the Wellington region
- Winners of the National C Grade Championship title in 2022
- Supported by a thriving youth programme

The Opportunity

We are seeking an experienced Musical Director (MD) to lead the band from 2025 and beyond. This is an excellent platform for a motivated MD to bring musical vision, leadership, and inspiration.

Rehearsals & Remuneration

Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings, 7.00pm–9.00pm, at our band room on California Drive, Totara Park, Upper Hutt. Remuneration: Negotiable.

How to Apply

If this opportunity sounds like you, we would love to hear from you. Send your written expression of interest to Jacque at secretary@upperhuttbrass.band by 31 October 2025.

We aim to appoint our new MD in November 2025, in time for a stable build-up towards the National Brass Band Championships in Wellington, April 2026.

www.upperhuttbrass.band



Graeme Aldridge

Wigram Base Reunion

It has been 30 years since RNZAF Base Wigram closed down. It was the last big parade, and the band marched off the tarmac for the very last time, back to the bandroom to a nothingness as they no longer existed. An unforgettable day. However, such good times aren't quickly forgotten, and so ten years later the band had a get-together, including a potluck lunch at Irene Campbell's place, band practise in the garage, and a street march with Peter Wilson out the front, wielding a broom. The band continued to lunch together every couple of years, and now they do it yearly, as the ranks have begun to thin. The fact that they still want to see each other 30 years on is a testament to Bandmaster Graeme Aldridge's leadership and the bond of friendship that they still have today

To commemorate 30 years since the base closed, band members and partners gathered this July in Christchurch, following the national brass band contest, to remember and enjoy each other's company. We were delighted that our Director of Music, Graham Hanify, made the trip especially to be there; thank you, Sir, it was appreciated. There was a specially made cake which Graeme Aldridge ceremonially cut. There were also a few impromptu beer band tunes, a few drinkies, and the retelling of stories of misdemeanours and the inter-base contests where the most sought-after trophy was for the last man standing at the bar.

Ahhh, those were the days!



Wigram Base Band playing in the Officers' mess for dining in.



The last parade at Wigram Base, assisted by the Central band RNZAF, and some other air force players

Gig Guide

Friday 3 October

FREE lunchtime concert by the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Bands, 12.15pm at Odlins Plaza, Wellington waterfront.

Saturday 4 October

Tū Māia presented by the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Bands, 1.00pm at Scots College, Monogan Road, Strathmore Park, Wellington. Tickets \$25/\$20 with children under 12 free. Book now [HERE](#)

Saturday 11 October

Workshops with brass musicians of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, 10.00am to 3.00pm at Auckland City Brass Bandroom - 98 Captain Springs Road, Onehunga, Auckland. Free admission; no registration required. Simply come on the day.

Sunday 12 October

New Brighton Silver Band present a Spring Concert from 2.00pm at the Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, in support of the Pink Ribbon Family Run.

Monday 20 October

Announcement of the test music for the

2026 National Championships.

Monday 27 October

New Brighton Silver Band Spring Concert at the Christchurch Country Fair, Vintage Car Club grounds, 661 McLeans Island Road, Christchurch.

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 Vineyard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston. From 2.00pm.

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

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](#)

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 LeseliTonga Auditorium. Contact Kalino Pongi at k.pongi@tmcs.co.nz for details.

Friday 5 December

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

Friday 12 December

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

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at bbanzeo@gmail.com



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AGM Preview

Yes, it is that time of year again, where every BBANZ-affiliated band, District Association and Life Member has the opportunity to have a say on the future of our movement, at our AGM.

This year's AGM will be a little different as we join the digital age, with bands and Districts having the option for their delegate to attend the meeting in person or online. While we have live-streamed our meetings over the last few years, allowing anyone to watch, now a delegate will be able to speak and participate in voting. This change is likely to enable more bands to be involved in the decision-making process.

Following the adoption of the new constitution last year, a new set of contest regulations has been prepared and is now referred to as the Bylaws. The Bylaws include some general operational clauses from the old constitution, along with the contest regulation that we all love.

This year, we have received only two remits from bands, but as usual, they are thought-provoking and require bands to discuss them thoroughly so that their delegates are fully informed of the band's views on the matter.

So, how do your band members feel about the Sacred/Reflective item being played on Saturday before the Own Choice? Or the addition of an Open Own Choice solo class? And one from the contest administrator: dropping the ability for players to start in two or more Open solos, or in an open and junior solo section?

