

**West City Music Incorporated
Annual Report 2023**





WEST CITY
MUSIC



West City Music Incorporated Annual Report 2023

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Welcome To Our 2023 Annual Report



Well, it has been yet another fantastic year for West City Music! It's hard to believe that it has been almost a year since West City Concert Band hosted the inaugural NZCBA Conductors Workshop with

Kevin Cameron and Matt Klohs, and performed the NZ Premiere of Matt Klohs' work H₂O.

After another successful Christmas season, and a short break, the first event of the calendar year was our Youth Band's annual Summer Band Camp, which was once again an outstanding success, despite some pretty poor weather conditions!

Since then, all of our ensembles have continued to grow, through a range of innovative, outstanding performances, including Tapestry at the Raye Freedman Centre, our String Orchestra performing in the public arena for the first time, and our Youth Band continuing to lead the way for the Young Musicians of West Auckland. This all culminated in a fantastic joint concert in July with all three groups, as our concert bands prepared for the National Festival.

Our bands, ensembles and soloists have excelled once again at the NZCBA Festival, with Gold Awards for both bands, a solo award for Feiyang Wu and, in particular, our continued hold on the RNZ Navy Trophy for Most Outstanding Performance by a Band.

Our String Orchestra has continued to grow and under their new director Peter Sharman, is quickly evolving into a high-quality ensemble.

Our growth and organisational development also continue behind the scenes, with a rewrite of our constitution that will enable our leadership to better evolve with the changing needs of our organisation, and a rebrand to our organisation's exciting new identity, West City Music.

Our systems continue to strengthen through the voluntary support of an ever-growing number of people coming into our management group.





“ Our systems continue to strengthen through the voluntary support of an ever-growing number of people”

This team includes our four executives, and our dedicated management committee who voluntarily uphold our various systems like our Library, our Youth Program, our Asset Management, our Concert events, and so much more. Recent additions to our team include Sam Nicholson working hard to capitalise on our heightened community profile through regular grant applications, and the appointment of Phillipa Mandeno to our new Band Manager Role in WCCB.

The strength of our systems could be no more evident, than in our role this year as co-hosts of the NZCBA Festival. In true West City fashion, we set a standard which others can admire, appreciate, and hopefully follow. Credit must be given to the organisation of Phillipa Mandeno and Paula Scandle, the incredible stage management of Dawn Lodge-Osborn and Christine Watling, and the work in the Canteen from the Boyack family and others. Their efforts ensured that we put on the most successful,

smoothest running NZCBA event in recent history.

More importantly than anything, we remain a close-knit family of musicians who are driven firstly and foremostly by our love for music, and the joy that we share when we play together. For that we must acknowledge the passion, energy, creative vision and musical leadership of our Musical Directors — Peter Sharman, Lauren Raby and Chad Davenport.

– Richard Breed, President



2023 At A Glance...

145

Society Members

- 61 – Concert Band
- 55 – Youth Band
- 28 – String Orchestra

1,000 (est)

Concert Attendees

- Oct '22 – *The Rivers, The Land*
Nga Awa Me Te Whenua (WCCB)
- Nov '22 – *Music from the Movies*
(WCCB/WCSO)
- Jan '23 – *Summer Youth Camp concert*
- May '23 – *Tapestry* (WCCB)
- Jul '23 – *Midwinter*
(WCCB/WCYCB/WCSO)

6

Community Events

- Farmer's Santa Parade* – WCCB
- Te Atatu Christmas parade* – WCYCB
- MOTAT Christmas lights* – Small ensembles
- Christmas at St Paul's Church* – WCCB
- ANZAC Day at Titirangi* – WCCB
- Ranui Library* – WCSO

\$15,000

Grant funding awarded

- \$10,000 – NZ Lottery Grant Board
- \$5,000 – The Trusts



Titirangi War
Memorial Hall

West City Concert Band

OVERARCHING GOALS: West City Concert Band (WCCB) continues to build on the same priorities that have guided its progress over the past 10 years.

We implement strategies to increase the skill of musicians

Repertoire, warmups and specific rehearsal techniques are chosen to stretch musical and technical skills of players. Members often share knowledge about instrument techniques, equipment, etc. with fellow musicians. We encourage players to form small ensembles for events like NZCBA Festival and MOTAT lights because of the musical growth that occurs in that setting. Members also benefited from rehearsing under guest conductor Kevin Cameron (Melbourne) in connection with the NZCBA Conducting Clinic and the performance, Ngā Awa Me Te Whenua. The long term benefits of this goal can be seen in the ability to prepare challenging works in a shorter time frame and, indirectly, in the increasing number of members going on to study Music at university and teach professionally.



