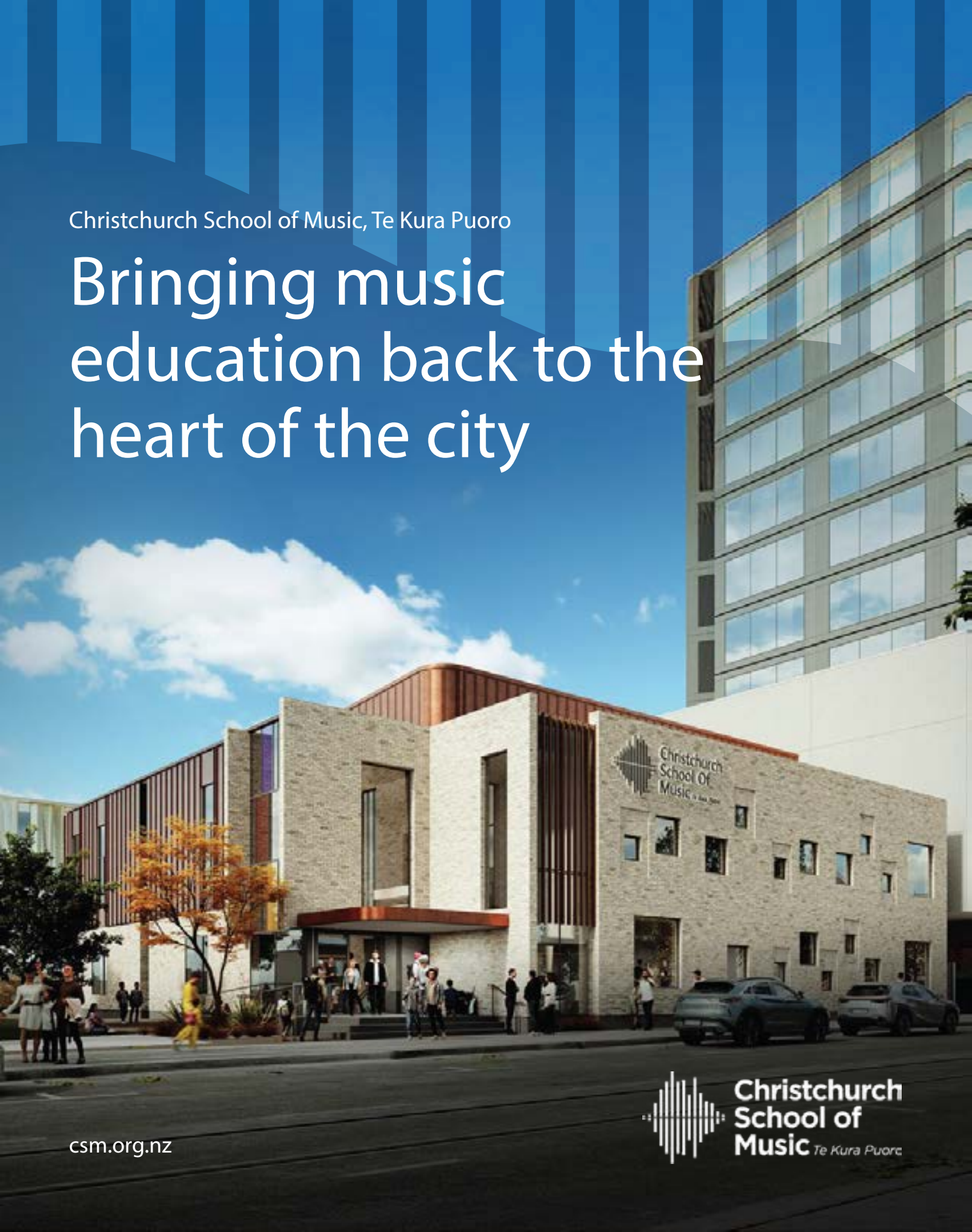
Christchurch School of Music, Te Kura Puoro

Bringing music education back to the heart of the city



csm.org.nz

Christchurch School of Music Te Kura Puoro

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An Introduction to Who We Are & Our Purpose

About the Music School: mission, vision, values

At Christchurch School of Music, we gather the community to play and sing, to learn and flourish together.

For 70 years, CSM has been at the heart of the community providing music lessons and ensemble experiences for all. We are a unique organisation that has supported many thousands of people, from two to ninety-two, to live, thrive, and grow through music-making.

Our programmes foster a love of music, collaboration, and artistic ambition amongst students past and present, young and young-at-heart. Over the years, CSM has become a vital place of connection and creativity for the whole community.

