



# Wairarapa Youth Orchestra



2025

ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.wyo.org.nz](http://www.wyo.org.nz)

# **Wairarapa Youth Orchestra**

## **Chair Report to AGM, 1/12/ 2025**

### **Overview**

The Wairarapa Youth Orchestra (WYO) is a not-for-profit organisation focused on providing young people from across the Wairarapa with the opportunity to learn and enjoy orchestral music for free under the guidance of experienced tutors.

The support WYO receives from the Wairarapa community and the New Zealand Arts community is essential to its success and we sincerely thank all of our supporters. From parents who donate items for our raffles to all those organisations who have entrusted us with substantial funds, we are truly grateful to you all. Together we are enhancing the lives of many people, young and not so young! Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

### **Our aim and values**

We aim to provide a fun and supportive environment for our members to learn, play, and perform orchestral music. Everything we do is guided by our values:

1. **Education and accessibility** – providing free high quality orchestral music opportunities for primary and secondary aged students embracing Tiriti principles of partnership and participation
2. **Youth and the arts** – supporting young people through the creation and development of the arts on a sustainable and professional basis
3. **Youth communities** – creating an inclusive device free space for Tamariki and rangatahi so they can develop relationships, work together and make friends
4. **Wairarapa music** – performing and promoting learning throughout our local Wairarapa community including the provision of instruments and tuition to students who may not otherwise have musical opportunities.

### **Our programmes**

WYO offers three programmes:

1. **The WYO orchestra** comprises approximately 60 school-aged students that rehearses regularly at St David's in Carterton and delivers several major concerts each year, with the gala event being the mid-winter concert at the Carterton Events Centre. Orchestra rehearsals are supported by volunteers. This year we have introduced dedicated sectional rehearsals twice termly on

Saturdays. These have been well received and instrumental in helping our young musicians get to grips with the more difficult parts of the music.

2. **The Chamber Orchestra** is a newly-formed sub-set of the orchestra which provides extension for the students who join, an opportunity to compete in the Secondary Schools Chamber Orchestra Competition in 2026 and performance opportunities to fundraise for the full orchestra. We have recently completed auditions for this group and were very impressed with the quality of the music played.
3. **The Scholarship programme** provides \$10 affordable lessons and a free instrument loan to participating students (currently 18) who become part of the full orchestra when they are ready. This programme is made possible by generous funding from Lions, Rotary, and our wider community for 2025.

## Our Year

Term 1 started off with our first rehearsals in our new space at St Davids in Carterton. We would like to thank the St Davids community for welcoming us and making us feel at home in this wonderful space. Term 1 we started work on one of the most ambitious pieces we have played to date - excerpts from the 1812 Overture! It was definitely a challenge for our kids, but what a fabulous piece to play! We rounded off the term with a casual concert at St Davids for family and friends.

Term 2 kicked off with a fabulous opportunity to collaborate with the absolute legend Donovan Bixley at Featherston's Booktown event. We followed this up by participating in a Variety Fundraiser Concert at St David's raising funds too earthquake proof their organ. Our main event for the term was our ever amazing Roadshow which went to Solway Primary, Masterton Primary and Masterton Intermediate this year. A huge thanks to Transit for getting us there and the schools for hosting. WBS were our main sponsor for this event and we are very grateful for their help! A group of our musicians entertained at the Carterton Lions Matariki celebration and we finished off by performing our roadshow to our friends and family at St David's.

Term 3 was all about our concert at the Wairarapa Events Centre. Our 'Around the World With Music' concert was well attended, although numbers were a little down on previous years. This concert is an enormous amount of work for everyone and we thank all involved for turning out such a great show. Masterton Trust House was our major sponsor for Term 3.

At the end of Term 3 we had a comprehensive committee meeting and decided to restructure our yearly plan. Term 3 of 2025 raised a number of issues around numbers dropping due to winter sports, Andrew's time and other commitments, and how well the WEC Concert preparation went. We are now 'starting' our year in Term 4 - that is, introducing the music that we will be playing into the new year, instead of



playing just christmas music. Term 1 will be a continuation of introducing new music and providing polish that we may not have had time for previously. We will hold our major WEC concert in Term 2 and the school roadshow in term 3. The music we are playing this coming year will be less technical to allow Andrew to work on dynamics and technique over just learning the music.

So Term 4 of 2025 has been a restart. We have changed out all the music and introduced a new piece that we will play next year. Term 4 also saw the very successful auditions for the Chamber Orchestra Group. We had 13 students audition, and Kate and Andrew were so impressed with the quality of playing, that all 13 have been accepted into the chamber program. Watch this space in 2026!

### **Team WYO**

The WYO team made up of the committee, tutors, students and their whanau is a strong team. Together, we can see the benefits WYO offers young people in our region and we are excited by the potential ahead.

The 2025 Committee was chaired by Rachel Millar and benefited from the expertise of:

- Caitlin Morris (orchestra coordinator and creative lead)
- Andrew Atkins (musical director)
- Rachel Millar (chair and grants)
- Jess Dobbie (treasurer)
- Kate Marshall (music representative)
- Aimee Davoren (fundraising and coordination)
- Naomi Osborne-Woods (governance and coordination)
- Kate Mattsen (Scholarship Admin, Transport, Advertising and Facebook)
- Melissa Ewart (administration, website, grants and coordination)

At the end of 2025 we are farewelling Jess from our team. Jess is stepping down from Treasurer, and we thank her for her time and effort over the last year.

