ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL
Ngā Tira Pūoru o te Pokapū

twso
TRUST WAIKATO
Symphony Orchestra

From Salon to Symphony



Sunday 8 November 2026, 2.30pm

Concert Chamber, Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts

From Salon to Symphony

Nau Mai, Welcome

from Catherine Gibson

Chief Executive, Orchestras Central

Welcome to the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra's final concert of the year. I would like to acknowledge the many people who make these performances possible.

My sincere thanks go to our musicians, conductors, and soloists, whose commitment, skill, and enthusiasm bring every programme to life. I also extend our appreciation to the funders, sponsors, and supporters whose generosity allows the orchestra to continue serving the community.

We are very grateful to Trust Waikato for its ongoing support as our orchestra's naming sponsor, and to the University of Waikato for their strategic partnership.

As a registered charity, our future relies on the support of our community. Whether through donations, attending concerts, encouraging others to join us, or simply being here today, every contribution helps sustain our work.

Thank you for being part of the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra family. We look forward to welcoming you again next year.

Orchestras Central

At the heart of Waikato's music scene, Orchestras Central enriches our community through live performance, education and community connection. Each year, our family of orchestras delivers more than 30 concerts, workshops and community events for over 9,500 people across the region.

Together, Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra, Youth Orchestra Waikato, Rusty Player Orchestra, and the Central Ensemble create opportunities for audiences and musicians alike to experience the joy, power and connection of orchestral music.

THE MUSIC

Saint-Saëns

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso in A minor Op. 28

Indiana Williamson, violin

Alice Mary Smith

Andante for Clarinet and Orchestra in D major

Renee Kenyon, clarinet

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Valse Scherzo in C major Op. 34

Nrusingha Rath, violin

intermission

Jean Sibelius

Symphony No 2 in D major Op. 43

I. *Allegretto*

II. Tempo andante, ma rubato

III. Vivacissimo - Trio: Lento e dolce

IV. Finale. Allegro moderato

Save the Date!

Youth Orchestra Waikato

'Finale' concert

3pm Saturday 5 December

Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts

www.orchestras.org.nz.

ABOUT US

TRUST WAIKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Proudly supported by Trust Waikato TE PUNA O WAIKATO

Your very own symphony orchestra proudly based in Hamilton.

With a long history dating back to 1903 with the Hamilton Orchestral Society, the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra continues to bring exceptional live orchestral music to our community.

From the iconic *Sunset Symphony* as part of the Hamilton Arts Festival Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa, to our family concerts, the 'Musical Theatre in Concert' at the magnificent BNZ Theatre, and symphonic performances such as today's concert, the orchestra is a vibrant part of the region's cultural life.

New players are always welcome. To find out more about joining the orchestra, please email support@orchestras.org.nz.

Simon Brew, Conductor



Simon Brew is a conductor, classical saxophonist, and the current General Manager of the Cambridge Town Hall. His diverse and accomplished career includes performances as principal saxophonist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Netherlands National Orchestra, and the Netherlands Blazers Ensemble at the BBC Proms.

He previously served as Conductor and Director of Music for the Royal New Zealand Air Force, leading numerous international tours and conducting performances with Dame Malvina Major. Simon has also performed alongside Rufus Wainwright and Kermit the Frog, and he tours regularly for Chamber Music New Zealand.

His accolades include first prize in the prestigious Grachtenfestival Conservatorium Competition in Amsterdam (2010), the Artez Kunstnacht Competition, and recognition as Best Saxophonist Under 30 at the International Festival of Single Reeds in Melbourne (2005). He holds a Master of Music from the ArtEZ Conservatorium in the Netherlands. At Orchestras Central, Simon has conducted both Youth Orchestra Waikato and Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra.

We are delighted that Simon has accepted the position of Principal Conductor for the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra.

OUR SOLOISTS

Indiana Williamson, violin



Indiana Williamson is a 20-year-old New Zealand violinist currently studying towards a Bachelor of Music at the University of Waikato under Dr Lara Hall. He began playing the violin at age four and, at eleven, received a performance scholarship from the Royal Overseas League of London.

