

**West City Music Incorporated
Annual Report 2024**





WEST CITY
MUSIC



West City Music Incorporated Annual Report 2024

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Welcome To Our 2024 Annual Report



The year has been an outstanding one for West City Music. Our large ensembles continue to flourish and grow, and increasingly we are present in the community via playouts where smaller

groups of musicians share the gift of music with their audiences, as well as our large set piece concerts. West City String Orchestra continues to grow, through the musical directorship of Peter Sharman in the latter part of 2023 and Kali Halapua from the beginning of 2024. The String Orchestra has played a number of community concerts, showcasing their skills across the genres. Another successful summer youth band camp took place early in 2024, and out of that the West City Youth Concert Band has grown both in numbers and musicality. It was a fitting celebration for outgoing musical director Lauren Raby that WCYCB gained a gold award (the only youth band to do so) at the recent NZCBA festival. Charlie Bi has taken the reins smoothly and WCYCB continues to flourish. West City Concert Band has continued to push musical boundaries, via a multi-ethnic musical celebration with guest artists early in the year, and a festival-

topping performance once more at the NZCBA festival under the inspirational baton of Chad Davenport.

While I'm proud of our musical accomplishments, this year has also been a significant year of maturing as a community organisation. Marie Deverell commenced in a new role as Administrator across West City Music, and so many aspects of our operations have been improved and fine tuned as a result.

There's also a lot less pressure on a few of our key volunteers who had been carrying too heavy a load. With more ensembles, comes more administration. And our library of music keeps on growing under the careful stewardship of Antonina Marriot. We've successfully spread our income sources and earned more via concerts and playouts than in past years, which is very helpful in the uncertain environment of arts funding. That is down to the hard work of many of our members who contribute as volunteers





“We’re in a very healthy phase, and the joy of making music remains central to what we do...”

to our events, and to tasks which few see, such as grant applications (Sam Nicholson) and asset management (Jess Chase). Another feature of our growth is that our ensemble managers (Pip Mandeno, Paula Scandle and Luke Raymond) are increasingly leading on behalf of each ensemble, supported by Marie and the Exec team.

Just in the last month, we reached agreement that Waitakere Voices would join West City Music. Adding a choir into our organisation is an exciting development, and I am very much

looking forward to how we can continue to provide community musical opportunities for musicians and audiences across West Auckland in a growing range of genres. We’re in a very healthy phase, and the joy of making music remains central to what we do. Thanks to everyone for your involvement and support. It is a privilege to steward our contribution to the communities we live in.

– Nigel Smith, President



2024 At A Glance...

144

Society Members

- 52 – Concert Band
- 69 – Youth Band
- 31 – String Orchestra
- 14 – Life Members

1,000 (est)

Concert Attendees

- Oct '23 – Synthesis (WCCB/WCYCB/WCSO)
- Jan '24 – Summer Youth Camp concert
- May '24 – Tapestry: Threads (WCCB)
- Jul '24 – Unveiled 2024 (WCCB/WCYCB/WCSO)

7

Community Events

- Te Atatu Library Christmas playout – WCSO
- Farmer's Santa Parade – WCCB
- Te Atatu Christmas parade – WCYCB
- MOTAT Christmas lights – Small ensembles
- ANZAC Day at Titirangi – WCCB
- Te Manawa Library – WCSO and small ensembles
- Blockhouse Bay Library – String small ensemble

\$12,580

Grant funding awarded

- \$10,000 – Community Organisation Grants Scheme
- \$2,580 – Auckland Council Community Grants



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

This year particularly, more repertoire has been chosen which features sections and soloists in new and exposed ways, fostering players' skills and strengths. Warmups and specific rehearsal techniques continue to be chosen to stretch musical and technical skills of players. 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. We have also encouraged members to go outside their "comfort zone" and collaborate with members of the string orchestra for MOTAT lights ensembles. 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 teaching music, performing professionally, and studying Music at university.



We also endeavour to foster the younger players from West City Youth Concert Band, and have collaborated in two joint concerts with the rest of the West City Music groups over the past year: Synthesis (October 2023) and Unveiled (July 2024). As well as celebrating the unity of our organisation as a whole and supporting WCYCB and WCSO, we encourage the younger players to watch and listen to WCCB's performance to inspire them to play at a higher level.

