



NEW ZEALAND

Mouthpiece

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2025 National Youth Brass Band



NYBB at the Christchurch Arts Centre.
Photo credit: Cameron Burnett

NYBB musical director Tyme Marsters.
Photo credit: Cameron Burnett.

Inside this Issue:

- News from Roxburgh and Te Awamutu bands
- A list of those who received BBANZ Long Service awards in 2024
- Next-Gen Mia Yee
- We will have a full report on the 2025 National Youth Brass Band course in the March issue.



Happy 2025!

I hope you enjoyed some quality time with your families and have made the most of the summer holidays, even if the weather wasn't as good as we would have liked.



Many of us are only now starting to think about locating our instruments and getting valves/slides/drumsticks working again before our first band rehearsals for the year. However, our finest young musicians did not have this luxury as they prepared for the 2025 National Youth Band of New Zealand. The band's management chose to do something a little different this year, with the second half of the concert featuring the band providing the soundtrack for the Wallace & Gromit movie "The Wrong Trousers". This innovative change was a resounding success, as evidenced by a sold-out concert in Christchurch.

As a management committee member and parent of a Youth Band member, I witnessed again the vast amount of work that went into organising and running a successful training camp and tour. A big thank you to Tyme Marsters, Emily Richards, course tutors, NZ Army Band, local Christchurch bands and the many others who supported this year's band for your assistance and hard work in providing wonderful lifelong memories to another group of young musicians. The high quality of the final concert and the wonderful team spirit among the players is a credit to everyone involved. I especially want to acknowledge the band

members for their dedication and hard work over the summer. Your efforts have made your parents, family and musical directors incredibly proud. Another real banding highlight for me - thanks, Emily S.

A huge thank you to Tyme Marsters for your commitment in a number of roles to the NYBB over the last six years. What a legacy you have created in helping develop, motivate and inspire the future of our organisation.

One of our biggest challenges is raising the funds required to operate our three representative bands. The continued operational challenges within the hospitality sector make it difficult to obtain grant funding. We are often only aware of our success or failure in the final days before a band assemblies. Not ideal when budgeting and planning a programme. The course fee paid by each player is, therefore, essential to enable events such as the NYBB to operate. We fully appreciate it is not easy for families with members in the band to find this money, along with the cost of travel each year especially for those selected for other representative bands at the same time and for students funding themselves. Therefore, we must find alternative methods to obtain the necessary funds to continue to deliver the National Secondary Schools Band, National Youth Band and National Band, which are all vital for the sustainability of brass banding in New Zealand. We are very open to ideas on how to help resolve this situation; however, a couple of initiatives we already have in place are Payroll Giving and donating to the BBANZ Charitable Foundation and the Friends of the National Youth Band.

Each year I say ... Payroll Giving is a reasonably "painless" way to give back to our movement. I would like to encourage more people to join a small but dedicated group of donors who do this already. These small, regular donations provide an income stream that allows the Association to plan with more certainty, without having to always rely on a declining pool of funding from grants. All for the price of one coffee a week!

The BBANZ Charitable Foundation is structured to provide assistance to individuals and bands. By gifting now and adding to the existing fund, you can share the joy of seeing our banding grow and prosper. Likewise, donations to the Friends of the National Youth Band provide seed funding to get each year's band underway. Thank you to those who are already contributing, and if this also interests you, please get in touch with me or Helen to learn more about how you can help secure the long-term financial future of brass banding in New Zealand. Thank you also to those who donate annually to the Friends of the National Youth Band and those who also support the National Band.

Finally, a quick note to all Music Directors - be gentle at the first rehearsal back, as for some of us the call of the beach was far stronger than the call of the rehearsal room. Yes, Harmen, I am talking mainly to you!