Your participation and feedback are not just anticipated but also highly valued, as your thoughts and ideas are integral to our decision-making process. So join us in person or online on Sunday, 9 November.

Helen Lee – Executive Officer



Jessica Palalagi

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.



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
1.00 – 2.00	Guest Speaker: Join Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation, for an insight into the arts in NZ.

	Room 1	Room 2
2.15 – 3.15	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.
3.15 – 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.

Introduction

Reviewed by David Bremner

I listened to Kyle Lawson's album *Introduction* straight through—and then immediately played it again. It's that good. The playing is world-class, as we've come to expect from Kyle, but what truly stops you in your tracks is the maturity of his artistry. His technique is flawless, his sound golden, and his range, colour, and stylistic sensitivity are extraordinary. This is an album that everyone should hear, and as a Kiwi brass musician, I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and craft Lawson has poured into sharing this gift with us.

From the opening notes of Bertrand Moren's *Southern Stars*, Lawson sets the tone with breathtaking ease. Moren's brilliant writing shines through, and Lawson's performance feels both effortless and captivating. Pianist Julia Cassels is the perfect partner, providing a wonderfully responsive and supportive accompaniment. Together they create the kind of musical synergy that makes chamber music so rewarding.

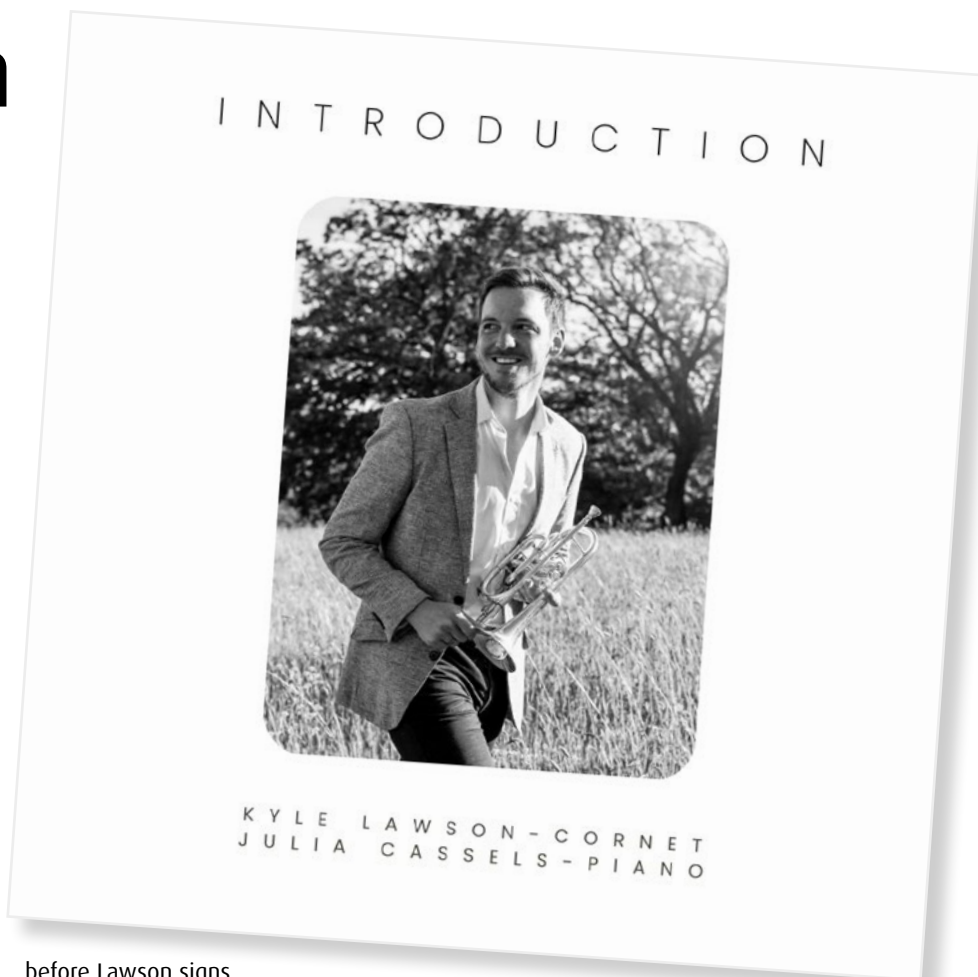
Rachmaninoff's *How Fair This Spot* is another highlight, delivered with tenderness and lyrical beauty. Lawson shapes each phrase with elegance, making the music sound deceptively simple when in reality it demands the utmost control and finesse.