We create musical 'impact' moments

Careful consideration is given to the selection and order of pieces to create the optimal experience for audience members and musicians alike. Luke Raymond and other WCCB volunteers regularly create additional visual content (eg. 34 minute video to accompany the premiere of Symphony 1: H₂O by Matt Klohs) and digital programs to provide a more immersive concert experience. The audience's response to the Tapestry show was particularly enthusiastic through multiple standing ovations and verbal feedback.

We contribute to the wider community

WCCB provided several free performances to the public including the Farmers Santa Parade (Aotea Square, Queens St) and a collaboration with St Paul's choir and worship band as part of their Christmas celebrations. WCCB featured several ecological NGO's (eg EcoMatters, Project Twin Streams and Matuku Link) in the performance of Ngā Awa Me Te Whenua to raise awareness and encourage community support of local clean water projects. More directly related to our musical aims, West City successfully hosted the national NZCBA Festival for the first time along with the band from the University of Auckland.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Hosting NZCBA Conducting Clinic with Kevin Cameron and Matt Klohs (Maestros with a Mission) – WCCB hosted five participants and several observers for this two day event. Participants who engaged in master classes and practised conducting WCCB several times with feedback from the clinicians and ensemble members showed considerable improvement and greater confidence by the end. This is the third conducting clinic West City has hosted.

Tapestry collaborative performance – This sold-out show featured five international guest artists and integrated these performers into existing concert band works. More information about this event will be shared in other parts of the AGM report.

Successful performance at NZCBA Festival 2023 – WCCB was awarded a Gold and the Royal NZ Navy trophy

for Outstanding Performance by a Band for the sixth consecutive time at the NZ Concert Band Festival. This award was especially noteworthy because members were simultaneously hosting the festival.

Co-hosting NZCBA Festival 2023 at Westlake Girls – West City Music members collaborated with Uniband to run the NZCBA festival. Over 50 people (players and non-players alike) volunteered their time and effort to make this a smooth and enjoyable experience for everybody. More information about this event will be shared in other parts of the AGM report.

Healthy rhythms – The decisions made by the Management Committee for the 2023 schedule seem to have had their desired effect of minimising stressful rehearsals and increasing members' satisfaction. These include allowing sufficient time to prepare for performances and avoiding big projects after the National festival.



*Sax sextet playing for the
MOTAT Christmas lights
(Dec '22)*



*West City Youth Concert Band at the
Tē Atatu Peninsula Christmas parade
(Dec '22)*

Concert Feature: Tapestry



On 27 May 2023 West City Concert Band (WCCB) gave a sold-out performance of *Tapestry*, a concert celebrating diverse cultural backgrounds of those living in Tāmaki Makaurau and the things that weave us together. Arts Connections Oceania helped to enlist five world-class acts including Rasoul Abbasi (UNESCO award-winning Iranian kamancheh player), Riki Bennett (expert in tāonga puoro) and Basant Madhur (head of Sargam School of Indian Music). Each of these musicians featured their

own musical tradition and collaborated with the band and other guest artists throughout the concert. The finale can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/FfBLFFKvAE>.

Much of the music for concert bands comes from Western composers, so we were delighted that this collaboration could provide opportunities for our members to play different styles of music and learn from other musical traditions. Each of our guest artists joined in a rehearsal to demonstrate their instrument and share about their musical

experience, and insights from these musicians helped to create a more 'authentic' performance when accompanying them in their piece.

One of the unexpected benefits of this sort of collaboration occurred during a percussion rehearsal with Yaw Asumadu (master drummer and former assistant conductor of Ghanian Pan African Orchestra). While preparing an African piece for the performance, Yaw gave an impromptu 20 minute tutorial on playing djembe (drums) in an African style. The percussionists

“The response... was the most enthusiastic of any WCCB performance in recent memory.”

Percussion Section getting lessons from Yaw



not only had a great jam session but immediately showed improvement in their performance later that evening.