CSM Capital

Campaign Summary of the project

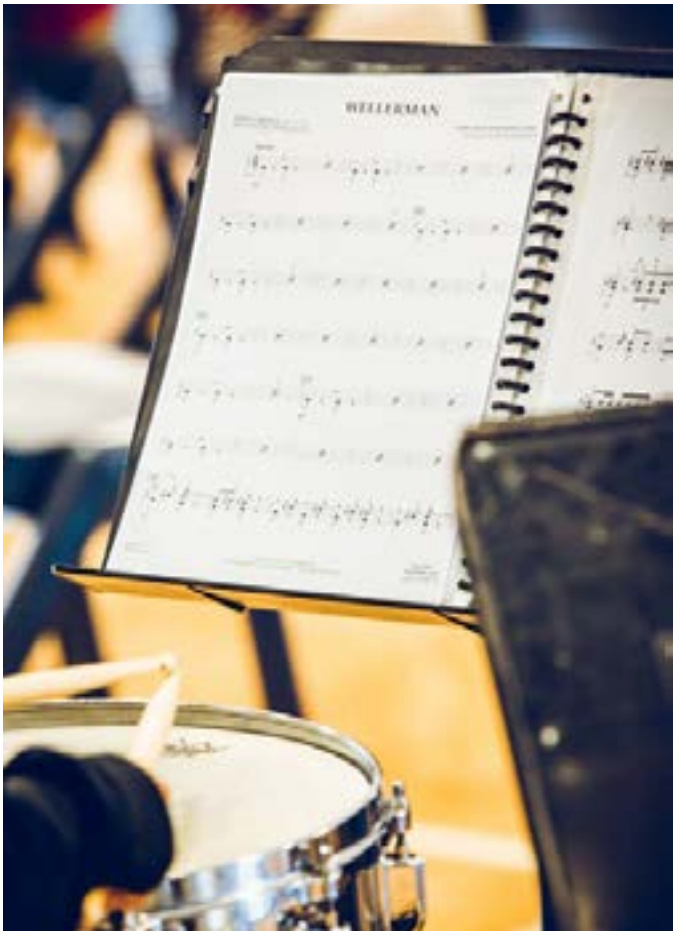
CSM is unique in supporting the musical aspirations of students of all ages and all levels, proudly delivering the highest quality musical experiences to young and old alike. From Bach to Beyoncé, we've got it covered.

Yet, having leased over 30 premises since 1955, we have never had a permanent place to call home. Always based at temporary sites, much time, energy, morale, and momentum has been lost searching for our next site.

We are a strong and determined community and have created great good out of continual change. In the aftermath of the earthquake, the lack of building did not stop us from providing an exceptional service to the community, operating again just 10 days later. It has been a challenging road, and we have strongly felt the impacts of having an ever-changing and unsettled environment, for both our students and teachers alike.

The time has now come for CSM to return home to where we belong, in the heart of our city, with a permanent home in the Performing Arts Precinct, Te Whare Tapere, being designed just

We are at a crucial crossroads, needing to put down solid roots and create a place we can call ours for life. With its dedicated music spaces, sense of cohesion and unity, the creation of a purpose-built facility opens a world of exciting possibilities for CSM. It will provide us with a fitfor- purpose building for the first time in our 70 year history.



From CSM Council

Interview with Andrew Swift, Council President, CSM

I started learning clarinet at CSM (or CSIM as it was then) when I was 10 and enjoyed both my individual lessons and playing in groups. While other things took my attention as I grew up, music has remained a true pleasure and when my son expressed an interest in, and talent for, piano and percussion, I found my way back to CSM, first as a board member and now as President. I am delighted to be able to give back to the community in this way.

I take great pride in supporting an organisation that brings like-minded people together and provides quality, affordable musical experiences to learners of all ages and all walks of life. Its fine teachers offer individual and group lessons, ensembles both large and small in all genres of music, and many opportunities for performance throughout the year.

However, although CSM has survived the many challenges this city has faced throughout its 70-year history, it has been hampered by the lack of a recognisable and permanent hub for all the wonderful things it offers. Having a home in the Arts Precinct with opportunities for collaboration with other arts organisations will cement CSM's rightful place in the city centre, accessible to all and with something to offer everyone. Our identity as the city's premium community music school will be visible and lasting.

My son is now a percussionist in the Christchurch Youth Orchestra, the most advanced of CSM's ensembles, and when life makes it possible, I fully intend to get my clarinet out of the cupboard and join one of the many more modestly accomplished adult groups at CSM. The benefits of musicmaking for personal growth and social engagement cannot be over-estimated and when it involves multiple generations in families, its power goes well beyond the individual learner.

From CSM Music Director

Interview with Celia Stewart, MNZM, Music Director, CSM

My musical career started when I began recorder lessons at CSIM at the age of six. From there I picked up the flute and gradually worked my way up through the ensembles to become a member of the Christchurch Youth Orchestra.