Piazzolla's *Oblivion* is intoxicating in Lawson's hands—a sultry, expressive performance that reaffirms why brass players so often turn to Piazzolla for inspiration. For me, it's one of the standout moments of the album.

Perhaps the boldest choice is Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in D minor*. Few cornet players would dare attempt such a work, given its formidable technical and musical challenges. Yet Lawson approaches it with assurance and artistry. While one might miss the raw bite of the violin, his cornet offers a different kind of brilliance—nimble, fluid, and refined. In the finale especially, Lawson's familiarity with the piece is evident; he dances across its hurdles with dazzling ease and infectious joy.

John Golland's *Ballade* and Goff Richards' *Dark Haired Marie* are two brass band staples, the latter an obvious tribute to Kevin Jarrett, who was such an important influence in Lawson's musical journey. Both are played with warmth, fluidity, and heartfelt sincerity.

The penultimate track is Rafael Méndez's stylish and debonair *Chiapanecas*,



before Lawson signs off with Sam Powell's *Milford*. *Milford* is a touching and fitting conclusion, beautifully captured and recorded.

Introduction is more than a debut—it's a statement. Lawson demonstrates not only technical mastery but also a rare ability to communicate deeply and

meaningfully through music. This is an album that rewards repeated listening and firmly establishes him as one of the most exciting cornetists of his generation.

Available for purchase at <https://www.kylelawsonmusic.online/>



The team; Nic Scott (advisor), Julia Cassels (pianist), Kyle Lawson, Samuel Powell (assistant audio engineer, composer, arranger) and Jean-Luc Pitcaithly (recording engineer).



50's Up Brass with students from New Brighton School

How 50's Up Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass are enriching lives in later years.
By Ron Vereen.

In two corners of Aotearoa – Christchurch in the South Island and Kumeu in the North – two bands are proving that music really does keep you young. The 50's Up Brass Band in Ōtautahi and the Kumeu Vintage Brass Band just out of Tāmaki Makaurau are made up almost entirely of retirees, bringing joy, purpose, and the thrill of performance to members well into their golden years.

With average ages of about 76 in the 50's Up and 79 in Kumeu Vintage, these ensembles are more than just musical groups. They are vibrant communities dedicated to proving that age is no barrier to passion, creativity, and camaraderie. In doing so, they are also shining examples of the immense benefits the performing arts offer to senior citizens.

50's Up Brass was founded in 1994 to provide a welcoming and encouraging musical home for older players who still wanted to play their horns, but without the pressure of contesting or late-night rehearsals. In fact, the band's constitution prohibits contesting as well as evening rehearsals and performances. Also, the band has no weekend requirements. Any activities outside the norm require a band vote. Rehearsals are held during the day, Wednesdays at 9:30am in the New Brighton Band Room, and performances are geared toward community audiences – retirement villages, public concerts, and civic events.

"At the professional level, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking of making music as just work," says Alex Morton, Musical Director of 50's Up Brass. "So, I find it very refreshing to work each week with a community ensemble where the people are

there mainly to have a good time, catch up with friends over tea and a bikkie, and to make some music in between as well."

In the North Island, Kumeu Vintage Brass shares a similar ethos. Having grown out of the Kumeu Brass Band, the origins of Kumeu Vintage date back to 2005, when some retired members started "having a blow" on Thursday afternoons. These "Old Farts" (as they were known) formed the nucleus of the Kumeu Vintage Brass. Their goal was to carry on with their love of brass banding in a relaxed, friendly setting. In 2008, the Kumeu Vintage Brass started giving public performances. Today, the band has grown into a full ensemble that rehearses weekly, on Thursdays from 10:30am to 12:30pm, and performs regularly around the Auckland area.

Kumeu's solo tenor horn player, Pete Adams, said, "Kumeu Vintage Brass isn't just about music. It's about community. Everyone is warm, friendly, and full of good humour. The halftime tea break is legendary – especially when someone brings a birthday shout!"