The response about the Tapestry collaboration from audience members was the most enthusiastic of any WCCB performance in recent memory. Some said that they discovered instruments and traditions that they previously knew nothing about. Others shared they were touched by

particular pieces and felt interest in learning more about that culture from their own personal contacts in the community. Still others came to hear a specific performer from their cultural background but expressed their delight in hearing a concert band for the first time. WCCB hopes to collaborate with Arts Connections Oceania for a similar performance in 2024 or 2025.





West City Youth Concert Band

Youth Band 2023 has seen 15 new members join the band, and despite more experienced players leaving at the end of 2022 particularly in the percussion section, the number of members has ranged between 46 and 52 in 2023. They come from 15 different schools, mainly in the West but also including Takapuna, Rangitoto, Helensville and Westlake Girls' and also AUT and Auckland Uni. Lauren has been assisted at times with conducting by Charlie Bi, who also helps out playing various instruments when needed.

Musically, we are still rebuilding, but are not expecting loss of numbers over the summer holiday so looking forward to a great band next year.

Throughout the entire year, playing in small ensembles was the push — we added it to our Summer programme as an option. This continued into our first small ensemble evening (not well attended), but we had very few drop out of Nationals this year and had successful

groups. This is something Lauren would like to continue in upcoming years.

Nationals camp was a success. It was one extra day instead of a weekend. I am finding many of our strongest players are being overworked by other ensembles and the focus of Youth Band is to provide a positive musical experience for these students. It is a stressful time for students and respecting that will continue to be important to the programme.



Summer Youth Band Camp

The Youth Band Camp this year took place at Massey High School from January 24th to 27th, and welcomed 42 young musicians. The conductors leading the camp were Chad Davenport, Lauren Raby, and Charle Bi. In addition to full band rehearsals, several breakout activities were offered, including composition sessions, small ensembles, and drum line, all of which showcased their talents at the final concert.

Widespread flooding across Auckland on the final day led to a reduced audience for the final concert and concerns about student's transportation home.

Six participants joined the Youth Band as a result of their experience at the camp and some small ensembles continued collaborating after the camp with the aim of performing at the 2023 NZCBA Festival.





WEST CITY MUSIC PRESENTS

MIDWINTER



West City String Orchestra

Entering its second year, the West City String Orchestra has continued strongly, with player numbers increasing steadily from 15 in 2022 to 28 in 2023, including the addition of our first bass player! This reaffirms the positive atmosphere and experience offered by the ensemble. As well as providing a fuller sound, the larger instrument

sections have provided greater resilience when individual players have been unable to attend rehearsals. Our viola section, however, continues to lag in numbers.

A significant milestone was the orchestra's first 'playout' at the Ranui public library in April.

“A unique feature of the orchestra's growth is teacher-student participation.”

Both orchestra supporters and the general public enjoyed the performance in a relaxed setting.

Starting in July, Peter Sharman has graciously stepped in as conductor for the remainder of 2023, following the planned departure of Josh Kirk. We acknowledge the work of Josh in leading this ensemble for the first year and a half since its inception. Josh's expertise in string technique has been greatly appreciated.

It has been encouraging to see the orchestra members enjoy participating in the wider opportunities within the organization, including small ensemble performances at the MOTAT Christmas lights event and volunteering at the NZCBA Festival, as well as helping to make our combined concerts successful

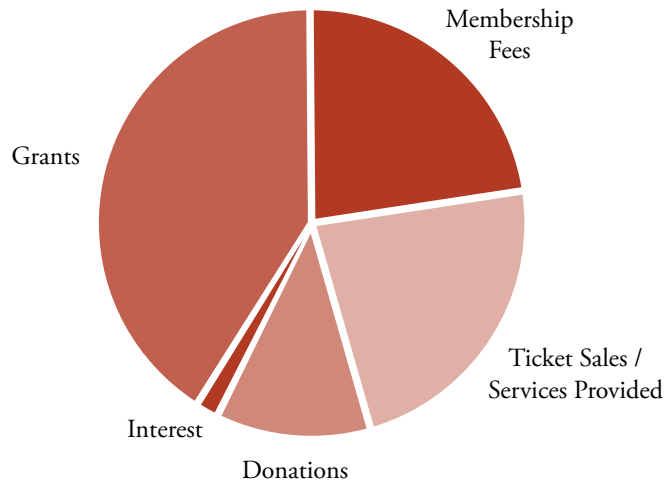
A unique feature of the orchestra's growth is teacher-student participation. Several advanced players have encouraged their own string students to join the group, allowing teacher and student to play side-by-side. This approach has enriched the orchestra's dynamics and provided a rewarding experience for all involved.



