

Getting Involved in the Westlake Co-Curricular Music Ensembles

There are lots and lots of musical groups which students can get involved in at Westlake Boys High School, and for some of the more advanced music groups we combine forces with Westlake Girls High School.

Non-Auditioned Groups

Some of the groups at Westlake Boys require no audition to join; boys show up to an advertised meeting at the beginning of the year and we find a place for them.

These groups include the **Westlake Boys Symphonic Band** (for wind brass and percussion instruments) and the **Westlake Boys Stage Band** (a junior Jazz Band for Trumpets, Trombones, Saxophones and Rhythm section).

String players of about grade 4 level and above can join the **Westlake Boys Camerata** (a string orchestra which can take up to 26 players of violin, viola, cello and double bass). No real audition is needed for this group, signups are taken at an advertised meeting in February.

We also have a programme for **Rock and Contemporary Bands**. Signups are taken in February and boys are assisted in forming bands which work towards performances at Smokefree Rockquest.

Questions about non-auditioned groups? Email wro@westlake.school.nz for Symphonic Band and Camerata, and eha@westlake.school.nz for Stage Band and Rock Bands

Auditioned Groups

Several groups at Westlake Boys require auditions to gain entry. All choirs require basic auditions because we need to find out what type of voice each boy has: whether they can sing high or low, and how wide their range is.

Momentum is our junior choir (not junior in terms of age but in terms of vocal maturity... this happens at different rates for different boys).

Voicemale is the senior choir for boys with either mature voices or for boys whose voices are still completely unchanged. We hold auditions for these groups around the beginning of February. Auditions will be advertised for at least two weeks before taking place.

Choralation is the senior, combined choir between Westlake Boys and Westlake Girls. Auditions are held in September for the following year's choir and places are generally reserved for students who have already sung for at least a year in one of the other school choirs. Any questions please email David Squire: dsg@westlake.school.nz

The combined WBHS/WGHS **Concert Band** is the more senior version of the Symphonic Band and is also for wind, brass and percussion players. Each year auditions are held in mid-November for the following year's band. The minimum standard for entry into this group is around Grade 5/6 because the repertoire is very challenging, but this standard may be slightly different depending on the instrument.

The 2024 Westlake Concert Band is on the lookout for players of:

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion (including players of mallet percussion (xylophone etc), snare drum, larger drums, timpani and auxiliary percussion).

There is an audition poster below at which students can book a time, or just click [this link to register](#) and then find audition music in [this folder](#). Any questions, please email Warwick Robinson wro@westlake.school.nz

The **Westlake Big Band** is also a combined group featuring players from WBHS and WGHS. It is an *advanced* Jazz Band and in 2024 will be looking for players of Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone (all types) as well as potential Rhythm Section players (Bass, Drums, Guitar, Piano). Players in the Westlake Big Band generally also play in the Westlake Concert Band. Anyone interested in auditioning for the 2024 Westlake Big Band just needs to send an email to the director, Mr Eddie Hare, eha@westlake.school.nz stating which school they will be attending (WGHS or WBHS) and which instrument they play.

The **Westlake Symphony Orchestra** is the combined senior orchestra for WBHS and WGHS. The minimum playing standard for this orchestra is around Grade 6 because the repertoire is highly challenging. Auditions are held near the beginning of November.

To book an audition and to find music you should follow this link to the [Westlake Girls Music Audition Booking Page](#).

The 2024 Westlake Symphony Orchestra is on the lookout for players of:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba and percussion including keyboard percussion, timpani and various types of drums and auxiliary percussion.

Taharoto Orchestra is a younger version of the Westlake Symphony Orchestra, and students from WGHS and WBHS are both able to join. Any students who audition for the Westlake Symphony Orchestra will also be considered for Taharoto Orchestra if they are not quite ready to play in the more senior group. In other words, if you are at least Grade 3 level on an orchestral instrument and would like to play in **Taharoto Orchestra** you should also book an audition through the [Westlake Girls Music Audition Booking Page](#).

The **Westlake Chamber Orchestra** is made up of the most advanced string players from the Westlake Symphony Orchestra.

This is an invitation-only ensemble and senior players in the Westlake Symphony Orchestra are expected to participate in this ensemble if invited.

AUDITIONS FOR THE WESTLAKE CONCERT BAND 2024

For all Westlake players of Brass, Woodwind, Saxophone and Percussion



November 8th – 15th

(Held in M2, in the Music Department at Westlake Boys)

Scan the QR code which will take you to an audition folder containing music and a spreadsheet



- Open the Spread-sheet and add your name in an audition time slot.
- Find the audition excerpt for your instrument; download it and print it out.
- For your audition you will need to play:
 - 1 - 2 minute piece of your own choosing.
 - Choose something that shows dynamics, tone and technique
 - Choose a piece that shows you can keep a reliable tempo!
 - Choose a piece that shows you have good articulation (slurring, tonguing, rolls (perc.))
 - Audition excerpts from “Angels in the Architecture” by Frank Ticheli
 - A little sight reading (if time permits)
 - Some ‘range’ and ‘intonation’ tests given to you by Mr Robinson
- Reliable players from the 2023 Band are re-offered their places and do not need to re-audition.

Contact Mr Robinson (WBHS) on 021 1049289 or email:
wrobinson@westlake.school.nz if you have any problems signing up