



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NZCBA Annual General Meeting 6 November 2022

Dear NZCBA Members

2022 has been a year that built on the momentum we set in place last year. The organisation is proud to have delivered our two cornerstone programmes in 2022, increasing the quality of both. This includes the National Festival, this year held in Hamilton and hosted by Waikato Schools Symphonic Band, with Waikato Youth Concert Band assisting, and the New Zealand Youth Symphonic Winds ensemble, which held winter intensive event in Christchurch in July and is set to hold its summer intensive event in Tauranga this January.

We have also been able to bring back the October run Band Weekend, hosted by the Katikati Concert Band in Katikati and hold the first Conducting Intensive Workshop in September, with West City Concert Band as the model band. Both events were originally intended to be held in 2021 and it was great to finally see them delivered.

The Executive committee has also been reviewing our various strategies and functions, looking particularly at longer-term planning, and helping create a roadmap for our organisation's activities.

National Festival 2022– Hamilton

This year's festival was held on 6 to 7 August 2022 and was attended by 17 bands. The event was held at the James Gallagher Performing Arts centre, which is part of Waikato University and was hosted by Waikato Schools Symphonic Band, with Waikato Youth Concert Band assisting. NZCBA is immensely grateful for the sheer volume of work put in by both bands and in particular the host management team, Carissa McCay, Brigitte Simard and Oliver Barratt, whose efforts were invaluable to the success of the festival.

Beth Cohen and John Snowling adjudicated the main stage concert band performances, Yvette Audain and Bill Stoneham adjudicated the solo and ensemble performances.

Band workshops were run by Dr Kevin Cameron, and seven instrument workshops by a team of professional tutors.

We would also like to extend our thanks again to Dr Toot, Musicworks, ABI and KBB Music for their continued sponsorship of National Festival, and to West City Band Inc. who provided the festival with use of their percussion gear.

Given the that last year's festival made a substantial loss, this year we are happy to confirm that the festival made a small profit. The profit was the result of a successful grant from Pubc Charity obtained in respect of the venue hire and an overhauled sponsorship package that received a positive uptake from our sponsors.

Festival 2023 will be held in Auckland at Auckland Girls' Grammar School from 4 – 6 August. We have yet to find a band (or bands) willing to volunteer to host festival however are moving ahead with planning the festival. If you band would be interested in assisting with the host band duties (possibly in combination with one or two other bands) please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Additionally, we have been working on a new Festival Strategy to add clarity to the host band process and include a mechanism to account for when we are unable to find a host band so that the festival location can be decided and a suitable venue booked more than one year out from the Festival. We will look to announce the results of this review before the end of the year. In addition, we are reviewing the

Please contact us at festival@nzcba.org if you would like to find out more about any of the above

New Zealand Youth Symphonic Wind Band

In 2022, 40 students aged 14-18 attend our July winter intensive and we were able to get sizable audiences for the concerts at the end of the week-long programme. This event was based in Christchurch at Papa Hou, an events facility of the YMCA, with students accommodated in the Give Hotel, in the same complex. Some of the facilities were somewhat run-down (an intended to be rebuilt within the next two years), however, we were offered alternative spaces and the space had excellent value for money overall.

The Papa Hou complex is situated directly opposite the Music School of Canterbury University, who provided the percussion gear. It is also well situated in the city, with the second concert venue (the first being in Papa Hou itself), Tūranga, Christchurch Public Library, being within easy walking distance. The venue is highly recommended for future events (particularly once the new events facilities are complete).

The band was conducted by Kevin Cameron, the band's Musical Director, and Leo Jaffrey as Assistant Conductor. The NZYSW is remaining committed to developing conductors and has invited another Assistant to the Summer Intensive in January 2023, to be held in Tauranga. We would like to thank both Kevin and Leo for their hard work, as they provide not only musical support, but also form a vital part of the overall leadership team, particularly during the week in which the course is running.

The feedback received from student participants has been overwhelmingly positive (see the additional report), with most indicating that they would audition again. Many are encouraging their friends to come too. We had a similar response from the public, which was highly encouraging. Many schools were reluctant to host the event as COVID-19 was still playing a major role in disrupting musical activities, and so the support shown by the venues we ultimately used, as well as the University of Canterbury, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Christchurch School of Music, was amazing and showed Christchurch to be a very welcoming city. We believe that one at least course out of every two seasons should be held in Christchurch, and this will only strengthen these very positive and productive relationships.

We had one private donation which went towards sponsorship of students' fees, for which we were most grateful. We are also very grateful to Pub Charity, which covered the accommodation costs. Christchurch Symphony Orchestra were incredibly supportive of the project, supplying instrumental tutors for our workshops free of charge - all the students said they found the sectionals very helpful and learned a lot from the individual professionals who kindly shared their time and knowledge. Again, we cannot speak highly enough of the support we were shown by the city of Christchurch, Papa Hou, Hotel Give, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, University of Canterbury, Christchurch School of Music, and other individuals that gave their time/gear/expertise so generously.

