Newsletter | Spring Term 2026

Welcome to Term 4



Kia ora! I am delighted to introduce myself as your new Musical Director. My name is Laura and I moved from Northern Ireland to New Zealand in 2013 with my husband and 2 young daughters. We are now a family of 6 - with a 'kiwi as' son and a retrodoodle called Daisy. I studied music at Queen's University in Belfast, where I majored in composition, orchestration and history. I followed that with a postgraduate certificate in primary education. I have been tutoring the flute in schools and privately since moving to Christchurch and more recently been managing a music school in New Brighton. I love a wide variety of music and have recently been jumping back into some rock classics from the 90s with my daughter.

But have no fear! I am classically trained and studied flute at university with the first flute of our national orchestra for the first 2 years of my degree. I also love to sing and am currently a member of Voices Co. Crew Plus, a pop acapella auditioned choir. I also lead worship at my local church regularly as well as helping out with administration and support.

My passion is seeing music thrive in community. I think that musicians who play together have a greater purpose to work on their craft. I have seen this in my work with youth bands over the past few years and believe it transfers through to adulthood. There are too many adults who say, *'I used to play the…'*! I will be doing my best to find those people and give them an opportunity to dust off that old *clarinet,* while encouraging our youth, who are at the peak of learning, to give an ensemble a try.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at our end of year concerts which are coming up very soon on **Saturday 21st November** in the wonderful **Rangiora Town Hall**. In the meantime, enjoy term 4 and please get in touch if you have any questions or ideas.

Laura Auld
Musical Director
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End of Year Performance Day

Our End of Year Performance Day will be held on **Saturday 21st November** in the **Rangiora Town Hall Main Auditorium.**

It is expected that *all students* participate, regardless of their current level. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain performance experience and we aim to promote an encouraging environment and celebrate all levels of achievement. The day is organised in **individual instrumental concerts** and the **timetable is listed below**.

Dress: Performers should wear clean formal black and white attire. However, if this is not available to you, formal attire of any colour is also welcome.

Evening Concert: The day finishes with our Evening Concert, which includes the announcement of cups and awards, including the ***Julia Holcroft Cup for Dedication and Achievement***. This is a tutor nominated cup and takes into account not only a student's individual achievement during lessons, at any level, but also their musical achievements either in school or in ensemble playing. This **award also comes with 50% off next year's fees**! Nominees for the Julia Holcroft Cup will be contacted the week of the concert and should attend the **Evening Concert at 5.30pm.** We will also be presenting the ***Owen Sanders Memorial Cup for Musicianship*** which will be awarded to a student who is committed to their instrument, stands out as being hardworking, respectful toward others, reliable and who displays a passion and enthusiasm for music. This comes with a scholarship which is **50% of next year's fees**

All examination candidates for 2026 will also be recognised and must attend.

Timetable

12:30 - 1:00pm	Drums
1:15 - 1:50pm	Guitar (Classical and Rock)
2:00 - 2:45pm	Singing
3:00 - 4:00pm	Strings (including Cello Ensemble, Orchestra & Celtic Fiddles)
4:15 - 5:00pm	Piano
5:30 - 6:30pm	Evening Concert & Prize Giving

If you have any questions regarding the End of Year Performance Day or if you are unable to attend your instrument specific concert, please do not hesitate to contact me. (musicaldirector@ncam.ac.nz)

Enrolments for 2027 are now open!

Fees remain the same as 2026. Please follow the link below to enrol for lessons with us in 2027! Remember your enrollment from this year does not roll over so it is essential you complete enrollment as soon as possible. Here's the link: 2027 Enrolment

Key Dates for 2027

Term 1: 15th February - 8th April 2027 (8 weeks)

Term 2: 3rd May - 1st July 2027 (9 weeks)

Catch-up week: 5th - 8th July 2027

Term 3: 19th July - 23rd September (10 weeks)

Term 4: 11th October - 25th November (7 weeks)

Catch-up week: 29th November - 2nd December 2027

Mid-year Concert: Saturday 19th June 2027

NCAM Orchestral Weekend: Friday & Saturday in August or September (dates TBC)

End of Year Concert: Saturday 20th November 2027

AGM: Thursday 1st April 6.30pm

Group Timetable

Choir	Monday | 4:45 - 5:30	Studio 1	Jessica Tozer
Cello Ensemble	Thursday | 5:00 - 5:30	Studio 3	Naomi Harmer
Celtic Fiddles	Thursday | 5:30 - 6:30	Green Room	Jeremy Brownbrooke
Academy Orchestra	Thursday | 6:30 - 7:45	Function Room	Mark Hodgkinson

Examinations

We would like to take this opportunity to wish those students taking music exams this term all the very best. Kia kaha!

If you are interested in taking an examination next year please talk to your tutor who will help you select the grade and examination board that are best suited to you. Please find the links below to the Trinity and ABRSM websites which will outline examination dates and costs.

Trinity: https://www.trinitycollege.com/local-trinity/new-zealand

ABRSM: https://nz.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/exam-dates-and-fees/