Science Behind the Music

The work these bands are doing is not just about entertainment – it's about health and wellbeing. Research shows that active participation in music can have profound cognitive, emotional, and physical benefits for older adults:

- Cognitive stimulation: Music-making engages memory, attention, and coordination, helping to maintain mental sharpness.
- Emotional wellbeing: Being part of a band offers purpose and connection, reducing loneliness and improving mood.

- Physical health: Playing brass instruments supports lung function, posture, and motor skills.
- Motivation: The excitement of performance activates reward pathways, reinforcing purpose, pride, and long-term engagement

Together, these benefits make community banding a powerful recipe for both wellbeing and joy, turning every rehearsal and performance into an investment in healthier, happier living.

Both Kumeu Vintage and 50's Up Brass are rich with heartwarming stories of rediscovery, resilience, and lifelong friendships. In Kumeu, Brenda shared how she grew up playing trumpet but gave it up after school, when women weren't allowed in her local brass band. Years later, she picked up a cornet, joined Vintage Brass, and hasn't looked back.

Dennis and Norman began their brass journeys together in the Congress Hall Band in the late 1950s. When Norman left banding in the '60s, the two lost touch until 2017, when a friend invited Norman to a Kumeu Vintage rehearsal. To his delight, he found Dennis there still playing after all those years.

The same spirit of connection is true for Rob and brothers Bruce and David, who first played together in the Takapuna Grammar School Cadet Band in the 1950s. Today, all three continue to share the stage in Kumeu Vintage.

In Christchurch, Jane describes herself as a self-taught trombonist. "Though some of the players have been professional musicians in the past, they are tolerant of my amateur efforts," she said. "It is enormous fun and so



satisfying to be making music with such a diverse group of interesting people.”

Across both bands, members often speak about the deep support they receive from their fellow players, especially during times of grief or illness. Weekly rehearsals provide not only music but also motivation. As Noelene put it: “Music is a catalyst for getting out of bed in the morning.”

Performing for audiences in aged care homes and retirement villages is a highlight for both bands. For many in the audience, the music evokes deep memories and stirs emotions. Without question, playing familiar tunes for these audiences is magical. At every performance, you find the toes tapping and the eyes lighting up, but the music does more than entertain — it

rekindles spirit, connection, and life itself.

As the population of Aotearoa ages, community groups like 50’s Up Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass will become more essential. They stand as joyful reminders that creativity, fellowship, and passion for music don’t retire at 65. Community banding is not just about performances. As Alex Morton says, “it’s about people surviving, thriving and jiving together well beyond retirement.” So, here’s to the silver horns – and the silver-haired musicians who continue to bring them to life. Long may they continue to “thrive and jive.”

Want to join?

Both bands welcome new members. No audition is necessary, just a love of music and a willingness to give it a go. Whether

you’re a former contest player or someone who’s just rediscovered an old horn in the attic, these groups offer the perfect place to reconnect with music. “Someone once asked: How long can you play a brass instrument? The answer was — for as long as you want to practise; age isn’t a barrier to our playing!” said John Knowles, Music Director of Kumeu Vintage.

50’s Up Brass: Weekly rehearsals on Wednesday. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/50supbrass/ or email them at info@50supbrass.co.nz

Kumeu Vintage Brass: Weekly Thursday morning rehearsals. Visit their website for more info, [Vintage Brass – Kumeu Brass](https://www.vintagebrass-kumeu.org.nz) or email them at vintagemd@kumeubrass.org.nz



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NZSO Brass comes to South Auckland

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce a celebration of all things brass in South Auckland this October. NZSO musicians David Bremner (Section Principal Trombone), Shannon Pittaway (Principal Bass Trombone), Michael Kirgan (Section Principal Trumpet), David Johnson (Associate Principal Trumpet), and Alexander Hambleton (Associate Principal Horn) will present an inspiring weekend of music making culminating in a free-of-charge combined concert featuring South Auckland's own Seventh-Day Adventist High School Brass Band and Maamaloa Brass Band. Among the works to be performed are *Prismatic Light* by Alan Fernie, *Dakota* by Jacob De Haan, *Reflection in Nature* by Robert Redhead and excerpts from *West Side Story*.