Being on the committee is a voluntary role and expressions of interest are sought from interested people who have time and organisational skills to share in 2026.

Accessing new funding streams has meant we are progressing well towards being able to pay our many tutors for their wonderful work with the students during rehearsals and performances throughout the year. We thank them for their commitment and the hours they give on a voluntary basis in addition to their paid services. The knowledge, care and opportunities they provide to our tamariki and rangatahi is invaluable and they are an integral part of the WYO team.

We have continued to enjoy the professional administrative support from Melissa Ewart. Thank you, Mel, for your professionalism, flexibility and can-do approach. We have also welcomed Kate Mattsen who provides administrative support to our scholarship team and grants. The rest of the committee and wider WYO community thank you both for all your hard work this year.

The people section of this report would not be complete without a special mention of the WYO co-founders, Andrew and Caitlin. They have graciously welcomed the new Committee to work beside them to realise their dream of a free and fun youth orchestra. The Committee's goal from day one was to enable Caitlin and Andrew to do what they do best and free them up a bit, and that is starting to occur.

### **Financial position**

A separate report will be tabled by treasurer Jess, who have managed our financial position and ensured we are meeting obligations to funders and stakeholders this year. We were fortunate to have Jess's expertise, so thank you to Jess!

We would also like to thank Trusthouse Foundation, Masterton as our primary sponsor for 2025, and continuing as a significant sponsor in 2026.

### **Committee focus for 2026**

We are still working on options to formalise our legal and governance structure. We are currently an 'unincorporated group' and are looking at trust and incorporated society models. The goals we seek to achieve from becoming a formal entity with recognised standing are:

1. Putting the orchestra on a sustainable, long term footing so it is not dependent on key individuals in the future and will continue if individuals depart;
2. Becoming a registered charity so we and our supporters can benefit from that status as many more funding options open up if we are a recognised charity;
3. Ensuring appropriate protection mechanisms are in place to avoid WYO volunteers being exposed to personal liability as they work in good-faith to support the orchestra.
4. Minimising reporting and compliance burdens while ensuring transparency and accountability to founders, members and supporters.

We would like to talk with other similar organisations across the country to capture their learnings and advice. This work is currently overshadowed by the running of the orchestra itself, and additional manpower would be required to achieve any movement towards these goals.

## How you can help

WYO has a range of needs that are noted below. If you can help, please get in touch with any Committee member. Currently we are looking for:

1. New committee members to help share the load - particularly with regard to fundraising and our governance structure.
2. People to help with the logistics of orchestra performances, especially set-up and pack-down for events, including transporting gear and instruments. We need about ten willing volunteers, with a couple of station wagons, trailers and tarpaulins.
3. Design, sponsorship and procurement of orchestra banners to display at events to identify the orchestra and our fundraising efforts.
4. Someone to make us a couple of nice donation boxes that we can take to busking events to help legitimise our collection methods.
5. Pro-bono legal and accounting advice to support our establishment as a formal, charitable entity during 2025/26.
6. People who have expertise in event management and can help with organising, co-ordinating, arranging and chasing!

I know I speak for all of the Committee members when I say it is an honour to support the WYO. We look forward to helping the orchestra go from strength to strength for the benefit of our tamariki and rangatahi. Feedback and suggestions are very welcome, please get in touch anytime.

Rachel Millar, Interim Chair

1/12/25

[Chair@wyo.org.nz](mailto:Chair@wyo.org.nz) | 0273304005

A bouquet to all our amazing sponsors – WYO would not be here without you! THANK YOU for your support throughout 2025

Masterton District Council Creative Communities



Carterton District Council Creative Communities



South Wairarapa District Council Creative Communities



Wairarapa Building Society



Greytown Lions



Lions Clubs New Zealand  
*Kia Manaaki | We Serve*

Carterton Lions



Lions Clubs New Zealand  
*Kia Manaaki | We Serve*

**South Wairarapa Workingmen's Club**



**St David's Presbyterian Church  
Carterton**

**St Matthews Collegiate**



**Wairarapa College**



**Pinehaven Orchards**



**Martinborough Fair (South Wairarapa  
Rotary)**





**Masterton Host Waipoua Lions**



**Lions Clubs New Zealand**  
*Kia Manaaki | We Serve*

**Te Heparā Pai, Masterton**

**| Wairarapa Anglican Maori Pastorate**

**Sponsors of the 2025 WYO Scholarship Programme**

**Creative New Zealand 2024 Roll Over Funding**

**Rotary Club of Masterton**

**Greytown Lions Club**

**Carterton Rotary Club**

**Carterton Lions Club**

**South Wairarapa Rotary Club**

**Masterton Rotary Club South**

**Owls of Featherston**

**Lions Club of Masterton**

**South Wairarapa Creative Communities**

Wairarapa Youth Orchestra

# Financial Report

## 01 Jan 2025 – 27 Nov 2025

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$29,722.30
Petty Cash	\$379.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$31,292.30</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Grants	\$19,870.00
Donations	\$2,171.00
Interest	\$15.09
Scholarship Programme	\$3,400.00
Concert 2025	\$2,070
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$27,526.09</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Payments Made*	\$22,882.48
Admin	\$9,873.43
Venue Hire	\$1,492.50
Bank Fees	\$9.12
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$34,257.53</b>

\*Payments made include tutor payments, van hire, event centre hire and other general expenses

<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>-\$6,731.44</b>
------------------------	--------------------

---