We have added another member to our NZYSW team, Dianne Gray, as Administrator. We are currently working through a structural review, outlining a proposed new structure for NZYSW and detailed position descriptions. This will hopefully help not only with funding applications, but also ease the transition of new members to the NZYSW management team.

January's event is shaping up well, however our costs have risen dramatically. However, we are extremely fortunate to be able to accommodate players in the brand-new University of Waikato

accommodation in central Tauranga. We are currently working through grants applications to cover these costs. This is a particularly time-consuming job, and we welcome any support that people in the community can offer in terms of sourcing funding for this absolutely vital project.

Auditions are open for our 2023/24 band, so we need NZCBA members to encourage their younger players/students/younger siblings/children etc. to audition. The link to the audition form can be found on the NZCBA website.

Outreach events

Band Weekend

After two years of cancellations NZCBA Band Weekend 2022 Katikati finally took place the weekend of October 7-9 in Katikati. The host band, Katikati Concert Band, was led by John Kean. Our Musical Director was Beth Cohen from Christchurch.

The formula for these weekends is simple. The group meets Friday evening to read all pieces, rehearse all Saturday with an optional social event that evening. Sunday includes a final rehearsal and a public performance of a short programme. This is a self funded event, with registration only \$60 for the experience.

Band weekends are always well attended, this being no exception, with 40 participants creating a balanced band, however, we would have preferred a few more trumpets. Feedback has been incredibly positive with participants enjoying both the music making and the socialising, rating the music, conductor an location an average of 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6 out of 5, respectively. Many are returnees from previous band weekends.

No Band Weekend has been planned for 2023 presently. We will seek out a host band whose role is to secure a rehearsal/performance venue, percussion gear and dispense snacks at breaks. There is a small remuneration for this task. Host bands report that hosting the event is a positive project for their musical and social dynamics.

NZCBA is grateful to Katikati Concert Band for hosting this successful event and to Beth Cohen for her skill and energy.

Conducting Intensive

Finally on our third attempt we were able to offer our Conducting Intensive. This was incredibly valuable for those who participated, and we thank them for signing up and giving the experience a go.

Feedback and observations, both personal and more outwardly, indicates that conductor training is difficult to obtain in NZ. There are many fine people training choral conductors and some training orchestral conductors but no specific training for wind band directors is available. As such NZCBA and Maestros with a Mission worked together to provide a rich experience for our conductors. MwaM, namely Dr Kevin Cameron and Matt Klohs, set a range of pieces for the participants to work through. They then conducted West City Concert Band to create an authentic experience. These sessions, interspersed with plenary sessions, gave MwaM opportunity to work with each participant on a deep and reflective level.

While we had feedback that many would like to take part, registration numbers were very low, with several registrants cancelling or withdrawing at late notice, and observers were also small. This, coupled with significantly higher post covid costs for our facilitators meant NZCBA has suffered a financial deficit of about \$6.5k NZCBA will reflect on how we might better meet the needs of our conducting community without such financial loss.

NZCBA is extremely thankful and grateful to West City Concert Band led by Chad Davenport for their significant contribution as model band.

Management and Governance

NZCBA Management

We have been successfully operating under the new governance structure for a year now. While delegations and roles are now clearly defined, NZCBA, like most volunteer organisations is now finding that it needs more personnel to achieve its goals.

We are currently limited by both the number of current committee members and their respective capacities, with certain committee members doing a great deal of work.

We are lucky to have recently found a new Funding Manager, Quinn Cooper. We are hopefully that having team member focus exclusively on funding will mean more success in our applications, and unlock more funding to increase capacity, e.g., by remunerating certain positions that have become more demanding or time intensive.

Critically, we would like to appoint a Treasurer/Secretary to take on some of the Finance and Compliance functions of running an organisation.

Law Change

Hopefully, you will now be aware that the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 has been passed by Parliament. Incorporated Societies will need to register under the new act from October next year. With the help of Russell McVeagh, we have developed a precedent document for our members use in the governance reviews. Please contact us if you would like to find out more information.

Conclusion

We would be happy to discuss any of the above matters with interested Members and players. Following the Annual General Meeting the continue to focus on advertising for and filling further positions in our management team. If you, or someone you know, is interested in assisting the organisation, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We welcome anyone who is motivated to assist and will look to get them involved in the areas they are interested in.

Finally, I would like to thank the current Executive, Alex Alford, Graham Trail, Kathleen Mulligan, James Bevin, and Michael Jamieson, for the work they have contributed over this term. They are aided by the remainder of our management team; Dianne Gray, Quinn Cooper, and Rosemary Johnson. Thanks so much everyone.

Ngā mihi
Anthony



Anthony Yelavich
President

New Zealand Concert Bands Association Incorporated

