



St Peter's College

Auckland

Building Outstanding Men

School Magazine 2025

Music Portfolio

By Mr. Antun Poljanich
Director of Music

Chamber Music Programme

Director: Mr. Antun Poljanich





Achievements:

Los Piazzolanos

- Most Engaging Performance (Auckland District)
- KBB Music Award (Auckland District)
- District Finalist (Top 12 in Auckland)
- Highly Commended (Auckland District)
- Regional Finalist (Top 12 in Northern Region)
- Third Place (Northern Region)
- June Clifford National Finalist Award (Top 8 in New Zealand)
- National KBB Music Award

Les Mousquetaires

- New Zealand Double Reed Society Award (Auckland District)
- District Finalist (Top 12 in Auckland)
- Regional Finalist (Top 12 in Northern Region)
- June Clifford National Finalist Award (Top 8 in New Zealand)

Muczynskis

- District Finalist (Top 12 in Auckland)

Music at St Peter's College has recently focused on chamber music, a genre characterised by small ensembles that highlights the talents, technical skills, and collaborative abilities of our most outstanding musicians. Our chamber groups compete in the NZCT Chamber Music Contest, involving thousands of secondary school musicians across New Zealand. Celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, the Contest fosters an atmosphere of musical growth for young musicians while also showcasing the highest level of student ensemble



performance in the country. This year, St Peter's College Music organised three chamber groups, two of which included students from Saint Kentigern College and Baradene College of the Sacred Heart.

After competing in the District Round, all three of the groups progressed to the Auckland District Finals: top 12 of 99 in Auckland. 'Muczynskis' was made up of Dennis Liu (clarinet, 9NOL), Elvies Hu (cello, 10TRE) and Baradene College student Ruby Lo (piano). The trio performed *Fantasy Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano*, an invigorating work by Polish-American composer Robert Muczynski. 'Les Mousquetaires' was comprised of Alex Wu (oboe, 11LYN), Dennis Liu (clarinet, 9NOL), and Keegan Fong (piano, 13TRE), with Liam Zhao (flute) from Saint Kentigern College. They performed *Quartet for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Piano* by Jean-Michel Damase, a French composition blending styles including jazz and film music. They were awarded the NZ Double Reed Society Award for best performance with a double reed instrument in the Auckland District. 'Los Piazzolanos', a brass and piano quartet, performed an exciting suite from Astor Piazzolla's opera *María de Buenos Aires*, arranged by Steven Verhelst. In the District Round, they were awarded the 'Most Engaging Performance', as well as a Highly Commended Award and the KBB Music Award for best performance with woodwind, brass or percussion.

'Les Mousquetaires' and 'Los Piazzolanos', both reached the Northern Regional Finals, hosting the top 12 groups from Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and Taranaki. Here, 'Los Piazzolanos' were awarded Third Place, and both groups were then selected for the National Finals as two of the top eight groups in the country. This incredible feat was significant for many reasons: this year saw the greatest number of St Peter's College students in the Nationals, with six students involved across the two groups. This was the most from any school in Auckland and the Northern Region, and the second most in New Zealand. Additionally, 'Los Piazzolanos' was the first brass ensemble to reach the Finals in many years, and the first SPC-only group since 2020. The Finals were held at the prestigious Auckland Town Hall, where both groups received the June Clifford National Finalist Awards, and 'Los Piazzolanos' were awarded the National KBB Music Award, bringing it home for us for the fourth consecutive year.

For 'Los Piazzolanos', this year was a particularly special experience. As four Year 13 students and long serving senior musicians, Dimitrios Koulianos (13BOD), Paul Kassir (13RIC), Kilian Casey (13NOL), and Keegan Fong (13TRE) presented a performance that was the pinnacle of seven years of learning, musicianship and being a part of St Peter's College Music. We farewell them



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dearly and hope that the effects of their incredible and continued contributions to music remain impactful for years to come.