John Sullivan - President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

Quick Notes

Congratulations to our NZ bandies who made the 4barsrest award nominations for 2024. David Bermner, musical director of Wellington Brass and Brisbane Excelsior, was nominated in the Conductor of the Year category, with Wellington Brass again nominated in the Band of The Year section. 2024 Champion of Champions Mike Ford, from NBS Nelson City Brass, was selected in the 4barsrest Band of the Year along with Kevin Hickman (North Shore Brass and Sydney City Brass) and Chris Collings (Wellington Brass).

PS. Iwan Fox of 4barsrest is keen to receive news from local bands. Send your news to general@4barsrest.com



Mike Ford



Kevin Hickman



Chris Collings

Gig Guide

Friday 21 February

Carmina Burana at the 2025 Hamilton Arts Festival - Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa. Featuring Hamilton City Brass with Festival Chorus, guest vocalists and children's choir 8.00pm-9.15pm on the Rhododendron Lawn at Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive, Hamilton. BYO blanket or low seating. Tickets available [HERE](#)

Sunday 23 February

Woolston Brass: ***In Your Community: Sound Waves***, 1.00pm-2.00pm Cathedral Square, Christchurch. FREE!

Wednesday 26 March

Marlborough District Brass AGM, 7.30pm at the Bandrooms, 15 Auckland St, Blenheim. All welcome.

Thursday 27 March

Woolston Brass: ***Seriously Brass: Harmony Music*** featuring Guest Trumpet Soloist Thomas Eves, 7.30pm-9.30pm, at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street Christchurch. Book [HERE](#)

Sunday 30 March

Young Stars of Brass featuring soloists from across North Shore Brass, 2.30pm at Takapuna Normal Intermediate School. Door sales only.

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April

The OSBBA band and solo contest in Invercargill.

Saturday 12 April

ANZAC Concert by Marlborough District Brass 7:30pm at ASB Theatre Marlborough. Tickets on sale from 27 February [HERE](#)

Friday 25 April

Woolston Brass presents ***ANZAC***, 2pm-4pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Book [HERE](#)

All For Peace. An ANZAC Tribute with all three bands from North Shore Brass Academy, 4.00pm at Takapuna Normal Intermediate School. Entry by donation.

Saturday 10 May

Music For Our Mothers, featuring North Shore Brass and North Shore Brass Academy Band, 7.30pm at North Harbour Lounge - North Harbour Stadium. Book at Eventfinda.

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May

The West Coast band and solo contest in Nelson.

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 May

Canterbury Association youth band camp.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at bbanzeo@gmail.com

You can also list your events at <https://sounz.org.nz/events> and <https://www.rnz.co.nz/concert/programmes/rnz-concert-live-diary>

Why Do We Do It?

The following article, written by Shelley Robertson from the Manukau Symphony Orchestra, was published on the Orchestras Association website. It has been reprinted courtesy of the author and the website. And why have we reprinted an article about an orchestra? Because, as community music groups, we share similar experiences.

Why would you give up your evenings and weekends to play in a community orchestra [band]?

For the music, of course!

But it's not just the music.

Community orchestras [bands] are special because they offer something far beyond the notes we play. What we get to experience as community musicians is a deeply immersive and multifaceted world. It's a rollercoaster of emotion - adrenaline-fuelled inertia mixed with moments of pure tension and elation.

And in this shared journey, you are never alone.

Each musician on stage is intensely focused on the conductor (or should be!), counting their beats, reading the music, and fully dedicated to the collective task at hand. For 90 to 120 minutes or so, we are swept up in the rise and fall of crescendos - with no time to dwell on Monday's meeting or the laundry piling up at home. In those moments, nothing matters but the music. Being on

stage, surrounded by friends, colleagues, and fellow musicians, or mentors, feels like being part of something bigger than ourselves.

Together, we create something beautiful.

Any difficulties or dislikes melt away in the face of this shared goal.

But it's not just about the performance either. Beyond ticket sales, reviews, and audience applause, there's an unspoken sense of growth that emerges from mentorship. Experienced players take younger or less experienced musicians under their wing, offering guidance on tricky sections, sharing insights, or even just being a supportive buddy when things get tough. It's a space where everyone can grow, not only musically but personally, through the bonds we build.