We create musical 'impact' moments

This year, many of the pieces chosen and performed by WCCB have been programmatic, telling a story, legend, or tradition, and creating heartfelt visualisations through music. There was enthusiastic feedback from audience members for Tapestry: Threads¹, a standing ovation for the performance at NZCBA festival², and many new audience members who had not previously explored concert band music, and who claimed that they were blown away by performances.

We contribute to the wider community

WCCB provides several free performances to the public including the Farmers Santa Parade (Aotea Square, Queens St), and returned to the ANZAC



West City Concert Band performs on Queen Street for the Farmers Santa Parade (Dec '23)

day service at Titirangi RSA in April. Along with other groups within West City Music, members of WCCB have been encouraged to perform at West City Mall and at MOTAT lights in small ensembles.

¹ See Unveiled 2024 Programme Notes for an example of the stories told by the programmatic pieces chosen.

² One of the adjudicators at the NZCBA festival remarked that he was moved to tears multiple times.

WCCB SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Tapestry: Threads collaborative performance

As a “sequel” to last year’s sold-out Tapestry performance, Tapestry: Threads featured 6 international guest artists and integrated these performers into existing concert band works. 3 of the guest artists returned from last year, sharing their excitement to collaborate a second time in such an enjoyable and successful show. This year, the performance was spread out into two shows, a matinée and an evening show on the same day. The performances were well-attended, and featured a silent auction for a piece of art by WCM life-member, Christine Watling.

NZCBA Festival 2024

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. On top of this, WCCB was also awarded an adjudicator’s commendation, the Robert Lutt Trophy for the most Outstanding Performance of a Select Piece, for Rivers of Air, and our flute soloist in La Procession du Rocio was awarded the Style Award for the Most Engaging Soloist, for “making the adjudicator cry”. Both members who performed in the soloist section of the festival were awarded Gold, and our small ensembles earned Gold and Silver awards.



Around twenty-four West City Music small ensembles provided about 48 hours of live music at the MOTAT Christmas Lights event (Dec '23)



**“In the
tapestry of life,
we’re all connected.”**
— Anita Moorjani

Concert Feature — Tapestry: Threads

The Tapestry project was conceived as a musical celebration of the diverse cultural backgrounds found in Tāmaki Makaurau. It features accomplished performers from a wide variety of musical traditions alongside the West City Concert Band in a seamless musical performance demonstrating how intersections with other cultures can create something truly special.

After a sold-out performance in 2023 and numerous requests for a sequel, West City created

Threads which expanded the show to six guest artists and two performances. It also featured the artwork of WCM life-member, Christine Watling, which was inspired by the show’s concept. From the opening tones of the Taonga Pūoro to the finale which included features from all of the guest musicians (eg. Celtic, Brazilian, Indian, Māori), the concert a celebration of music and unity.





“What a great community to be a part of! The vibes were high on and off stage and it was just so much fun to hang out with you all and play beautiful music together... I think I will look back on this one as a very special concert.”

– Emily Roughton
guest artist on Scottish fiddle

“What a buzz it is to discover so much music going on that I never knew existed”

– Audience member



“Huge thanks to everyone involved - what a treat to be part of something so very special. Many of our ‘folky’ friends were just blown away by the variety, and the quality of the sounds we all made.”

– Helen Douglas,
guest artist on Northumbrian pipes

“I’m leaving tonight and I feel full, and renewed, and I’m so very happy. It was incredible.”

– Audience member from Puhoi Celtic sessions

West City Youth Concert Band

A very successful Summer Band Camp at the beginning of 2024 led to 23 new players joining the West City Youth Band. The band has now grown to around 70 players, making it the largest in its 10-year history.

The past year has seen Charlie Bi taking on more responsibility from Lauren Raby in directing the band. Charlie conducted the band for the entirety of Term 1, 2024, preparing the band for the 10-Year Reunion. He did an exceptional job, enabling the new members to easily and

comfortably fit in. The Reunion repertoire was selected by Lauren and Mat Stenbo (the original Musical Director of the youth band), creating an exciting programme which the band enjoyed playing alongside former members.

Lauren returned in early May to direct the band through to the end of the NZCBA Festival in August. The festival pieces were challenging and ambitious but the youth band rose to the occasion and won one of the few Gold Awards

awarded at the festival. They looked and sounded great!

