

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 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) and the **Westlake Boys Stage Band** (a junior Jazz Band for players of Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone (all types) as well as potential Rhythm Section players (Bass, Drums, Guitar, Piano).

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 individual auditions are needed for this group, but signups are taken at an advertised meeting in February and all interested players need to participate in an open rehearsal to see if they can keep up with the group whilst they are all playing a simple piece.

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: dsq@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 early-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 your instrument.

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 2026 will be looking for advanced 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 2025 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 **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.

The Westlake Music departments are open for communication and discussion until December 7th 2026 and will then re-open in the last week of January for contact.