In 2025, Indiana served as Associate Concertmaster of the New Zealand National Youth Orchestra and appeared as Guest Concertmaster of St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra in both 2025 and 2026. He also performs regularly with Opus Orchestra.

Indiana is a recipient of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship and three University of Waikato Blues Awards for Performing Arts. In 2026, he was selected as a Fellow of the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. He performs on a violin generously loaned through the Michael Hill Instrument Bank.

Renee Kenyon, clarinet



Born in Hamilton, Renee grew up playing in symphonic bands across the Waikato and Auckland. She was a member of the Royal New Zealand Navy Band in the early 2000s before returning to Hamilton.

Renee's orchestral playing began with TWSO, and she is now also a tutor for the Rusty Player Orchestra. She continues to enjoy playing with other local ensembles, including Opus Orchestra. Alongside orchestral music, Renee plays clarinet, saxophone and flute in pit orchestras for local musical theatre productions. This year she has enjoyed playing in To The Stars, Matilda, Beauty and the Beast, Annie and SpongeBob.

Renee enjoys the variety of music and settings she plays in, especially the shared energy of making music with others.

Nrusingha Rath, violin



Nrusingha Rath is currently studying with Dr Lara Hall at the University of Waikato. He has appeared as soloist, chamber musician, concertmaster, and orchestral performer throughout New Zealand, with additional performances in the United States and India.

A recipient of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship and the University of Waikato Blues Award, he was awarded first prize in the 2025 University of Waikato Concerto Competition. His artistic development has been shaped through study with distinguished violinists including Vesa-Matti Leppänen, Andrew Beer, and Grigory Kalinovsky.

His repertoire spans a broad range of the violin literature, from the Baroque and Classical periods to the major concerto repertoire of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

YOUR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TRUST WAIKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I
Tony Hong-Che Wu+
Sofia Chen, Christine Conning
Amy Gould, Katie Mayes
Beverley Oliver, Lisa Zhang

VIOLIN II
Ted Yu*, Julie Dowden
Katie Fourie, Fiona Green
Meemee Phipps, Mary Smith
Peter Stokes

VIOLA
Charlie Garcia Gil*, Caleb Brown
Chris Nation#, Aroon Parshotam
Steve Zhang

CELLO
Tony Lawrence*, Tamsin Kreymborg#
Chelsea Li, Amos Robinson
Jennifer Rogers, *Jevon White*

DOUBLE BASS
Rosalind Oliver *#

FLUTE & PICCOLO
Jacqui McPherson*, Anna Armitage
Elsie Kane

OBOE & COR ANGLAIS
Jordan Wise*, Anne Mendrun
Peter Plunkett

CLARINET
Renee Kenyon*, *Jess Foster*

BASSOON
Sue Lynn Leong*#, Ashleigh Smith

FRENCH HORN
Sergio Marshall*, Martin Stevenson
Hugh Goodman, Lynne Griffiths

TRUMPET
Siteveni Seti Hale Palei*, Sam Taylor
Charlotte Colvin

TROMBONE & BASS TROMBONE
Mark Barnes*, Robert Lummus
Lynn Jamieson (Bass Trombone)

TUBA
Steve Webb

TIMPANI
Raphael Wu

Key:
+ concertmaster
***** section leader
# guest player
Youth Orchestra Waikato players shown in italics
Section players listed alphabetically

Programme correct at time of print.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Camille Saint-Saëns

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso in A minor Op. 28 *(composed in 1863)*

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso is one of Saint-Saëns' most popular works, combining beautiful melodies with moments of dazzling virtuosity. Written in 1863 for the celebrated violinist Pablo de Sarasate, the piece was designed to show off both the expressive and brilliant sides of the instrument.

It begins with a reflective introduction, where the violin unfolds a rich and lyrical melody. The mood soon changes as the lively rondo bursts into action, filled with sparkling runs, quicksilver passages, and hints of Spanish character and flair. Throughout the work, the solo violin takes centre stage, moving effortlessly between elegance, passion, and excitement.