After festival we celebrated this fantastic achievement and at the same time accepted Lauren's decision to move on to other opportunities. We would like to thank Lauren for the hard work and dedication that she has put into the Youth Band over the past seven years. She has been very much appreciated for her knowledge, high standards and wonderful relationship with the band. We also appreciate





the way she assisted with a smooth transition in handing the baton on to Charlie.

Charlie Bi has now stepped into the role as permanent Music Director for the Youth Band. He brings great talent and is well established within the relationships that characterise the Youth Band. We are very excited to see how the band will develop under his baton and are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season's community playouts which are always a highlight.

WCYCB 10-Year Reunion

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the West City Youth Band, and to celebrate West City hosted a reunion event over 5-6 April.

Mat Stenbo, the band's first conductor, was able to attend from Wellington and, along with Lauren Raby, hosted a group of 35-40 current and past band members. The numbers were relatively small but all participants were very enthusiastic. The event included Friday evening and Saturday lunch shared meals, social gathering at The Hangar, and plenty of concert band music playing. The weekend culminated in a small performance for an audience of around 70 people, including former and current band members who could not attend the rest of the weekend.



Special thanks to:

- Sam Nicholson for pursuing the grant to help fund the weekend.
- Charlie for taking the Youth Band rehearsals leading up to the weekend.
- Evelyn Boyack for her assistance with meals, etc.
- Marie Deverell for her help with running the event.
- Jeremie Deverell for recording the concert.



Summer Youth Band Camp

The West City Music annual Summer Youth Band Camp was held at Massey High School on 23–26 January. There were 69 participants this year, including 18 flutes!

We were visited on second day by the Royal NZ Navy Band who played alongside us, demonstrated their warm-ups, ran sectionals and performed a concert. There was time at the end for a Q&A session where they talked about the process of joining the Navy and answered many

questions. They brought with them four visiting Canadian Royal Navy Band members who were able to answer questions about their band. The following day we were assisted by 8 members of the Auckland Philharmonia who ran sectionals and were well received.

Special elective sessions were run on the Thursday and Friday in Jazz (Fran Parussini), Conducting (Lauren Raby), How to Practice (Bede) and Composition, (Kate Scandle).

On Friday, after a morning of rehearsals, there was the traditional Pizza Party, followed by a final performance. In addition to the entire ensemble performing together, each breakout elective had an opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned, including an entertaining demonstration of conducting the audience to the tune of ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’.

Our musical Directors, Lauren Raby and Charlie Bi, worked tirelessly to inspire, motivate and





develop the band so that by the end the standard of playing was fantastic. Comments were made that this was the best Summer Band Camp yet.

Our thanks to for the financial assistance of Creative Communities NZ and to the Auckland Philharmonia for donating 14 hours of their time.

We once again thank Massey High School for the use of their facilities. It was a perfect venue and we were fortunate to be able to use their brand new Music Suite as well as the Bruce Ritchie Performing Arts Centre.



Synthesis



West City String Orchestra

The past year has been one of continued growth for West City's youngest ensemble. Our thanks to Peter Sharman, who directed the String Orchestra through to the end of 2023. This included a performance at the combined West City Music concert in October and a Christmas playout at the Te Atatu Peninsula library.

String Orchestra players were very present at MOTAT Christmas Lights, helping to make that event a success.

In the beginning of 2024, Charlie Bi was a wonderful interim conductor, while we waited for the arrival of our new music director, Kali Halapua. Kali joined us in May, and we have

“The orchestra has been constantly growing, reaching 33 players...”

greatly appreciated the expertise she brings as a strings specialist.

In addition to our weekly rehearsals, the String Orchestra has embraced the opportunity to perform for our West-Auckland community. For 'music month' in May the orchestra featured at our Te Manawa Library event, and a small string ensemble performed at Blockhouse Bay library.

In July we performed at our combined concert Unveiled 2024, it was a fun and well executed repertoire.

In August an ensemble from the orchestra, as well as a player from each WCYCB and WCCB, gracefully offered their time and effort to represent West City Music at a West City Mall playout paving the way to a new partnership.

The orchestra has been constantly growing, reaching 33 players, with more players keen to join. WCSO continues to be an inclusive environment, with players of all ages and abilities, making it a fantastic place to learn and also to enjoy creating music together.