The groups give their utmost thanks to Mr Antun Poljanich, Mr Alexander Jeantou, and Mr Rowan Meade as their primary coaches. Teachers who also deserve mention are Mr Ben Lovell-Greene and Mr Alex Martin, as well as external tutors who certainly assisted with the successes. We hope the culture of collaboration and excellence that we achieve through chamber music is something that continues at St Peter's.

Keegan Fong (13TRE)

Senior Concert Band

Director: Mr. Antun Poljanich

Achievements:

- Gold Award at the 2025 KBB Festival.
- Top Four Concert Bands at the KBB Festival (Gala Performance).



Senior Concert Band



Throughout the history of music at St Peter's College, the Senior Concert Band has stood out as our premier ensemble and one of the top secondary school concert bands in the wider Auckland region. Playing a range of high-level repertoire, the group prominently displays the distinction in woodwind and brass that St Peter's has boasted for numerous years. This year has been no exception, proved at the 2025 KBB Music Festival held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell.

The concert band achieved a Gold Award, in recognition of their outstanding adjudicated mark. This was achieved through hours of tireless work throughout the year. They rehearse twice a week before school and occasionally come together on weekends to rehearse with and learn from top tutors with prestigious positions including musicians from the Auckland Philharmonia. This is in addition to rigorous personal practice that enables them to perform such daunting pieces.

This year's repertoire consisted of three challenging pieces. *Symphonic Overture* composed by James Barnes was written to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force. Played previously in 2021 by our concert band, it is a lively and lyrical work that demands hard work and skill from every single player in the band. Their next piece was *Colors for Trombone* by Belgian composer Bert Appermont with soloist Paul Kassir (13RIC). This work consists of four movements Yellow, Red, Blue, and Green, from which the concert band selected movements Yellow and Green, since they encourage unity of all sections in the band with each other and the soloist. Similar to *Symphonic Overture*, the concert band performed the movement Blue in 2022, bringing back memories for several long-standing members. Last was popular Japanese song composed by Hirotaka Izumi, 宝島 (*Takarajima*), arranged by Toshio Mashima. Translating to 'treasure island', this is a fun, up-beat piece that features each of the sections in the band, including a jazz-like brass section shout chorus, a percussion solo, and electric and bass guitar players who were exclusive to this piece. This choice of repertoire certainly made another enjoyable year of music for the band.

This year, our senior ensembles faced some new challenges in the KBB Festival. A new rule has shortened each group's available performance time, and increased the penalties for exceeding this, such as downgrading an otherwise Gold Award to a Silver Award. Unfortunately, the concert band had to cut several sections of their pieces to fit the time limit, disrupting structures of some of the works. Despite this, the Senior Concert Band earned their place in the



KBB Gala Concert as one of the top four out of 46 concert bands in Auckland, thus proudly continuing the tradition of excellence at St Peter's College music. Many thanks to all those who supported the band including teachers, parents, our Director of Music and Conductor, Mr Antun Poljanich, and of course the students themselves. Thanks especially to the thirteen Year 13 leavers for their long service to the concert band. We wish them luck for their future.

Paul Kassir (13RIC)

Big Band (Jazz)

Director: Ms. Zyia-Li Teh

Achievements:

- Gold Award at the 2025 KBB Music Festival
- Selected as one of the Top Four Jazz Bands at the KBB Music Festival





Big Band

2025 has been another enjoyable and undeniably successful year for our school's Jazz Band, now officially renamed *Big Band* to better reflect the genre and style of music we perform. This year's ensemble consisted of students from Years 8 to 13, with several new trumpet and saxophone players, stepping into their roles with enthusiasm and skill.

The band's repertoire was both challenging and rewarding, offering a diverse mix of jazz standards and contemporary pieces that were not only fun to play but also challenged us musically. Regular before and after-school rehearsals, alongside several weekend workshops, helped shape our sound and strengthen our ensemble.

We had the pleasure of performing at the School Open Day, a Year 9 and 10 assembly, and at our annual Music Gala Evening with Baradene College. These performances were instrumental in building our confidence on stage and showcasing the hard work that went on behind the scenes in preparation for the KBB Music Festival.

