



Newsletter | Winter Term 2026

A Final Message

Welcome back to a wonderful winter term! I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break and are looking forward to another exciting term at NCAM. I would like to thank Jeannette McGrath for her work at NCAM over the years and welcome our new singing and choir tutor, Jessica Tozer.

After almost six years as Musical Director, I have made the difficult decision to step down from my role. It has been a privilege to be part of such a supportive and welcoming musical community, and I will always be grateful for the opportunities and memories that my time at NCAM has given me.



I would like to sincerely thank our tutors, students, parents, and committee members for your support over the years. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the committee, whose help behind the scenes makes everything at NCAM possible. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you all.

Our Mid-Year Concert was a wonderful final concert day for me, and the Rangiora Town Hall Centenary Celebration on 5 September will be my final event with NCAM. I hope many of you will join us in the orchestra as we celebrate both NCAM and the Town Hall's centenary, performing *Skyfall* alongside a massed community choir. It promises to be a memorable evening, with music that is accessible to students of all ages and abilities.

As I leave, I do so with great confidence in NCAM's future. I wish every student the very best with their music-making for the remainder of the year, particularly those preparing for

examinations. I hope that music continues to bring you joy, confidence, and opportunities for many years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your musical journey. I wish you all every success for the future.

Alexandra H Watson, DMA MA(Dist) MusB BSc

Musical Director

musicaldirector@ncam.ac.nz | www.ncam.ac.nz

Rangiora Town Hall Centenary Celebration

The Rangiora Town Hall is celebrating its centenary with a special performance on 5th September.

It is expected that all members of NCAM who play an orchestral instrument take part in this celebration whether you are a seasoned professional or just starting. **I would love to see you all there!** It is an important moment to celebrate NCAM's 43 year history.

Please register for this event via our website! (<https://ncam.ac.nz>)

Photos below are from our NCAM/CSO Orchestral Weekends. A similar orchestra will be put together for the centenary.



2026 Key Dates

Term 3: 20 July - 24 September

Term 4: 12 October - 19 November

Rangiora Town Hall Centenary: Saturday 5 September

End of Year Concert: Saturday 21 November

Key dates for 2027 are now available on the NCAM website.

Examinations



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

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

The next examination session for Trinity is in October and November/December. Please have your entries forwarded to me and the Trinity examination fee paid to NCAM by **Monday 27 July**.

Congratulations to our recent exam entries:

Ayaan Gulati	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Silas Raikes	Rock & Pop Bass Guitar	Initial	Merit

End of Year Performance Day

On **Saturday 21 November** we will be holding our **End of Year Performance Day**, please make sure this date is in your diary. There will be instrument specific concerts throughout the day so that all students can play a piece, no matter how early in their musical journey they are.

The day will conclude with our Prize Giving in the Main Auditorium which will also include student performances. All exam students are required to attend the evening concert to accept their exam recognition.

A timetable of the day is available below and on the website.

12:30 - 1:00	Drums
1:15 - 1:50	Classical and Rock Guitar
2:00 - 2:45	Singing
3:00 - 4:00	Strings
4:15 - 5:00	Piano
5:30 - 6:30	Prize-giving (inc. Orchestra, Celtic Fiddles, and Exam Performances)

Group Timetable

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