


BAY OF PLENTY
SYMPHONIA

Rising Stars

COMPETITION

2025



SUNDAY 27 JULY 3:30PM
GRAHAM YOUNG YOUTH THEATRE
TAURANGA BOYS COLLEGE

Rising Stars 2025

Many thanks to our generous sponsors who made this competition possible.



Special thanks to Otumoetai College for rehearsal space

Programme Design: Neale Blaymires **Stage Manager:** Nick McFarlane

We hope you enjoy today's performance!

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PROGRAMME

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Soloist: Heejae Choi – Oboe

Oboe Concerto in C major, Hob VIIg:C1

1. *Allegro spiritoso*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Soloists: Jasper Zhang – Violin

Elisha Tie – Violin

Double Violin Concerto in A minor RV522

1. *Allegro*, 3. *Allegro*

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Soloist: Zekai Jiang – Piano

Piano Concerto no 2 in C minor, Op. 18

2. *Adagio sostenuto*

– *Interval* –

Franz Josef Strauss (1822-1905)

Soloist: Hugo Broad – French Horn

French Horn Concerto no 1 in C minor, Op. 8

3. *Allegro moderato*

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Soloist: Rima Azuma – Piano

Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16

2. *Adagio*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Soloist: Esha Xu – Piano

Piano Concerto no 1 in A major, K488

1. *Allegro*

Enoch Tie (2008-) Winner Rising Stars 2025 Composition Competition

Transcending Zeniths

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

Soloist: Enoch Tie – Flute

Fantaisie for Flute & Orchestra, Op. 79

Competition winners are announced

And a gentle reminder – no flash photography or videorecording is allowed.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Haydn – Oboe Concerto (approx. 1790)

Oboe concerti were common in the Classical period (about one hundred survive), reflecting contemporary developments in the instrument's design that extended and improved its upper register. The origin of this work is obscure and there is little real proof that this concerto was the work of Haydn, but it still holds pride of place amongst classical oboe works for its wealth of contrasting moods and melodies.

Vivaldi – Concerto for 2 Violins in A minor (printed 1711)

Largely forgotten by the start of the 20th Century, Vivaldi was hugely influential in the development of the solo concerto genre. His style of concerto writing was charged with kinetic energy, harmonically built using the circle of fifths and structured around alternating tutti and solo sections. This concerto comes from a collection of 12 concertos, *L'estro Armonico*, that was reprinted 20 times in the 18th century.

Rachmaninov – Concerto no 2 in C minor, Op. 18 (1795)

The second movement of Rachmaninov's second piano concerto is full of pathos, and overlain rhythmical groupings and subdivisions that create a sense of rubato – flexible, expressive time. It emerges from a spiritual stasis, building in intensity to a fiery cadenza, before briefly returning to its fulsome calm.

Strauss – Horn Concerto no. 1 (1865)

A true virtuoso, Franz Strauss was principal horn player of the Bavarian Court Opera for more than 40 years and played the horn part at the premiere of this bright, melodic work. A great lover of the classical composers, Strauss wrote in a cheery classical style privileging melody and steered his famous composer son Richard Strauss towards the classics.

Grieg – Piano Concerto in A minor (1868)

Grieg's Piano Concerto is a favourite and the only concerto he ever completed. He composed it at the age of 24 after hearing Robert Schumann's *Piano Concerto* (also in A minor). He revised it throughout his life – amounting to over 300 changes from the original. The slow movement is in ternary form and is very lyrical with an expressive improvisatory feeling.

Mozart – Piano Concerto in A major (1786)

This movement is in a tidy classical sonata-concerto form with a double exposition – the two main themes are first played by the orchestra, then by the soloist. The soloist then introduces a third theme of crystalline beauty in the second exposition. This concerto is set apart from other classical works by some particularly charming choices like abrupt silences and sudden shifts of mood.

Enoch Tie – Transcending Zeniths (2025)

To transcend means to rise beyond or surpass the ordinary limits, whereas the zenith is the peak of something or the period where something is the most powerful. Enoch named his composition *Transcending Zeniths* as the soaring melody and dynamic shifts depict the inspiring journey of overcoming challenges and achieving new heights.