By August, our tight collaboration and musical chemistry culminated in a standout performance at the 2025 KBB Music Festival. We were thrilled to be awarded a Gold Award and even more honoured to be selected as one of the top four jazz bands out of 51 schools. Although we were invited to perform at the prestigious Gala Evening, we respectfully declined to allow our Combined Symphony Orchestra to take the spotlight on that occasion.

Post-KBB, we continue to grow, working on new repertoire and performing at a range of school events to close out the year on a high note.

This success would not have been possible without the guidance and expertise of our conductor, Miss Teh, who's dedication and musicianship continue to inspire us. We are also grateful to our amazing tutors and guest mentors, and



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to our supportive parents for their unwavering help behind the scenes—your contribution is truly appreciated.

Finally, to all the Year 13s: thank you for the memories, the music, and the leadership you've shown. It's been an honour to play alongside you. I wish you all the best as you head off on your next adventures in the big, wide world.

Elliot Hamill

Long-standing Band Member (Saxophone)

13ODR

Combined Symphony Orchestra

Director: Mr. Antun Poljanich

Achievements:

- Gold Award at the 2025 KBB Festival.
- Top Four Concert Bands at the KBB Festival (Gala Performance).



Combined Symphony Orchestra



Collaboration with Baradene College of the Sacred Heart is a treasured part of St Peter's College Music that has lasted for a number of years. It is a unique keystone not shared by many schools in Auckland, and something to which we attribute much of our continued success. This cooperative effort allows our students to grow as musicians and widens their horizons for impactful connections through music. The St Peter's College and Baradene College Symphony Orchestra is the symbol of this partnership and a staple of excellence that both schools take pride in. This year was no exception to the success the orchestra consistently achieves, a result of the dedication and hard work of a multitude of individuals.

Rehearsing one morning a week in the Baradene College auditorium, the orchestra undertook a demanding set of repertoires this year. Starting with selections from the ballet *Gayane*, these dances presented the youthful and exciting nature of the work of their composer, Aram Khachaturian, a 20th century Soviet Armenian known for his use of Armenian culture in his oeuvre. Our soloist for this year was Kilian Casey (13NOL), playing Ralph Vaughan William's Tuba Concerto, an English composition that showcases an extremely uncommon choice for soloist instrument, displaying Kilian's incredible talent and connection with the orchestra. The programme concluded with *Yo Soy María* arranged by Damir Butigan, an invigorating number from Astor Piazzolla's opera *María de Buenos Aires*, set in Argentina and utilising the tango influences of the country. Finally, excluded from their competition repertoire was the famous *Waltz No.2* by Dimitri Shostakovich from his *Jazz Suite No.2*, a staple of 20th century orchestral music, as well as *She* by Charles Aznavour and *Smile* by Charlie Chaplin, songs performed with radio announcer and singer Tim Beveridge at the St Peter's and Baradene Gala Night.

Along with all our other large music ensembles, the orchestra competed in the 2025 KBB Music Festival, where St Peter's is renowned for its consistent success, comparable to the largest public schools and elite private schools. This year was no exception, and the orchestra received a Gold Award as one of the leading secondary school symphony orchestras in Auckland. They additionally qualified for the Gala Concert as part of the top four competing orchestras out of 31 in the category. These achievements are a testament to the efforts and persistence of our musicians; a reflection of the work put in by our tutors and coordinators.

This year, we farewell nine Year 13 orchestra members who have each had a significant impact on the ensemble and the wider music communities of both St Peter's and Baradene. We wish them well as they depart, hopefully



remembering their time as a part of this special collaboration. Gratitude must be directed to the orchestra's Director, Mr Antun Poljanich for his tireless work with the organisation and directing the orchestra, in addition to Baradene College Music, Head of Department Mr Nino Sloser for his organizational support, key supporting tutor Ms Yu, and all other music teaching staff who help our musicians excel. We thank our parents, especially the Friends of Music, for their continuous support that definitively contributes to the orchestra's success. The lasting traditions exemplified by the St Peter's College and Baradene College Symphony Orchestra are effects we hope continue to impact our students and the greater St Peter's collective.

