



Newsletter | Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Term 2!

I am very pleased to welcome you all back to NCAM and do hope that you have enjoyed a lovely Easter break with your family and friends.

This term we look forward to our Mid Year Concert on Saturday 20th June. Please put this date in your diary as we do hope that as many of you as possible are able to perform on the day. Our Mid-Year Performance Day will start at 2pm in the Main Auditorium at the Rangiora Town Hall. A detailed timetable will be available shortly.

On 14th and 15th May, our ensembles will be performing at the Kaiapoi and Rangiora libraries respectively, as part of May Music Month. Please do support them and join us at 5:30pm for a lovely concert.

In September the Rangiora Town Hall will be celebrating its centenary. As part of this celebration I have been asked to put together an orchestra for two celebratory concerts. The orchestra will include NCAM orchestra members, past and present students, friends, family and the wider community. This is a community celebration and all are welcome.



Alexandra H Watson, MA(Dist) MusB BSc

Musical Director

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Rangiora Town Hall Centenary Celebrations

In September, we will be celebrating 100 years of the Rangiora Town Hall. As part of these celebrations, I have been asked to bring together an orchestra to perform in the concert. This orchestra will be made up of past and present NCAM students, as well as members of the wider community.

I would love to extend this opportunity to anyone who has been connected to NCAM over the past 43 years, and I encourage you to share this information with others who may like to be involved.

It promises to be a wonderful concert and a unique opportunity to be part of the Rangiora Town Hall's history. This is a moment to remember!

Please register your interest here: <https://forms.gle/ua9DPKcwfUfpxumS7>

CSO Workshops and Programmes

Christchurch Symphony Orchestra offer many workshops and programmes each month. Below are the events on offer throughout May and into July. These workshops are available for many instruments with their next workshop on 30 May for violinists.

Instruments in Focus – come and learn top tips from our CSO experts and get to know other lovers of your instrument. For all ages and abilities! [Read our full schedule](#) and register for an upcoming workshop so you don't miss out. **Violin is up next on Saturday 30 May!**

Chamber Music Weekend – Our iconic and much-loved weekend of music-making is back for 2026! This time, with a refreshed format. We're trialling something a little different this year, and we know you'll love it! Gather up your friends to join you - or sign up to meet new, like-minded musical friends at the weekend.

Junior Chamber Music Weekend – Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 July (registrations close 5pm, Thursday 4 June). [Register here!](#)

Senior Chamber Music Weekend – Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 July (registrations close 5pm, Thursday 18 June). [Register here!](#)

2026 Key Dates

Term 2: 20 April - 25 June (10 weeks)

Catch-up week: 29 June - 2 July

Term 3: 20 July - 24 September (10 weeks)

Term 4: 12 October - 19 November (6 weeks)

Catch-up week: 23 - 26 November

AGM: Thursday 2 April at 6:30pm

Mid-year Concert: Saturday 20 June (*timetable to be published in Term 2*)

End of Year Concert: Saturday 21 November (*timetable to be published at the end of Term 3*)

Group Timetable

Choir	Monday 4:45 - 5:30	Studio 1	Jeannette McGrath
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



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 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/>

The next examination session for Trinity is in August and the closing date is Friday 22 May. Please have your entries forwarded to me and the Trinity examination fee paid to NCAM by **Monday 18 May**.

The only examination session for ABRSM is October - December and the closing date is 8 July. Please have your entries forwarded to me and the ABRSM examination fee paid to NCAM by **24 June**.