A favourite with audiences for more than 150 years, Introduction and Rondo capriccioso is both a showcase for the soloist and a vibrant display of Saint-Saëns' gift for memorable melody, colour, and musical storytelling.

Duration:c. 10 minutes

Alice Mary Smith

Andante for Clarinet and Orchestra in D major

(*composed around 1870)*

Alice Mary Smith's Andante for Clarinet and Orchestra in D major offers a glimpse into the graceful and expressive voice of one of Victorian England's most accomplished composers. Known for her gift for melody and rich orchestral writing, Smith brings warmth and lyricism to this charming work for clarinet and orchestra.

The piece unfolds with a gentle, singing quality, allowing the clarinet to shine in long, flowing phrases that highlight the instrument's rich and expressive tone. Rather than dazzling virtuosity, Smith focuses on elegance, balance, and musical conversation between the soloist and orchestra. Moments of quiet reflection are interwoven with passages of warmth and gentle energy, creating a work that is both inviting and deeply expressive.

This work reveals a composer of remarkable craftsmanship and imagination, and remains a delightful showcase for the clarinet's lyrical beauty.

Duration: c. 7 minutes

ABOUT THE MUSIC cont.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky — Valse-Scherzo in C major, Op. 34

(composed 1877)

Tchaikovsky wrote the Valse-Scherzo in 1877 for Iosif Kotek, a former pupil at the Moscow Conservatory and one of his closest friends. Kotek was a figure of quiet consequence in the composer's life: it was he who introduced Tchaikovsky to his future patron Nadezhda von Meck, and a year later he advised on the solo writing of the Violin Concerto. The Valse-Scherzo can be heard as a first step towards that larger work, a testing ground for what the violin could do in Tchaikovsky's hands.

The title signals a double nature. The waltz, a form Tchaikovsky had just explored at length in Swan Lake, supplies the lilt and the long-breathed melody, the scherzo supplies wit, speed and caprice. After a brisk orchestral introduction, the soloist enters with a buoyant theme that is soon spun into rapid figuration and abrupt changes of mood. A warmer, more lyrical central episode offers respite before an extended cadenza and a return of the opening material, now driven to a brilliant close.

Duration: c. 10 minutes

Jean Sibelius — Symphony No 2 in D major Op. 43

(composed 1902)

I. Allegretto
II. Tempo andante, ma rubato
III. Vivacissimo - Trio: Lento e dolce
IV. Finale. Allegro moderato

Sibelius began his Second Symphony in Rapallo, on the Italian Riviera, in 1901, and conducted its Helsinki premiere in March 1902. Finland was then under repressive Russian rule, and audiences heard the work as a statement of national defiance. Sibelius resisted such readings, but the symphony's arc, from fragment to affirmation, made them hard to dismiss.

What sets the symphony apart is how Sibelius lets themes assemble themselves. The first movement opens with a pulsing, rising string figure and scattered woodwind and horn calls that only gradually cohere. The slow movement, the work's emotional centre, begins with timpani and plucked low strings beneath a sombre bassoon melody; sketches suggest Sibelius linked this material to Death. The restless scherzo, briefly stilled by a plaintive oboe tune on one repeated note, climbs without pause into the finale. There the long-delayed resolution arrives: a broad D-major theme in strings and brass, a churning minor-key episode, and a coda in which the full orchestra sustains its brass chorale to the final chord.

Duration: c.45 minutes

ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL
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Help keep live orchestral music alive in your community!

ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL
Ngā Tira Pūoru o te Pokapū

Every rehearsal, every performance, and every opportunity for local musicians to shine is made possible through the generosity of people like you. Rising costs and a tighter economy means ticket sales and koha events like this concert can't carry the music the way they used to - that's why your support matters more than ever

By supporting our community orchestras Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra and Rusty Player Orchestra and our young musicians in Youth Orchestra Waikato, you're helping keep live orchestral music thriving in our region - creating inspiring performances, nurturing emerging talent, and enriching our community for generations to come.

Whether your gift is large or small, every contribution makes a difference.

Please join us in ensuring the music never stops.

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