Keegan Fong (13TRE)

St. Peter's Orchestra

Conductor: Ms. Christina Yu



St. Peter's Orchestra



Achievement:

- Silver Award at the 2025 KBB Music Festival
- Nominated for the Peter Goddard Memorial Award, “for a group who embodies the values of participation, helpfulness, supportiveness and audience behaviour as exemplified by the late Peter Goddard.”

The St Peter's Orchestra, conducted by Mrs Christina Yu, has changed since 2024. The orchestra developed from a string-only orchestra to a complete symphony orchestra, meaning we now have a pianist, a woodwind section, a brass section and a full percussion section. Our first performance this year was at Junior Music Night. We played Edvard Grieg's 'In The Hall of The Mountain King' arr. Gareth Glyn, Johannes Brahms' 'Two Hungarian Dances' arr. Albert Parlow and revised by Adolf Schmid, and Henry Purcell's 'Rondeau' arr. Iain Farrington. The outcome was great with a lot of support from the crowd and amongst the orchestra.

Our second performance this year was at the St Peter's and Baradene College's Gala Night, where, in addition to the above pieces, we also performed Brian Balmages' 'A Festive Fanfare' and Peter Martin's Arioso. Everyone was very encouraging just like on Junior Music Night and we enjoyed it as well. St Peter's Orchestra performed at the 2025 KBB Music Festival for the first time ever this year. Although this was our first year in the competition and a brand-new orchestra, all our efforts paid off as we received a Silver Award. It was an enjoyable experience for us all.

My experience with this group has been extraordinary. Since joining in 2022 as a violinist, I have progressed a lot since then. I now play the viola in the Combined Senior Orchestra too, thanks to Ms Yu, Ms V Kim, and all the other supporting hands, putting time and effort into all of us. St Peter's Orchestra has taught me things I will never forget. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in the group, we have had an unforgettable time whilst also training to be in the Senior Orchestra. As a current Year 10, I will sadly be leaving next year, but I will come back to watch every performance of this incredible group I will never forget.

Oliver Recordon (10RIC)



Junior Choir



St Peter's College Junior Choir

Conductor: Miss Da-Hae Kim

Achievement: Silver Award – The Kids Sing

The St Peter's College Junior Choir has enjoyed another rewarding year of music-making, showcasing the talents and dedication of its 23 members under the direction of Miss Da-Hae Kim, with invaluable support from Mr John Gayfer. The choir was also fortunate to feature student pianist Lewis Tao (7NOL), whose accompaniment brought an extra dimension to their performances.

This year, the Junior Choir proudly represented the College at four key events: the Junior Music Night, the Grandparents' Day Mass, the Mass of Initiation, and *The Kids Sing* choral festival. Each occasion highlighted the students' hard work, growth and joy in singing together.

At *The Kids Sing* festival, held at the stunning Holy Trinity Cathedral, the choir performed three contrasting works. They began with *E I A I E*, a Māori waiata celebrating connection with the land and spirit, followed by the rhythmic and energetic *The Beat of a Different Drum*—the test piece for this year's festival. To conclude, the choir delivered a heartfelt rendition of Elton John's beloved



Can You Feel the Love Tonight from *The Lion King*. Their efforts were recognised with a Silver Award—the first for St Peter's Junior Choir since 2019, when the ensemble was directed by Ms Iversen.

Beyond the applause and certificates, the Junior Choir offers something deeper: the chance for students to build friendships, discover the joy of collective music-making, and experience the sense of belonging that singing in harmony creates. Music has the power to connect people across backgrounds and experiences, and our Junior Choir is a shining example of how young voices can inspire both singers and audiences alike.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue strengthening the choir's sound, welcoming new members, and broadening our repertoire. With every rehearsal and performance, the Junior Choir grows not only as musicians but also as a community bound together by song.

