



# Wairarapa Youth Orchestra

2024

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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



# Wairarapa Youth Orchestra

## Chair Report to AGM, 24 March 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 Creative New Zealand 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 Performance group** is a newly-formed sub-set of the orchestra and performs at events to fundraise for the full orchestra. This past year the group performed at the Featherston Booktown, Masterton Cultural Festival and the Martinborough Fair.
3. **The Scholarship programme**, this programme provides free lessons and 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 Creative New Zealand for 2024 and our wider community for 2025.

## 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 2024 Committee was chaired initially by Lisa Rossiter and latterly by interim Chair Rachel Millar and benefited from the expertise of:

- Caitlin Morris (orchestra coordinator and creative lead)
- Andrew Atkins (musical director)
- Todd Priest (treasurer)
- Jess Dobbie (treasurer)
- Kathryn Seagrave (scholarship programme lead)
- Kate Marshall (music representative)
- Roger Fraser (fundraising, marketing and communication)
- Rachel Millar (grants and music logistics)
- Ellie Meier (fundraising and supervision)
- Melissa Ewart (administration, grants and coordination)

At the end of 2024 we reluctantly farewelled Lisa, Todd, Roger and Kathryn from the Committee and thanked them for their contributions; all were instrumental in the successes of 2024. Caitlin has rejoined the Committee in 2024. We have also welcomed Jess and Kate to the team, with Rachel and Andrew stepping into interim positions as chair and co-treasurer respectively.

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 2025.

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. Mel came on board in mid 2023 and was music to all of our ears. Thank you, Mel, for your professionalism, flexibility and can-do approach. We all really appreciate it. We will be seeking a second administrator in the coming months to help out with supporting the orchestra.

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 our interim treasurers Jess and Andrew, who have managed our financial position and ensured we are meeting obligations to funders and stakeholders since Todd's departure last term. We were/are fortunate to have Todd, Jess and Andrews expertise, especially as we are now the custodians of significant community grant funding. Thank you to Todd for all your hard work last year, and to Jess and Andrew for stepping into Todd's shoes!

We are delighted to welcome Trusthouse Foundation, Masterton as our primary sponsor for 2025.

### **Committee focus for 2024**

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

22 March 2025

[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 2024

Creative New Zealand



Masterton District Council Creative Communities



Carterton District Council Creative Communities



South Wairarapa District Council Creative Communities



Wairarapa Building Society



Greytown Lions



**Carterton Lions**



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

**South Wairarapa Workingmen's Club**



**St David's Presbyterian Church  
Carterton**

**St Matthews Collegiate**



**Kuranui College**



**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

JR Orchards, Greytown

Owls of Featherston

**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



# Musical Director Report 2024

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Kia Ora Koutou,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our first concert in our new rehearsal venue, St David's Presbyterian Church here in Carterton. At the end of 2024 we finished up our third year of operation at Kuranui College. The committee had been working tirelessly to find a new more suitable venue for our orchestra and now here we are. As I stand here today and look back at where we started just over 3 years ago, and I am proud of the effort put in by all the students, helpers and volunteers, and past and present committee members that have made this orchestra a success!

Over the past 3 years the orchestra has grown and shifted in size and members. Many of the players in the orchestra today have been here since the beginning, some have been here for a few years, and others have only been with us for 1 year or less. We have said goodbye to several students who have graduated their secondary schools and moved on to university or working lives. For those of you who have been with us since the beginning, you may have fond memories of pieces such as *The Irish Washer Woman* and *Fix You* by Coldplay.

The time of a Youth Orchestra full of novice players with no experience working in a large ensemble and only a few months of experience on their instrument for many, have left us behind. Whilst we still welcome with open arms any student regardless of ability level, our current members are proof of the benefit to technical and musical development that a Youth Orchestra can provide.

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Some of you may not know that I am the HOD of Music at St Matthew's Collegiate School in Masterton. Recently our staff discussed academic rigor in current students nationwide, or the lack thereof. The growing concern is around current students' fear of failure, and the resulting impact of that. Many students will opt out of doing something if they think they will fail, or if they think that it will be too hard for them to reach success. It seems that in our teaching practice, and at home as a society we have collectively become so concerned about making sure our children succeed without failure, that we have forgotten how we all learned ourselves as children to succeed through the inevitability of failure.

A Youth Orchestra provides our students with a safe space to give it their best shot, to play those notes loud and often wrong at first, to experience collective failure and learn from it to eventually experience collective and individual success. The joy that comes from finally getting that low note just right, or that fast passage of music with all the right notes, teaches our students to work through their failures, continuously reaching for that next success.

I hope you enjoy our performance today and I look forward to the exciting year that we have to come.

Kia Kaha, nga mihi nui,



Andrew Atkins

# Financial Report

## 01 Jan 2024 - 23 Mar 2025

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<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$26,014.27
Petty Cash	\$1,395.20
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$27,409.47</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Grants	\$75,786.25
Donations	\$9,820.99
Interest	\$408.39
Scholarship Programme	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$85,975.63</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Payments Made*	\$49,810.93
Admin	\$14,481.23
Venue Hire	\$1,135.00
Bank Fees	\$12.54
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$65,439.70</b>

\*Payments made include tutor payments, van hire, some venue hire, some admin costs, and other general expenses

<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>\$20,535.93</b>
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