'Musical Zoo' at Te Manawa Library

In celebration of NZ Music Month, West City Music hosted a special event at Te Manawa Library on the 4th of May. Inspired and fantastically executed by our new administrator, Marie Deverell, the afternoon consisted of several individual musicians and small ensembles from West City Music performing around the library and demonstrating their instruments to the community. The afternoon then culminated in

a 'May the 4th be with you' Star Wars themed concert by the West City String orchestra in the library's upstairs hall.

The event was hugely popular, with an enthusiastic response from an audience of well over 100 at the orchestra performance. This was the first time that West City Music has performed at Te Manawa, and the library staff were thrilled

with the event and eager for us to play regularly at their venue.

Our presence and visibility in the community was greatly impacted by this event. Children and adults were exposed to new instruments and music styles, had the opportunity to ask questions and get up close and were generally inspired by our musicians.



A brass quintet welcomed the library-goers



Kali Halapua directed the West City String Orchestra at Te Manawa Library



A surprise visit from Darth Vader amused audience and staff alike.

In addition to small ensemble performances, children were enthralled with seeing our various instruments close up.

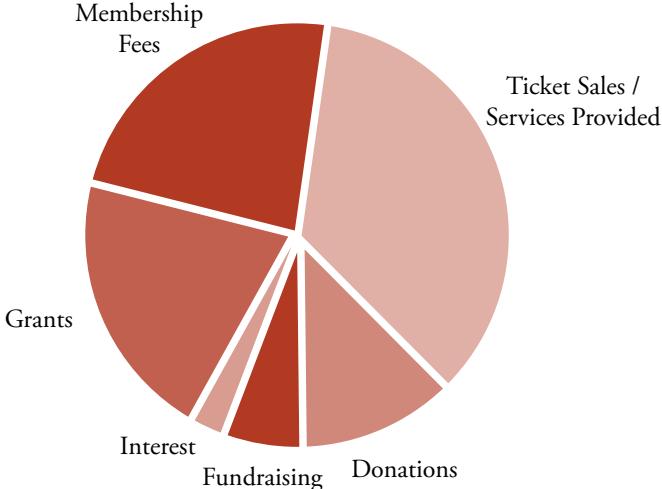




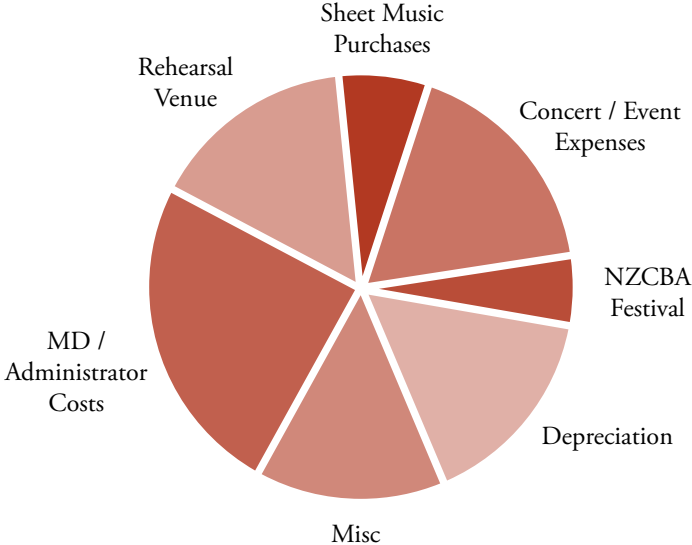
The West City Youth Concert Band entertain the crowd at the Te Atatu Christmas Parade (Dec '23)

Financial Overview

Revenue \$60,033



Expenses \$54,890



*For financial year ending 31 Mar 2024.
For detailed financial statements, please refer to the reviewed West City Music Performance Report 2024.*



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.



Nigel Smith

President



Michelle Johnston

Treasurer



Luke Raymond

Secretary



Paula Scandle

Executive Officer



Evelyn Boyack

Executive Officer

Management Committee



Chad Davenport

Musical Director
– West City Concert Band



Lauren Raby / Charlie Bi

Musical Directors
– West City Youth Concert Band



Peter Sharman / Kali Halapua

Musical Directors
– West City String Orchestra



Philippa Mandeno

Ensemble Manager
– West City Concert Band



Paula Scandle

Ensemble Manager
– West City Youth Concert Band



Luke Raymond

Ensemble Manager
– West City String Orchestra



Marie Deverell

Administrator



Jess Chase

Assets



Antonina Marriott

Music Library



Sam Nicholson

Granting