Symphonic Band

Directors: Miss Zya-Li Teh & Miss Da-Hae Kim

Achievement:

- Bronze Award at the 2025 KBB Music Festival



Symphonic Band

The 2025 Symphonic Band, formerly known as the Junior Band, is made up of talented students from Year 7 to 11. Under the co-direction of Miss Zya-Li Teh



and Miss Da-Hae Kim, the band has had an eventful and fulfilling year. They performed at several major events, including the St Peter's & Baradene College Gala Night, the school's Junior Assembly, Junior Music Night, the Primary Schools' Music Tour, and the 2025 KBB Music Festival.

Throughout the year, the band members demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication. This was clearly reflected in their steady improvement and growing musical maturity. They adapted well to different performance settings and rose to the challenge of each event, culminating in a commendable Bronze Award at the KBB Music Festival.

One of their standout performances was *Jubilare*, a band favourite that demanded precision, dynamic control, and sensitivity to tempo and mood changes. While there still were occasional issues with timing and note reading, the students made significant progress. Their growth was supported by sectional rehearsals and mentorship from experienced instrumentalists, which helped sharpen their technical abilities and ensemble skills.

The Symphonic Band serves as a strong foundation for these young musicians. With continued dedication and training, many are well on their way to joining higher-level ensembles in the future. Their musical journey has just begun, and they each have the potential to flourish into accomplished performers. We look forward to seeing them thrive and continue their journey through the vibrant world of music.

Karl Sohn (Trumpet)
11BOD



Stage Band

Conductor: Ms Angela Mote (Baradene College)

Achievement:

- Bronze Award at the 2025 KBB Music Festival



St. Peter's & Baradene College - Stage Band

At the KBB Music Festival, the band competed with a varied repertoire, including

Joe Zawinul's Birdland; arr. by Rick Stitzel; Miles Davis' Freddie Freeloader, arr. Michael Philip Mossman; Duke Ellington et al's Caravan, arr. Michael Sweeney and Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley's Feeling Good, arr. Rodger Holmes. Their efforts earned them a bronze award, a testament to their hard work under the guidance of Ms. Angela Mote.

The band's music continued with a performance at the Baradene Spring Music Festival. These performances allow them to further refine their repertoire and connect with their audience, reinforcing their reputation as a talented and dedicated group of upcoming young musicians.

Under Ms Mote's leadership, the Baradene & St. Peter's College Stage Band has continued to grow and develop, showcasing their talents in a variety of settings. Their journey this year reflects their commitment to musical excellence and their ability to work together as a team.



Senior Choir – Vox Petri

Conductor: Miss Da-Hae Kim



Senior Choir – Vox Petri





Achievements: Commended Award & Award for a Commendable Performance of an 'Other Styles' Work – The Big Sing 2025

The St Peter's College Senior Choir *Vox Petri* has had a fantastic year, with one of the largest groups we have seen in recent times. Many members are in their final year, and knowing this, every singer put in tremendous effort—organising student-run sectionals and practising both in and outside of rehearsals.

Our year began with preparations for the biggest event, *The Big Sing*, held in Term 2. Under the direction of Miss Da-Hae Kim, the choir achieved outstanding results, receiving the runner-up award for the best performance of a piece in an “other style” for our heartfelt rendition of the Scottish folk song *Loch Lomond*.

For this competition, we presented three contrasting works: *Hodie*, *Loch Lomond*, and *E Whiti E Tohu*. Sung in Latin, English, and Māori. Each piece brought its own challenges. *Hodie* featured energetic body percussion—what some choir enthusiasts call “choralography”—while *Loch Lomond* required us to dive into the text, exploring its vocabulary, story and historical context. Taking time to understand the poetry and meaning behind each work helped us deliver mature, expressive performances.

Later in the year, *Vox Petri* was invited to a Tongan choral festival during Tongan Language Week. This was an exciting chance to perform in Tongan for the first time, though the compulsory song proved especially challenging with its many lyrics to memorise. Unfortunately, the festival clashed with the College Ball, so we had to withdraw. Nevertheless, we proudly represented the school at the flag-raising ceremony that opened the week, offering a strong and memorable performance.

