



ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL
Ngā Tira Pūruru o te Pokapū



SYMPHONY



Youth Orchestra Waikato

CONDUCTORS Athena Shiu & Catherine Polglase

SOLOIST Nurie Choi, violin

Sunday 21 June 2026, 3.00pm

Concert Chamber

Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts

THE MUSIC

Douglas Lilburn (1915-2001) NZ

Aotearoa Overture

-composed 1940

This piece is widely regarded as one of the first major orchestral works to capture the spirit and geography of New Zealand, with broad, open textures suggesting mountains, skies, and wide spaces.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)

Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219, Movement 1

-composed 1775

The first movement contains a quirky moment where the tempo briefly slows down unexpectedly before picking up pace again, showcasing the legendary composer's sense of humor and inventiveness. Note the solo violin part which often feels like a singer on stage, full of lyrical, expressive phrases and dialogue-like exchanges with the orchestra—reflecting Mozart's deep connection to opera.

INTERVAL

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Symphony No. 8 in B minor, D. 75 “Unfinished”

-composed 1822

I. Allegro moderato

II. Andante con moto

Even though it lacks the usual four movements, audiences often feel the two existing movements form a satisfying emotional whole, which is unusual in symphonic tradition. Schubert left sketches for a third movement but never completed the work, and no definitive reason is known—making it one of classical music's most famous unanswered questions!

YOUTH ORCHESTRA WAIKATO

VIOLIN I

Nurie Choi#
Yuexing (Tangtang) Yang
Claudia Noble
Nicole Van Der Maazen
Aria Muskaan Akhterjahan
Ziwen Guo

VIOLIN II

Yichen (Jason) Hu (Chen)#
Jayden Liu
Valentina Di Maio
Edie Mahon
James Vickery
Linxi Shi
Joanna Clifton

VIOLA

Grace Cox*
Tarin Tootil
Catherine Polglase

CELLO

Ryan Koo*
Chelsea Li**

CELLO cont.

Luke Hsing-Shu Chen
Jevon White
Hosanna Yu-Hsuan Chen
Gordon Chen
Oscar Zhu
Cooper Yang
Dylan Wang

DOUBLE BASS

Jonas Juma
Yotam Levy++

FLUTE

Alisa Li*
Kevin Zhang
Aria Jones

OBOE

Caleb Brown*
Jordan Wise++

CLARINET

Jess Foster*
Harry Fredericksen

BASSOON

Ashleigh Smith++
Sue Lyn Leong++

FRENCH HORN

Caleb Zheng
Julia Zhou
Sergio Marshall++
Jane Carson++

TRUMPET

Micah Ennion*
Charlotte Colvin

TROMBONE

Cameron O'Connor*
Anurag Manda

BASS TROMBONE / TUBA

Alexander Lord

PERCUSSION

Samuel Haines*
Jabez Packer
Ayla Finn

Concertmaster# | Principal player*
Associate Principal Player** | Guest/ TWSO player++

OUR SOLOIST

NURIE CHOI | Violin

Nurie Choi is a Year 11 student at St Paul's Collegiate and studies violin under Trudi Miles. The current Concertmaster of the Youth Orchestra of Waikato, Nurie began learning violin at age five. In 2025, he performed at Carnegie Hall as the first-place winner of the American Protégé Piano and Strings Competition. He is also a member of piano trio Triple Forte, which was a Northern Regional Finalist in the 2025 NZCT Chamber Music Contest, and has been selected for the New Zealand National Secondary Schools Orchestra every year since 2024. Outside music, he enjoys playing and watching football.



OUR CONDUCTORS

ATHENA SHIU | Conductor

Born in Hong Kong, Athena Shiu is an active conductor, trombonist, and educator based in Tāmaki Makaurau. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Trombone Performance from the University of Auckland and has performed with ensembles including Bach Musica, Opus Orchestra, the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, and the Auckland Youth Orchestra. Athena is currently part of the NZSO Conducting Fellowships and the CSO Aspirations Conductor Training Programme, learning from conductors such as James Judd and Hamish McKeich. In addition to orchestral engagements, Athena has recently served as Assistant Music Director of the New Zealand Youth Symphonic Winds and is currently the Music Director of the Uniband Jazz Band. As an educator passionate about community and collaboration, Athena has taught across a range of schools and organisations, including Sistema Aotearoa, Tironui Music Trust, Sacred Heart College, and Howick School of Music. She is committed to creating inclusive musical environments where musicians feel supported, empowered, and collectively invested in the music-making process.

CATHERINE POLGLASE | Associate Conductor

Catherine is a freelance violinist, Suzuki violin teacher, and conductor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and History and a Diploma of Teaching (Secondary) from the University of Auckland. Catherine performs on both modern and baroque violin with NZ Barok, Pipers Sinfonia, and Vox Barok. She is currently the Conductor of the Rusty Player Orchestra and serves as Head of Instrumental Music at St Peter's School, Cambridge.

THANK YOU TO:

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