I started my professional career teaching in the flute department and went on to join Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. With a wide and varied career in between, twelve years ago, I temporarily took up the post as Music Director at CSM and have been here ever since!
From that first day, I had a feeling I'd be here for the long run, probably down to the fact that I am passionate about music education for all and knew we had so much to contribute.
I believe strongly in the power of music and its ability to change people's lives and this is something we champion wholeheartedly at CSM.

The camaraderie that develops when playing music together is like nothing else, and I see this occurring all the time in our organisation. I see adults in the junior level ensembles, and children in the senior orchestras, sitting side by side, all playing their part to achieve a common goal. It's inspiring to see the community thriving in this way, regardless of age, background, circumstance, we come together over the music and the outcome is always heart-warming and inspiring.

As an educator at heart, watching the students thrive in this way is special. I've had many a letter from past students saying that the time they spent at CSM has influenced their lives and stayed with them. This is the true legacy of our work and what the new building will enable us to do so much more of. For too long, our time has been taken up sorting out building issues and searching for new accommodation. We are musicians and this takes us away from our core purpose of making music.

So, now, when I imagine walking into the new building on the first day of opening, I can hear the lively hum of our students starting to fill the music rooms and I'm excited. I'm excited for our future and everything we are still to accomplish. Mostly, I am excited for our future students and all the opportunities they will have gained because of this huge step-change for Christchurch School of Music.

Christchurch School of Music, Te Kura Puoro

A Rich History

A background of CSM and the history of the organisation.

A place where life-long personal skills are nurtured alongside artistic talent, CSM has been a pioneer in the development of the musical community in Aotearoa since 1955.

What started as a spark of inspiration from one man 70 years ago, has gone on to form the rich and varied organisation that is known today as Christchurch School of Music.

Robert Perks, then a lecturer at Christchurch Teachers' College, first created a children's instrumental group as part of the Christchurch Primary Schools' Music Festival. The children received orchestral tuition, attended rehearsals, and gave their first performance in1955. such a hit, that the scheme became a mainstay of the festival, engaging over 1,000 children each year throughout the 1960's.

A highlight for many during this time was the Cowles Stadium performance in 1968 which saw Robert Perks conducting 1,200 orchestral players in a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky's Symphony no.6. The larger-than-life orchestra was kept on track not only by Robert, but also by a team of prompters holding up signs to signal entry points for the players; an extravaganza still reminisced over today.

From those early beginnings, the Christchurch School of Instrumental Music was formed, later dropping the 'Instrumental' after singing and choirs became part of the school's programme. From there, we grew through the 1970's to a position where we had 8 orchestras, 2 string orchestras and a wind orchestra.

Today, we are the musical home of over 1,000 students, spearheading many community outreach programmes, averaging 50 concerts and events a year. We have four full symphony orchestras, chamber music groups, concert bands, wind and string ensembles, recorder and percussion ensembles, jazz and rock bands and a samba band, and are committed to supporting everyone to achieve their musical ambitions whether large or small, professional, or personal.

CSM has stood the test of time – we have been here through good times as well as through earthquakes and pandemics, and we will be here for many generations to come.

To date, approximately 50,000 students have earned their musical stripes under the leadership of 10 music directors.

An Exciting Future

Future goals, objectives and impact

Because of CSM, there is a place for musical aspiration in the Christchurch performing arts sector. For us, this means supporting our diverse group of students to achieve their goals whatever they might be.

For some students, it will mean achieving the level of excellence needed to become a professional musician. For others, this will mean improvement or simply staying active in the musical community and playing for their own wellbeing. With plans of a permanent home, we are heading towards an inspiring future.