Looking back, we are incredibly proud of the music and community built within the choir this year. Receiving recognition at *The Big Sing 2025*, along with generous comments from audiences, affirmed the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Special thanks go to Miss Kim for her tireless guidance, to the boys for their commitment, and to our families and supporters. For those of us leaving *Vox Petri*, it has been a privilege to sing together—and we know the choir will continue to thrive in years ahead.

Kilian Casey (13NOL)
Senior Choir Leader



Music Asia Tour 2025



St Peter's College Music had the incredible opportunity to travel to Taiwan and Japan, a time that was full of learning and fun for all students, teachers and



parents involved. Providing a range of new experiences for our 27 travelling students, the trip included the privilege of performing music internationally, especially significant for our chamber musicians who received workshops from acclaimed local tutors. We collaborated with five schools across the two countries, sharing our cultures with each other in eye-opening moments for much of our group.

First flying to Taipei, Taiwan, our chamber musicians collaborated with Kuang Jen Catholic High School straight off the plane, experiencing a very different school life and music structure from our own. They then joined the rest of the group in an extensive partnership with Daan Municipal Junior High School, where they experienced a Taipei school day, were shown around the sprawling city, and played with the Daan String Orchestra, a renowned school ensemble that is famous for its prestige in Taipei. With the orchestra, our students performed in an outdoor pavilion as well as the historical Zhongshan Hall, site of Japan's formal surrender of Taiwan in 1945. The group also attended a Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra concert, witnessing the pinnacle of Taiwanese orchestral music, after our chamber musicians had had the honour of being tutored by several of the orchestra's musicians. Aside from music, Taipei also included the experience of being billeted for our students, where they lived with host families from Daan for two nights, experiencing authentic Taiwanese food, culture and living. For some, this included visiting the lively night markets of the city using the impressive metro system, for others, illustrious meals prepared compassionately by the hosting parents.

Travelling to the scenic Sun Moon Lake, the group enjoyed sightseeing at the TSMC Museum of Innovation and the Formosan Aboriginal Village, a theme park that showcases the aboriginal Taiwanese culture with shocking similarities to the Māori culture seen in New Zealand. The group performed for Sacred Hearts High School in Douliu and joined with their concert band for another combined performance. Moving further to Taichung, the group spent two days with Eton Hill Academy, an alternative IB school that hosted the whole group extremely graciously. Their time with Eton Hill included a friendly basketball game and taking part in the school's annual Festival of Hope, where they enjoyed various performances from both schools and a Memorandum of Collaboration was issued.

Flying to Tokyo, Japan, the group was able to see the impressive Yamaha flagship music store in Ginza, where they could view and try a multitude of instruments and peruse the expansive collection of sheet music. The last school they visited was the International School of the Sacred Heart, an all-girls school in the Hiroo district, where they had their last performance of the tour. Other



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experiences in Japan included the Team Lab Borderless Interactive Art Museum, the Samurai Ninja Museum, a traditional tea ceremony, and a make-your-own okonomiyaki dinner in Harajuku. Finally, the trip concluded with a day at Tokyo Disneyland.

Aside from representing our music portfolio through rehearsal and performance of various pieces from New Zealand and beyond, at each of the schools visited, the group performed the St Peter's College Haka, a showcase that represented not only our school but also our nation, demonstrating our culture to a new and diverse audience in another part of the world. The group's admirable performances were met by signs of respect and impression from the watching students and audiences.

The 2025 Music Tour was certainly an impactful adventure for our students which created important and meaningful connections, hopefully lasting them a lifetime. We extend our gratitude to each of the student's parents, especially the 11 who joined us on the tour. Your guidance and contributions were greatly appreciated by both staff and students through the entirety of the trip. A very big thank you to the teachers who organised and managed this trip, Mr Antun Poljanich and Miss Zyia-Li Teh, for giving up their time for our students to have such unforgettable encounters.

Keegan Fong (13TRE)