Faure – *Fantaisie for Flute & Orchestra, Op. 79* Orch. Louis Aubert (1957)

Soloist: Enoch Tie (Winner Rising Stars 2023 Concerto Competition)

Faure wrote the charming *Fantaisie* for the “Concours de flute”, an annual flute competition at the Conservatoire de Paris. It opens with a gentle, limping section exploring the flute’s cantabile powers before moving into a jaunty, colourful Allegro concentrating on agility, always exploring the instrument’s range from haunting low notes to searing high notes. It was orchestrated by Faure’s pupil Louis Aubert.

FINALISTS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Heejae Choi

Heejae is a Year 12 student at Bethlehem College and started learning piano at age 6, progressing to violin, viola, and finally the oboe only two years ago. The struggles of playing a challenging double-reed woodwind instrument have pushed her to become a better musician and explore the world of music in new ways. Heejae is grateful to be able to play oboe in her school orchestra and concert band, and in the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga alongside other musicians. An opportunity she will always be thankful for.



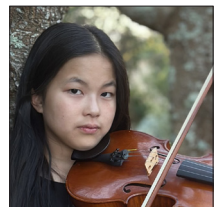
Jasper Zhang

Jasper is a 12 year old Year 7 student at Bethlehem college and has learned violin for 6 years. Last year he attended a Baroque concert & workshop organised by his violin teacher Anneli Ahlers, where he was soloist in a variety of Vivaldi concertos under the direction of the Japanese Baroque specialist, Naotaka Maejima. Jasper learned a lot about baroque style and ensemble playing from this experience. Jasper also plays in the Bethlehem string orchestra as well as a chamber music quartet.



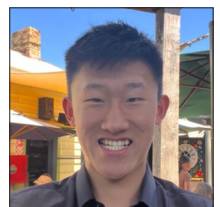
Elisha Tie

Elisha Tie, a 13-year-old Year 9 student at Bethlehem College, is a talented violinist, pianist and singer. She has been learning violin with her teacher, Anneli Ahlers for 6 years. Earlier this year, Elisha traveled to Germany to perform in an orchestra alongside Jasper, Esha, and her brother Ephraim. Elisha plays first violin in the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga and is an active member of her school’s music department, participating in the orchestra, string group, string quartet, and singing soprano in the school choir, Sound Collective.



Zekai (David) Jiang

Originally from China, David began his classical music training in piano at a young age and has continued his studies in New Zealand. Now 18 and a student at Bethlehem College, David is a two-time Rising Star finalist and has participated in numerous competitions, winning multiple awards. He is also currently a member of the Scholars Baroque Chamber Choir, where he performs regularly and continues to grow as both a solo and ensemble musician.



Hugo Broad

A Year 13 student at Tauranga Boys' College, Hugo has achieved Trinity College Grade 7 in French Horn. He is a member of the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga and was selected in 2024 to join the New Zealand Youth Symphonic Winds. Hugo has performed in numerous school ensembles and has contributed his skills to several musical theatre productions. Hugo also plays trumpet and will tour Japan later this year with the Tauranga Boys' College Big Band, an exciting opportunity that reflects his broad musical interests.



Rima Azuma

Music has always been a deep passion for Rima. He started playing around age 10 and over the years developed a passion for classical piano. He studied under Leon Grey, who helped refine his techniques and understanding of the instrument. Rima now studies under Nozomi Kawasaki and continues to grow as a musician. In the Rising Stars Competition, Rima looks forward to showcasing his love of classical piano and connecting with others.



Esha Xu

Esha, a Year 7 student at Bethlehem College, began piano at age five and now also learns violin, viola, harpsichord, and trumpet. Esha has won many awards and scholarships, including the 2023 BOP IRMT Piano Senior Scholarship. Esha performed as a viola soloist and harpsichord accompanist with the Tauranga Youth Chamber Ensemble at Baycourt Art Center in 2024. She sings in her school choir, plays in school orchestras and is a member of both the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga and the Tauranga City Brass Auxiliary band.



Enoch Tie – Winner Rising Stars 2025 Composition Competition

Enoch is a passionate young flautist and Year 12 student at Bethlehem College. He performs in the school's orchestra and concert band, sings in the two choirs, and plays tenor saxophone with the big band. Outside of school, he also plays in the region's youth orchestra, YPT, and has performed with the Tauranga Big Band, which has played a key role in shaping his musical growth. Enoch's musical journey began at a young age, when he started piano lessons at 5 years old. Soon after, he picked up the flute at age 9, and is currently studying under Kathy Stewart.



