

Wellington 2026 - Venue Information for Band Events

Friday 10 and Saturday 11 April 2026:

A and B Grade in the Main Auditorium of the Michael Fowler Centre, 111 Wakefield Street.

Please refer to the map on page 3.

Band members drop off:

There is a drop-off point on Wakefield Street at the main entrance to the Michael Fowler Centre. The height restriction in this area is 3.30 meters.

A bus drop-off point is just past the Michael Fowler Centre on Wakefield Street, on both sides of the street. This is opposite the Amora Hotel.

At present, there is major road work on Wakefield Street, and the street is one-way from the corner of Cuba and Wakefield Street to Victoria Street. Entry into Wakefield Street is only from Taranaki Street or Cuba Street.

Vehicles will not be allowed to park at these drop-off points.

Parking: There is limited on-street parking in the general area, with a maximum stay of 3 hours. There are car park buildings locally nearby.

Competing Bands:

- Enter the Michael Fowler Centre by the main front entrance off Wakefield St. Bands will be met and shown upstairs to the Renouf Foyer.
- The Renouf foyer will be set up into three holding areas for bands to gather and leave their cases. Only individual light blowing is permitted in this area.
- Approximately 10 minutes before the end of the preceding band's performance, the band will be escorted to the Green Room backstage. No blowing is permitted in the Green Room.
- Bands will move on to the stage from the right-hand side of the stage.
- On completion of your band's performance, the whole band exits by the right side of the stage and returns to the Renouf foyer.
- Once back in the holding area, collect all your belongings and move out of the room as quickly as possible. There may be another band waiting to move into that area.

There is a lift large enough to take instruments from the ground-level entrance to the Renouf foyer.

Band photo: A and B Grade Bands

On Saturday, after bands have collected all their belongings from the holding area, they will move down to the ground-floor foyer for a band photo taken by Simon Woolf Photography. A timetable for band photos will be advised soon. Bands do not need to book in for a photo or pre-pay.

Entry for Audience:

Enter the Michael Fowler Centre's main entrances via Wakefield Street. Access to the Auditorium is through the stall doors only on level one. Entrance is free, and please be seated well in advance of the band's performance.

On Friday, there is no break for the audience to enter or leave between the Sacred Item and the Test piece.

Café, Bar, live streaming, and Trade Stands

There will be a café, bar, and live streaming in the Renouf foyer. Trade stands will also be on this level.

Percussion loading into the Michael Fowler Centre

A and B Grade Michael Fowler Centre

The stage at the Michael Fowler Centre is not at ground level. Bands have two options for moving their percussion instruments to the stage at level one.

- By a stage lift **before** and at **the end** of each grade event.
- During the event, by 20 stairs from the loading bay at the rear of the stage.
- You should use the lift option if you have a large percussion instrument.

Please ensure you have enough people to move your percussion instrument safely and efficiently.

The loading bay for percussion is at the backstage entrance of the Michael Fowler Centre. Access to the loading bay is off Wakefield Street and down the side of the Michael Fowler Centre. Vehicles must not be left parked in the loading bay and must be removed once the instruments are unloaded/loaded.

The following are the stage lift timings.

B Grade Friday

7.00 until 7.30 am	Unload and place percussion on the stage lift.
7.30 am	Stage lift goes up. It takes approximately 10 minutes for it to reach the stage level. Percussion instruments are then to be moved backstage.
2.15 pm approx.	Upon completion of the B Grade, Percussion instruments can be removed by the stage lift.
2.30 pm	Stage Lift goes down.
2.40 pm	Unload the stage lift and remove percussion instruments.

A Grade Friday

3.30 pm until 4.00 pm	Unload and place percussion on the stage lift.
4.00 pm	Stage lift goes up. It takes approximately 10 minutes for it to reach the stage level. Percussion instruments are then to be moved backstage.
10.15 pm approx.	Upon completion of the A Grade, percussion instruments can be removed by the stage lift.
10.30 pm	Stage lift goes down.
10.40 pm	Unload the stage lift and remove percussion instruments.

There is some space for bands to store percussion instruments overnight at the MFC in the Green room, which is directly behind the backstage area.

B Grade Saturday

7.00 am until 7.30 am	Unload and place percussion on the stage lift.
7.30 am	Stage lift goes up. It takes approximately 10 minutes for it to reach the stage level. Percussion instruments are then to be moved backstage.
1.00 pm approx.	Percussion instruments can be removed by the stage lift at the end of the results.

A Grade Saturday

3.30 pm and 4.00 pm	Unload and place percussion on the stage lift.
4.00 pm	Stage lift goes up. It takes approximately 10 minutes for it to reach the stage level. Percussion instruments are then to be moved backstage.
10.00 pm approx.	Percussion instruments can be removed by the stage lift at the end of the results

Please ensure you have enough people to move your percussion instrument safely and efficiently.



 Stage Door Opera House