

Manawatu Youth Orchestra: Music Director and Conductor

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The Manawatu Youth Orchestra (MYO) provides orchestral training and playing experience for Palmerston North and surrounding district's school-aged children and young adults. The MYO Music Director and Conductor functions are undertaken by the Youth Orchestra Conductor.

Purpose

The Conductor conducts the MYO and undertakes the day-to-day activities necessary to run the MYO.

Reporting

The Conductor:

- Reports to the MYO Management Committee
- Is an *ex officio* member of the Management Committee
- Reports monthly to the Management Committee on orchestra matters as appropriate.

Functions

The Conductor is responsible for musical direction, orchestral administration, conducting, and outreach tasks, to be undertaken with the prior agreement of the Management Committee:

1. Musical Direction

Objective

- To provide overall musical guidance to and continuity of the MYO.

Tasks

- Selecting and ranking players through auditions
- Evaluate relative strengths and weaknesses of the orchestra and its constituent parts
 - Nurture strong sections, encourage weaker players and sections
 - Choose music and programmes reflecting these attributes and producing transposed parts as required
- To develop and improve the orchestra's musical standards as circumstances permit
- Schedule concert dates in conjunction with the Management Committee seeking to avoid clashing with other school and organisation events
- Present the proposed music programme for each schedule to the Music Direction committee for approval
- Organise and facilitate periodic workshops and master-classes around specific instruments to develop players' techniques as appropriate.

2. Orchestra Administration

Objectives

- To ensure the MYO functions efficiently
- To ensure the MYO instruments and assets are cared for.

Tasks

- Liaise with the music librarian for the acquisition and distribution of music
- Provide bowings and other mark-ups and edit and arrange parts as necessary
- Prepare suitable rehearsal schedule
- Ensure the hire instruments are distributed, maintained and tracked.

3. Conducting

Objective

- To conduct the orchestra
- Provide performance opportunities for the orchestra
- Coach orchestra members to learn how to play in ensemble and orchestras.

Tasks

- Rehearse weekly for two hours during school term time (first, second and third terms)
- Prepare conducting scores for rehearsal
- Conduct at least two concerts annually each year. One may be a shared concert
- Undertake other performance opportunities with the orchestra as appropriate.

4. Outreach

To be undertaken as appropriate.

Objectives

- Ensure ongoing recruitment of young people into the orchestra
- Increase awareness among young people and the wider community of the orchestra.

Tasks

- Recruit new players into the orchestra
- Liaise with school music departments, Saturday Music School, and itinerant and private music teachers in order to be aware of pool of potential players
- Encourage uptake of less common orchestral instruments
- Undertake awareness exercises as appropriate.

Indicative hours

Indicative annual committed contact time, annual. These hours may be reviewed.

Time	weeks	hours
Auditions		6
Term 1	6	12
Term 2	10	20
Term 3	10	20
Rehearsal hours 26 weeks (2hrs)		58
2 concerts (2-hour concert + rehearsal)	2 x 3 hours	6
TOTAL contact hours (annual)		64

Administration time as well as preparation time is expected to take a further 2 hours a week over the year (50 hours), giving a total time commitment of 114 hours annually. (This does not include committee meetings.)