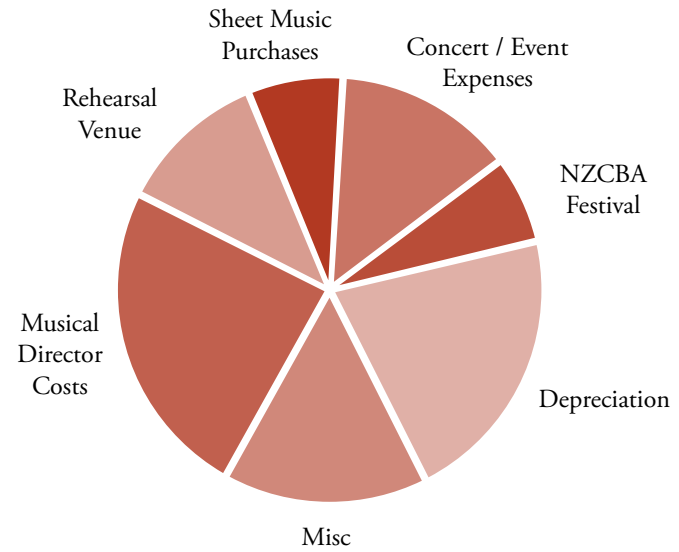


Financial Overview

Revenue \$47,906



Expenses \$44,774



*For financial year ending 31 Mar 2023.
For detailed financial statements, please refer to the reviewed West City Music Performance Report 2023.*

NZCBA Festival 2023

West City Music collaborated with the members of Uniband to co-host the New Zealand Concert Band Association's annual Concert Band festival in the first weekend of August, 2023 (4–6 August). Paula Scandle, Christine Watling, Dawn Lodge-Osborn, and Philippa Mandeno worked alongside Jono Palmer from Uniband and NZCBA executives Kathleen Mulligan and Graham Trail to organise details of the festival weekend, including (but not limited to) venue,

programmes, volunteers, photography, catering, signage, and band coordination.

As well as the prior organisation, significant volunteer contributions were required during the weekend itself. Over 40 people from West City Music volunteered their time and effort to the weekend, both players and non-players alike. Some non-players were members of the String Orchestra, family members, former members of WCCB, and Duke of Edinburgh participants.

Volunteers did a range of tasks, including getting the spaces ready for the weekend, assisting adjudicators, managing workshops, registering bands as they arrived, guiding bands through the process, setting up and managing the stage between bands, ushering audience members, delivering scores, and acting as MC. Paula Scandle also organised a very successful cafeteria for the festival attendees and participants, fundraising for West City Music.



West City executive and management members holding two Gold awards and the Royal NZ Navy Band trophy.



West City Youth Concert Band plays "Rocketship!" by Kevin Day



The festival itself was a great success, with 23 bands from around the country participating. There were also 7 soloists and 10 ensembles from WCCB or WCYCB. West City Concert Band was awarded a Gold award for their performance, as was West City Youth Concert Band; WCCB was also awarded the Royal NZ Navy trophy for Outstanding Performance by a Band. This was a great achievement, especially given that so many playing members were busy helping with other tasks all weekend.

During prizegiving, NZCBA executives remarked that the stage management was the smoothest they had experienced, and many attendees (both band members and audience members) commented that it was a well-organised and enjoyable experience.



Executive Team

The Executive Team is the governing body of West City Music, elected annually by the society's members.

The team is responsible for ensuring that West City functions according to its purposes and constitution. This includes appointing musical directors and band managers, maintaining proper financial records and resolving any disputes.



Richard Breed

President



Nigel Smith

Vice-president



Michelle Johnston

Treasurer



Luke Raymond

Secretary

Management Committee



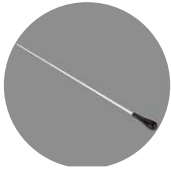
Chad Davenport

Musical Director
– West City Concert Band



Philippa Mandeno

Ensemble Manager
– West City Concert Band



Lauren Raby

Musical Director
– West City Youth Concert Band



Paula Scandle

Ensemble Manager
– West City Youth Concert Band



Josh Kirk / Peter Sharmen

Musical Directors
– West City String Orchestra



Luke Raymond

Ensemble Manager
– West City String Orchestra



Antonina Marriott

Music Library



Jess Chase

Assets



Sam Nicholson

Granting