In addition to the concert, we invite you to join us in a series of free masterclasses that will cater for all ages and levels and are designed to offer valuable insights for performing and technical improvement. There will be a full range of workshops to choose from: whether a specialised Trumpet/Cornet or Horn, and Trombone / Euphonium session, a more general Low Brass event or a full Brass Band Conducting Workshop, there promises to be something

for everyone.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to join brass players from your national orchestra as they work with South Auckland's finest.

This project is organised by NZSO Education and Community Engagement and made possible by a generous bequest to the NZSO Foundation.

Date: Saturday, 11 October

Times: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Location: Auckland Brass Bandroom - 98 Captain Springs Road, Onehunga, Auckland

Free admission; no registration required. Simply come on the day.

10.00am: Trumpet/Cornet workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trumpet Michael Kirgan and Associate Principal Trumpet David Johnson

11.00am: Horn workshop with NZSO Associate Principal Horn Alexander Hambleton

12.00pm: Low brass workshop with NZSO Principal Bass Trombone Shannon Pittaway and Section Principal Trombone David Bremner

1.00pm: Trombone/Euphonium workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trombone David Bremner

2.00pm: Conducting workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trombone David Bremner



Join us for a combined concert featuring

**Seventh-Day Adventist High School Brass Band
Maamaloa Brass Band
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra brass musicians**



**Sunday, 12 October, 2pm
Seventh-Day Adventist High School
119 Mountain Road, Mangere Bridge,
Auckland**

Free Admission, Koha accepted

This project is made possible by a generous bequest to the NZSO Foundation

Central Districts Contest

Eight bands competed in the Central Districts Band Contest held at the Speirs Centre in Palmerston North over the weekend of the 6 and 7 September.

On Saturday, the bands presented their Reflective Item and Major Work. Brass Whanganui won both events in the first section, as did Palmerston North Brass in the second section. Palmerston's performance of their Reflective Item achieved a second place across all grades. The New Plymouth JAY Band won the third section.

In the Concert Programme on Sunday, Brass Whanganui and their featured soloist Hamish Jellyman were clear winners in the first section. It was a very close affair in the second section, with Palmerston North and Feilding Brass sharing both the Concert Programme and solo events, which featured Elizabeth Rane from Feilding and Russell Schwarfeger from Palmerston North. Hawera Brass claimed the March at the Halt award held outside, and all three bands shared the Stage Presentation award.

Section three was another tight tussle with Brass Whanganui Concert Brass winning the Concert Programme, Solo Item (Moata Leiva-Benegas), and Stage Presentation.

The contest highlighted the strength of youth bands in the district, with Palmerston North Academy making its first contest appearance in Section Three, and Hawera Brass featuring a strong contingent of young musicians.

Special thanks to adjudicators Ben Robertson and Clynton Payne, who provided the bands with wonderfully positive and constructive feedback and to Palmerston North Brass for hosting the event.

Saturday – Reflective Item & Major Work

Section		Reflective	Major Work	Aggregate
1	Brass Whanganui	92	136	228
1	The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass	88	133	221
2	Palmerston North Brass	90	128	218
2	Hawera Brass	85	124	209
2	Feilding Brass	80	120	200
3	New Plymouth JAY Band	83	121	204
3	Brass Whanganui Concert Brass	82	118	200

Sunday – Concert Programme

Section		Concert Programme	Stage Presentation	Soloist	& Band	Soloist Total
1	Brass Whanganui	236	44	49	49	98
1	The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass	219	44	40	42	82
2	Palmerston North Brass	213	41	44	40	84
2	Feilding Brass	213	41	42	42	84
2	Hawera Brass	210	41	41	42	83
3	Brass Whanganui Concert Brass	204	43	45	43	88
3	New Plymouth JAY Band	203	42	38	40	78
3	Palmerston North Brass Academy	200	40	36	36	72



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Auckland Contest

On Sunday, 14 September, members and supporters of 12 Auckland bands converged on King's College for the annual Auckland Bands' Association District Contest. Emeritus Professor Peter Adams adjudicated the A and B Sections while Reuben Brown adjudicated the Youth Section.

We were excited to have a record five youth bands entering this year, with newcomers Ikuna Talateu Brass Band joining the usual quartet of Auckland City, North Shore, Maamaloa Youth bands and Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School Band (ASDAH). All bands delivered well-prepared and exciting performances. Once again, ASDAH were the standouts, placing first in both the Music and Public Appeal categories. In addition, the band's principal euphonium player, Joseph Tongotongo, won the award for Best Soloist.