There's a wonderful accountability that comes with being part of this ensemble - not just the dread of the conductor's frown but the internal drive to excel for the sake of the team.

We've all felt that moment when we realise we need to practise a tricky passage more, and the relief and pride when we finally nail it. The applause at the end of a concert is wonderful, but the personal satisfaction and camaraderie we share backstage, knowing we've supported each other to create something meaningful, is priceless

The spirit of a community orchestra [band] is shaped by its members. We come from completely different walks of life - each with our own dreams, responsibilities, and daily challenges. Yet, when we step into rehearsal, we leave all that behind and unite in a shared passion for music. It's an atmosphere where people of all ages and backgrounds feel supported and encouraged to develop, both as musicians and as individuals.

This sense of community fosters a space where learning is continuous. Mentorship happens naturally, whether through informal conversations during breaks or sitting next to someone who plays a little more confidently. The rehearsal room becomes not just a place to perfect a piece of music but a place where bonds of trust and respect form, where we learn from one another and, in turn, become better musicians and better people.

At the end of the day, this is why we keep coming back, no matter how tired we might feel after a long day at work or school. We sit at our desks or stands and play into the night, not just for the applause or the thrill of performing but for the joy of being part of this community. A community where every note we play contributes to something bigger, something that leaves us feeling accomplished, inspired, and connected.



2025 National Youth Brass Band on stage

Photo credit: Liam Anderson

News from Roxburgh

At the recent concert in the local town hall on Sunday, 15 December, the Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass had the honour of presenting Life Membership awards to two band members. Douglas Dance, a truly dedicated member, joined the band at the tender age of 17. His unwavering commitment is evident in his 66 years of service, still playing the BBb Bass. His leadership as a committee member for 60

years, including an eight-year tenure as president, and his representation of the band on the OSBBA committee all testify to his dedication.

Ann Hill, another deserving recipient of a Life Membership award, has been a vital part of our band since 1979. Hailing from Wales, she has been our Treasurer since 1993, a role in which her financial acumen

has greatly benefited the band. Ann has also contributed greatly as a flugel horn and cornet player. We are truly grateful for her multifaceted contributions to our band.

President of the band, Norman Marsh, also congratulated Warren Cox and David Leslie on receiving BBANZ Long Service awards for 72 and 71 years of service, respectively. We think these guys are amazing!



Doug Dance receives his Life Membership award



Ann Hill receives her Life Membership award.



Warren Cox and David Leslie are acknowledged for their long service to the Band Association.

Long Service Awards

In 2024, awards for long service to the brass band movement in New Zealand were presented to 48 people from 16 bands. Our heartiest congratulations to all those who have given so freely of their time to brass banding as players, conductors, administrators and accompanists over many years.

Addington Brass: Chris Bull 56 yrs, Brian Smith 54 yrs, Dave Johnstone 55 yrs, Grant Dempsey 41 yrs, Nathan Cottom 40 yrs, Grant Pitcher 36 yrs, Trevor Wilson 35 yrs, Dave Clearwater 35 yrs, Pam Demsey 30 yrs, Brain Hodges 25 yrs and Mark Gregory 25 yrs.

Ascot Park Hotel Brass: Rodney Sutton 75 yrs, Lee Newcombe 66 yrs, John McKinlay 60 yrs, Warren Crighton 56 yrs, John Bath 56 yrs, Kath Herman 53 yrs, Grant Chalmers 50 yrs, Ken Wellington 50 yrs, and Matthew Dick 37

yrs.

Brass Whanganui: Chris Wilson 56yrs.

Hamilton City Brass: Michael Rogers: 50 yrs.

Kumeu Brass: Peter Lucas 73 yrs, Eric Cole 70 yrs, Bruce Sinton 65 yrs, Don Whiting 57yrs and Judith Little 50 yrs.