William McElwee – Conductor



William McElwee currently resides in Wellington, where he is Director of Music at St Mary of the Angels Church, Conductor of Gallery Orchestra, and Associate MD of Wellington Young Voices Children's Choir. He has performed widely as a baritone soloist including with NZ Opera, and is a founding member of Straynge Disorde – The New Zealand Lute Quartet. William holds a PGDip in Performance Voice, a BSc in Mathematics and a BA in English and Latin with Honours in English Language, while his continued organ study is being supported by the Dame Malvina Major Foundation.

COMPETITION JUDGES

Vincent Hardaker



Vincent is an Auckland based freelance conductor. He studied viola performance in New Zealand, before pursuing orchestral conducting postgraduate study in Copenhagen, under the mentorship of Giordano Bellincampi and Michael Schonwandt. In 2020 he was the inaugural New Zealand Assistant Conductor in Residence. During this time he conducted anything from film-in-concerts to main stage programmes (and everything in between), with all of the professional orchestras in New Zealand. As a result of the success of the collaboration he was made Auckland Philharmonia's Resident Conductor. During the time of these positions, and since then he

has enjoyed an ongoing relationship with in particular the Auckland Philharmonia, and also forged new relationships with orchestras in Australia.

Stephen De Pledge



Stephen De Pledge won the Gold Medal from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and continued his studies at the Royal College of Music. After winning the NFMS Young Concert Artist Award he made his debuts in the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and St John's Smith Square in London, and broadcast frequently for BBC Radio 3. His concerto performances have included appearances with the Philharmonia, Bournemouth Symphony, New London, BBC Scottish Symphony and all the major New Zealand orchestras. His solo performances in recent seasons have taken him to Cologne, Paris and New York, as well as throughout New Zealand and Australia.

Sam Brough



Sam joined the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra as Principal Contrabassoonist in September 2022 following three years as Principal Bassoon with Swedish chamber orchestra, Dalasinfonietten. He has been a regular guest player with major orchestras throughout the UK and Scandinavia and is currently on trial with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Highlights of Sam's training at the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester) include joining the Mahler Chamber Orchestra academy on a tour of Germany and playing principal bassoon under Marin Alsop for concerts of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring at the Royal Festival Hall London. Competition success includes the Royal Overseas League - wind section finalist in 2017 and the RNCM concerto competition in 2014.

Mandi Bromwich – Concertmaster



Mandi grew up in Hamilton where she started playing the violin aged 4. She played in many orchestras including NZ Secondary Schools' Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra before moving to Wellington to study music at Victoria University. She graduated with an Honours Degree in performance violin in 1994, and has since been playing and teaching around the Bay of Plenty. She joined the Bay of Plenty Symphonia in 1999 and led the Orchestra for several years before taking a break to have a family. She now plays with Bay of Plenty Symphonia and Opus Orchestra, and enjoys mountain biking in her spare time.



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SYMPHONIA

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Mandi Bromwich
Michie Nishiyama
Rebecka Beetz
Rosana Houthuesen

Violin 2

Brigid Eady
Gillian Shapley
Robert Shelton
Miriam McFarlane
Joy Shepherd
Jill Fleming

Viola

Anneli Ahlers
Margaret Skippen
Alison Armstrong
Virginia McGowan

Cello

Trish McNutt
Pachakamac Lema
Therese Ahlers
Keonhu Park

Double bass

Rosemary Severinsen

Flute

Pauline Logger
Leanne Lambert

Oboe

Kate Rendall
Chris Martin

Clarinet

Nicola Joynt
Miranda Churchill

Bassoon

Ben Pollard
Karla Putt

French horn

Joshua Bartram
Jim Scrivener

Trumpet

Peter Logger
Jack Smith

Trombone

Mark Barnes

Timpani

James Pinchin

Percussion

Elodie Broad

Harpsichord

Chalium Poppy

OUR NEXT CONCERTS

Third Space Symphony

7.30pm Saturday 23 August

at Baycourt, Tauranga

As a fundraiser for Waipuna Hospice, local band Third Space and Bay of Plenty Symphonia will perform well known pop music by ABBA, Toto and more.

Classical Concert

Sunday afternoon, 16 November

at Baycourt, Tauranga

Conductor: Michael Joel

Piano Soloist: Shan Liu

Lilburn – Aotearoa Overture Saint-Saëns – Piano Concerto No.5

Sibelius – Symphony No.1

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