Second place went to Auckland City Brass Youth, and third place to Maamaloa Youth Brass. The award for Best Compere went to Petolo Lea'aetoo, from Ikuna Talateu Brass.

Simultaneously, the B Section was in full swing next door with four bands engaged in a fierce competition. In the end, North Shore Brass Academy emerged victorious, winning both the Reflective Item and the Major Work. Maamaloa Brass claimed the March category, securing the second position overall, with Howick Brass and Kumeu Brass following closely in third and fourth places, respectively.

Celine Wu won first prize in the Soloist category with her performance of *Concerto d'Aranjuez* with North Shore Brass Academy.

After lunch, it was time for the A Section bands to perform. With only three bands

performing, every band was guaranteed a podium finish! In third place was Auckland City Brass, second place went to Waitakere Auckland Brass, and first place went once again to North Shore Brass. In a sporting gesture, North Shore didn't win everything, with Kilian Casey from Auckland City Brass winning the Best Soloist Award and Peter Mumby from Howick Brass winning the Compere Award. North Shore won the Reflective Item, March, Major Work and of course the Aggregate, thereby retaining their title of Champion Band of Auckland.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers, in particular Kathy McDonald, Owen Melhuish, Ben Harrington, John Sullivan, Leslie Borthwick and Lee Martelli.

Mark Close
President - ABA



Students from the champion ASDAH band.



North Shore Brass Academy Band.



Best soloist, Joseph Tongotongo and proud family.

Canterbury Contest

On Saturday, 13 September, 423 players from thirteen bands took to the stage of Cashmere High School's Performing Arts Centre in Christchurch. The role of chief adjudicator was shared between Tyme Marsters and Jody Keehan of the Christchurch School of Music. We welcomed back Dr Graham Sattler, CEO of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, as the entertainment judge for the second year.

The next day was another big day, with nearly 200 individuals participating in solo and ensemble events. Thank you to Cameron Lee, Nick Johnson, Kevin Hickman, Cameron James, Hazel Wilson, Brent Hoy, Adrian Dalton and Jordan Seaton for giving their time to provide helpful feedback to all competitors. Congratulations to Willy Keith of Nor'west Brass, who won the Junior Champion of Champions award as an under-16 player.

The CPBBA Committee extends its gratitude to the following organisations and individuals whose contributions were instrumental in the success of the Festival: The Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Woolston Brass, and Todd Turner for their invaluable support in supplying and transporting percussion gear. Rolleston Brass for running a café, which was very well patronised. We thank Dave Johnstone for his exceptional work designing the programme, and all the amazing accompanists. Special shout-out to Vickie van Uden, who encouraged many players (old and young) to start in their first solo event, then accompanied 35 players on the day. A special thanks to event supervisors Stephen Leader, Caroline Burt, Todd Turner, Chris Gourlay, Simon Winship and Georgia Hoy. Thanks also to Wayne Shearers, who ran the programme sales desk and to our contest manager, Helen Lee. John Butler also generously gave his whole weekend to help out with the contest, as well as present new trophies for the Development grade in memory of his father, Geoff.



Mario Yin - the Under 10 champ.

Under 10 Solo

- 1 Mario Yin, Nor'west Cyclones
- 2= Alex Straver, Addington TRAINing Band
- 2= Madelyn Burnell, Nor'west Cyclones

Under 13 Slow Melody

- 1 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
- 2 Sophia Hickman, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Benjamin Holtmark van Dijkhof, Nor'west Zephyrs

Under 13 Variation

- 1 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
- 2 Sophia Hickman, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Henry Mallett, Woolston Junior Band

Under 16 Slow Melody

- 1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
- 2 Thomas Flavell, Woolston Concert Brass
- 3 Sam Paget, Nor'west Zephyrs

Under 16 Variation

- 1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
- 2 Fergus McKinnon, Rolleston Brass
- 3 Sam Paget, Nor'west Zephyrs

Under 19 Slow Melody

- 1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
- 2 Toby Clark, Woolston Brass
- 3 Emma Shore, Woolston Concert Brass

Under 19 Variation

- 1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
- 2 Emma Shore, Woolston Concert Brass
- 3 Theo Michaelides, Nor'west Brass

Junior Champion of Champions: Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass

Under 15 Percussion solo

- 1 Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band
- 2 Thomas Su, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Harry van Uden, Woolston Junior Band

Under 19 Percussion solo

- 1 Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass

Open Percussion solo

- 1 Sho Kubota, Woolston Brass
- 2 Reuben Clarkson, Addington Brass

C and D Grade Slow Melody

- 1 John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band
- 2 Chris Hollis-Locke, Sumner Silver Band
- 3 Wayne Coddington, New Brighton Silver Band

C and D Grade Variation

- 1 Adair Sherriff, Nor'west Brass
 - 2 John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band
 - 3 Wayne Coddington, New Brighton Silver Band
- C and D Grade Champion: John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band

Open Slow Melody

- 1 Simon Winship, Woolston Brass
- 2= Caroline Turner, Woolston Brass
- 2= Julia Mallett, Woolston Brass

Open Variation

- 1= Simon Winship, Woolston Brass
 - 1= Sarah Hickman, Woolston Concert Brass
 - 3 Julia Mallett, Woolston Brass
- Open Solo Champion: Simon Winship, Woolston Brass

Veterans Slow Melody

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
- 2 Grant Dempsey, Woolston Brass
- 3= Steve Griffin, Rangiora RSA Club Brass
- 3= Dave Johnstone, Woolston Concert Brass

Veterans Variation

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
 - 2 Steve Griffin, Rangiora RSA Club Brass
 - 3 Denis Broadbent, Woolston Concert Brass
- Veterans Champion: Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass

Championship Slow Melody

- 1= Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
- 1= Raynor Martin, Woolston Brass
- 3 Grant Dempsey, Woolston Brass

Championship Variation

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
 - 2 Logan Ford, Woolston Brass
 - 3= Raynor Martin, Woolston Brass
 - 3= Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- Canterbury Soloist of the Year: Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass

Junior Ensemble

- 1 Thomas Flavell & Charles Button, Woolston Concert & Junior Band
- 2 Henry Mallett & William Finch, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Finn Purvis & Felix Adams, Woolston Junior Band

Junior Ensemble

- 1 Addington Junior Band
- 2 Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Addington Junior Band

Open Duet

- 1 Grant Pitcher & David Mallett, Woolston Brass
- 2 Bob Reid & Dave Thorne, Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Grant & Pam Dempsey, Woolston & Addington Brass

Open Ensemble

- 1 Front Bench, Woolston Brass
- 2 Japan Band, Addington Brass
- 3 Addington Brass Trombones

Open Percussion Ensemble

- 1 Rolleston Brass

Band Events

Development Grade

- 1 Woolston Junior Band (MD Vickie van Uden)
- 2 Rolleston Academy (MD Karen St Guillaume)

D Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Addington Workshop Band
- 3 Nor'west Zephyrs

Major Work

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Sumner Silver Band
- 3 Nor'west Zephyrs

Stage March

- 1 Addington Workshop Band
- 2 New Brighton Silver Band
- 3 Sumner Silver Band

Entertainment Programme

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Addington Workshop Band
- 3 Sumner Silver Band

D Grade Champion Band: New Brighton Silver Band (MD Lachlan Grant)

C Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Timaru Brass

Major Work

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Nor'west Brass

Entertainment programme

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Nor'west Brass
- 3 Rangiora RSA Club Band

C Grade Champion Band: Rolleston Brass (MD Raynor Martin)

B Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

Major Work

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

Entertainment

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

B Grade Champion Band: Woolston Concert Brass (MD Matt Toomata)

A Grade

Sacred/Major Work/Entertainment

- 1 Woolston Brass (MD Phil Johnston)

The Best Compere award went to Paul van Uden (Rolleston Brass) and the Best Soloist to Keina Rollinson (Woolston Brass).

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**13 November,
7:30pm**

**Mayfair Theatre,
Dunedin**

Tickets available
at eventfinda.co.nz



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2026 National Contest in Wellington 8 to 11 April
Contact person Mike Sander
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Pete and Kylie Adams, BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity), E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, D and M Dawson, Tony Garing, Pete and Billie Harbidge, JB and NC Hollick, I Levien, John McGough, O Melhuish, D Miller, G and C Moseley, NZ Army Band, New Zealand Veterans Band, B and M Platt, Evan and Lorraine Sayer and J&R Sullivan.

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 Smeehuysen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

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