Levin & Districts Brass: Colin Honey 70 yrs, John Gibbs 46 yrs, and Ray Harvey 52 years.

New Brighton Silver Band: Margaret Miller 60 yrs.

North Shore Brass: John Sullivan 47 yrs and Rachel Sullivan 42 yrs.

Rangiora RSA Club Band: Doug Sowman 68 yrs.

Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass: Warren Cox 72 yrs and David Leslie 71 yrs.

St Kilda Brass: Les Green 72 yrs.

Tauranga City Brass: Alex Garrett 75 yrs, Graeme Thomas 59 yrs, Dave Lawrence 40 yrs and Malcolm Gapes 28 yrs.

Te Awamutu Brass: Trevor Bremner 75 yrs, Betty Bremner 55 yrs and Colin Robertson 40 yrs.

The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass Band: Peter Martin 40 yrs and Amanda Bollond 35 yrs.

Trust Porirua City Brass: Sandra Jones 40 yrs.

Woolston Brass: Wayne Shears 62 yrs.

Long Service awards start from 25 years and are given to players and administrators of BBANZ bands. If you would like an application form, please email Helen at the BBANZ Office at bbanzeo@gmail.com



The Long Service Award recipients from Addington Brass. Front row L to R: Chris Bull, Pam Dempsey, Grant Pitcher, Dave Clearwater. Back row: Mark Gregory, Grant Dempsey, Dave Johnstone, Trevor Wilson and Nathan Cottom.



News from Te Awamutu

On Thursday, 19 December 2024, Te Awamutu Brass held its last concert for the year, followed by the presentation of the annual Band Awards. The event was also an opportunity to showcase our Learners Group and the work they had been doing alongside the senior band recently. There was a great turnout of supporters who helped celebrate the following members and their achievements.

Local Band Service Awards: Laura-Jane Elrick, 5 years; Cara Denby, Hannah Yarndley and Jenny Yarndley, 10 years; Sarah Carroll, 20

years; and Colin Robertson, 40 years.

BBANZ Long Service Awards: Colin Robertson, 40 years; Betty Bremner, 55 years; and Trevor Bremner, 75 years.

Learners Group Awards

Junior Attendance Award: Emma Carr
 Junior Most Promising Player: Annie Burrows
 Special Recognition: Jacob Carr

Senior Band Awards

Attendance Cup: Brandon Stanbridge
 Most Improved Player: Stuart Lindsey

Outstanding Contribution to the Band: Gaynor Krippner

Most Outstanding Musician: Vicki Spriggs

Section of the Year: The Trombones (Asarina Johnson, Brandon Stanbridge, Philip Spriggs, and Jared Oliver)

Soloist of the Year: Mike Martin

Youth Award for Overall Excellence: Asarina Johnson

President's Underhill Rose Bowl Trophy: Sarah Carroll and Laura-Jane Elrick.



BBANZ Long Service award recipients Colin Robertson, Betty Bremner and Trevor Bremner.



Local band service awards went to Jenny Yarndley, Cara Denby, Laura-Jane Elrick, Sarah Carroll and Colin Robertson.

2025 National Contest Test Music

At the 2024 AGM, a remit was passed changing the date the test music for the national contest is announced. The announcement date is now 170 days before the contest instead of 120 days – which means the test pieces were announced on Monday, 13 January.

Contest entry forms and detailed information will be circulated on Tuesday 4 March, with the contest entries closing on Saturday 3 May, 2025.

A Grade: *A Tale As Yet Untold* by Philip Sparke. Published by Anglo Music.

B Grade: *Sounds* by John Golland. Published by Kirklees Music

C Grade: *The Lost Village of Imber* by Christopher Bond. Published by Christopher Bond Music

D Grade: *Be Still* by David J Evans arr. Stephen Tighe. Published by Pennine Music Publishing.

Brass Test Solos	Title, composer/arranger, publisher
Eb Soprano Cornet	<i>Tenor Horn Concerto</i> movements 2 and 3 by Martin Ellerby (Pub: Studio Music)
Championship Cornet	<i>The Cry of the Soul</i> by Gilles Rocha (Pub: EMR Marc Reift Editions)
Amateur Bb Cornet	<i>Northern Fantasia</i> Op. 20 by Theodor Hoch
Flugel Horn	<i>Rustiques</i> by Eugene Bozza (Pub: Alphonse Leduc)
Tenor Horn	<i>Bad Spirit</i> by Damien Lager (Pub: Marc Reift Editions)
Baritone	<i>The Healing Power of Flame</i> by Tom Davoren (Pub: Studio Music)
Euphonium	<i>Carmen Fantasy</i> by Georges Bizet arr. Luc Vertommen (Pub: Band Press)
Tenor Trombone	<i>Fantaisie pour Trombone Ténor</i> by Sigismond Stojowski (Pub: Alphonse Leduc)
Bass Trombone	<i>Allegro Maestoso</i> by Jan Koetsier (Pub: EMR Marc Reift Editions)
Eb Bass	<i>Allegro Fuoco</i> by Roland Szentpali (Pub: Editions BIM)
BBb Bass	<i>Rhapsody for Euphonium</i> by James Curnow (Pub: Winwood Music)



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Next-Gen

In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews 17-year-old Mia Yee from Christchurch, who plays cornet and flugel horn for Addington Brass and is a first-time member of the National Youth Brass Band.

What was your first musical experience?

When I was six years old, I went up to my mum and out of the blue, said, 'I want to play the trumpet!' So of course, she put me into piano lessons. I loved piano (and I still do!), but I was adamant

about learning the trumpet, so at eight, I started taking lessons. A few months in and my teacher at the time, Slade Hocking, recommended that I join a band. That's when I joined the Nor'west Zephyrs.

Describe how musical ability runs through your family.

My family aren't heavily musical, but my mum plays piano, so all my musical influences come from her. My younger brother, Kyle, also plays piano and percussion.

To date, what have been some of your musical highlights?

Some musical highlights for me would be leading a trumpet trio with the CSO at Sparks in the Park and having the opportunity to play a flugel solo with Addington Brass. Something more recent would be achieving my ATCL trumpet diploma and, of course, all of the NSSBB courses!

What have you gained from being in the Secondary Schools' Band?

Just meeting new people and making friends from across the country. It's amazing to be able to share my passion for music with others who have the same spirit.

What sort of things would you like to happen to support young players?

I think promoting more of the various opportunities such as the representative bands (like NSSBB and NYBB). I feel that getting involved is one thing, but staying involved is another. The great thing about these opportunities is that you have the chance to make friends that keep you going back to band but also keep you going in life.

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

All of the players I've met, played with, and learnt from, young to old, from experienced to new. I am in awe of the talent and the shared love for music that people around me have. This is what gets me up in the morning (along with my alarm clock).

What's the best thing about being in a brass band?

The community. It truly feels like one big family. Also I've got to mention the music. Not only are the pieces great, but there's just something special about the sound of brass instruments.

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you with your achievements thus far?

I would like to thank my first teacher, Slade Hocking and my current teacher, Barrett Hocking, for all the guidance and advice. I would also like to thank Adrian Dalton for giving me a place in Addington Brass and getting me started in banding. Lastly, I'd like to thank my mum for her ongoing support and all the times she has accompanied my solos.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

After I graduate from high school, I'd like to continue both my passions in design and music.

Quickfire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? Funk-pop and cinematic classical.

Other interests? Painting, animation and reading.

Favourite food? Udon noodles.

Favourite place? Japan.

Favourite film? Kiki's Delivery Service.

Favourite piece of music? Gershwin's Prelude No. 1

What do you dislike most? Dark places.

For the more technical amongst us; what make of instrument do you play? Yamaha Bobby Shew flugel horn, Yamaha Xeno Bb trumpet and Yamaha Neo Cornet.

Obituary Kevin Robinson 1948-2024

Kevin Robinson's playing career started at age eight as a keen cornetist in the Onehunga Boys Band, moving on to play with the Takapuna Band and then to Continental Airlines Auckland Brass during the band's peak under Errol Mason in the 1980s. Kevin was selected for the National Band on four occasions and was the principal cornet in two of those bands in 1976 and 1978. Other banding highlights included winning a World Championship at Kerkrade with Continental Airlines Auckland Brass in the 1980s and multiple national A Grade championships with Continental and later Dalewool Auckland Brass in the 80s, 90s, and 2000s.

Kevin was an electrician by trade in Auckland, and upon retiring to Whitianga with his late wife Lyn, he initiated a Men's Shed programme while also giving unwavering service to the Whitianga Lions Club as president and Lions International. He was well known in the Coromandel region for his musical talent and he continued to engage in community music organisations in his later years, joining both the Big Band and Dixie Band.

On Thursday, 9 January, a large section of the community – friends and family – gathered at St Andrew's Church, Whitianga to farewell Kevin and send him on his way to his beloved wife Lyn, who passed away 17 months ago. They had been married for 53 years, life-long sweethearts and parents to Grant and Katherine.



SOUNZ Brass Composition Prize | Submissions Open

Submissions are now open for the SOUNZ Brass Composition Prize | Te Whakataetae Pūtētere a Toi te Arapūoru, closing on Monday, 7 April 2025.

The Brass Composition Prize is a collaboration between the SOUNZ Centre for New Zealand Music, the Brass Band Association of New Zealand and CANZ (Composers' Association of

New Zealand). Together, they present a biennial composition prize for works for solo brass instrument, with optional accompaniment, to be performed at the National Championships of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand in July 2025.

The winner receives a \$400 cash prize, performance and recording at the BBANZ National Championships and a one-

year optional membership of CANZ. Highly commended composers receive a performance and recording at the BBANZ National Championships.

Click [here](#) for more information on this opportunity and how to submit a composition.»

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Toi te Arapūoru



Composers
Association of
New Zealand

Te Rōpū Kaitito
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Aotearoa



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National Youth Brass Band

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Manager: Emily Richards
nybb2024@gmail.com
M: 021 607 483

National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Director: Linda Filimoehala, Auckland.
Course Manager: Malcolm Barr
malcolm@kbarr.co.nz
M: 021 606 428

2025 National Contest in Christchurch 2 to 6 July.

Contact person Graham Hickman
festivalofbrassnz@gmail.com

2026 National Contest in Wellington 8 to 12 April

Contact person Mike Sander
mike.sander@tpl.co.nz

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If you would like to support the activities of the National Youth Brass Band please contact the **Executive Officer**.

Life Members of the BBANZ

Graeme Aldridge MNZM, Betty Bremner, Trevor Bremner MNZM, Tony Cowan BEM, JP, Kevin Dell ONZM, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Leigh Martin JP, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuysen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

Life Members who have served BBANZ

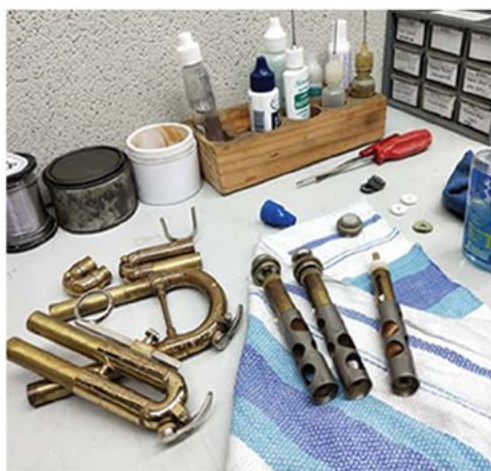
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