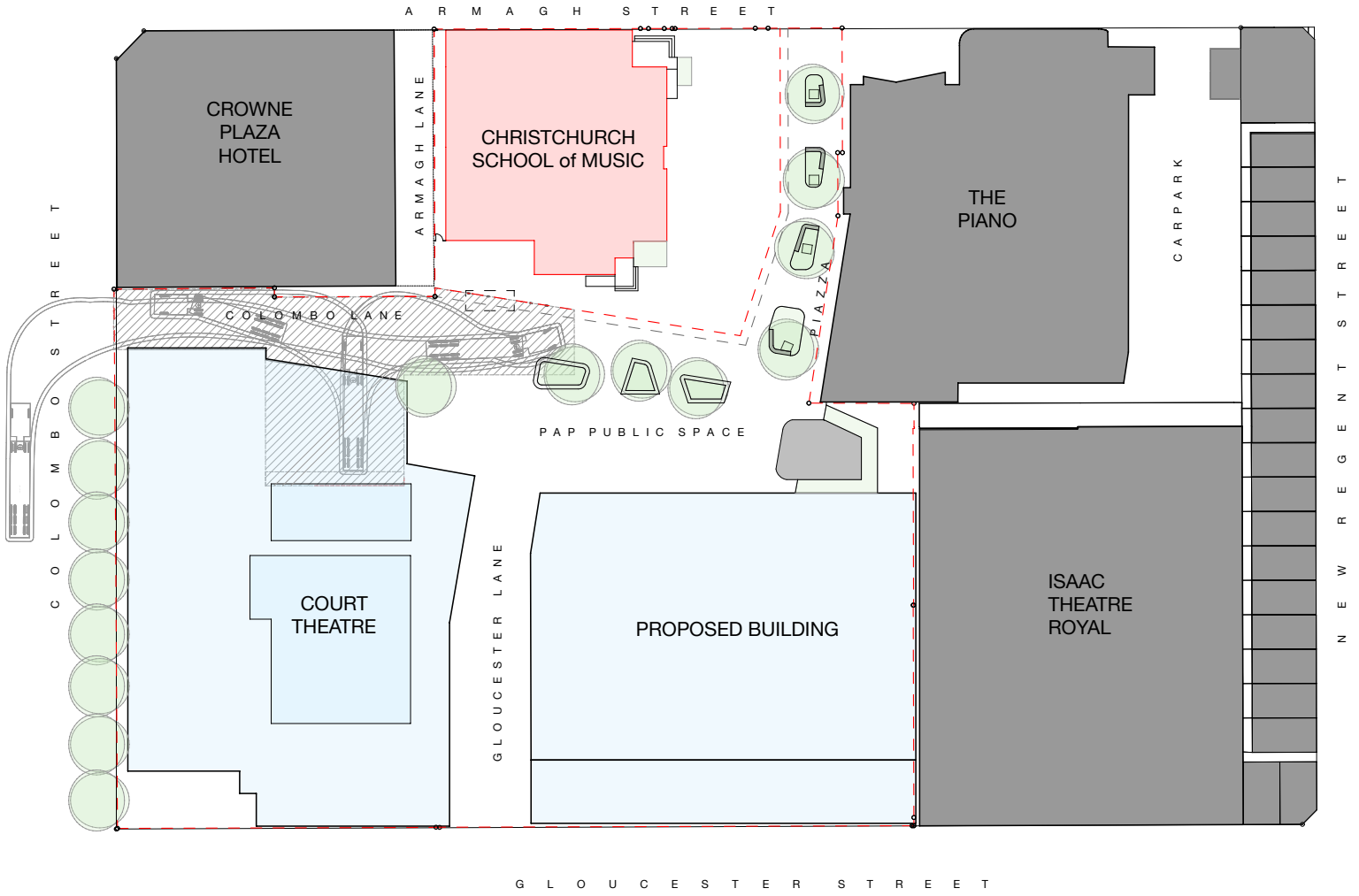
We aim to reach more people than ever before.
Whether welcoming in youngsters at the beginning of their journey, reviving passion in older returning players or engaging with people that have never considered musicmaking before, we are passionate about opening the doors of the music world to many more budding musicians.

We aim to create excellence.
We are committed to working with the best teachers, mentors and collaborators to ensure that we keep our standards high so that our students can flourish.

We aim to keep connection at the heart of what we do.
Music is the common theme and connection point for our community. We stand proudly in this endeavour to keep bringing people together for generations to come.

Our Neighbourhood

CSM In The Performing Arts Precinct



Christchurch School of Music
128 - 138 Armagh Street, Christchurch

About the Campaign

CSM is currently based across two temporary sites. Our offices, storage and teaching operate out 100 Fitzgerald Avenue (Unit 7A), and our Saturday morning orchestras and lessons are hosted at Avonhead Primary School.

Designed by Wilkie + Bruce Architects, our proposed 2,078 sqm building will bring us all together on one central site of our own. It will contain a large rehearsal and performance space (to accommodate our orchestras of up to 90 players), two medium ensemble rehearsal spaces, and 32 small studios for individual and small group tuition.

Our new hub will house a fit-for purpose office and a staff kitchen alongside comfortable waiting spaces for parents and whānau. It will also have ample storage space to accommodate our music and instrument library, making it possible for individuals of all backgrounds to borrow and use instruments that may not otherwise be accessible for them.

Taking our place in the Performing Arts Precinct, Te Whare Tapere, will connect us closely to other centrally- located performing arts organisations, facilitating huge opportunities for collaboration and growth.

This new hub represents so much more than a building for us. It's a place where the wellbeing of children and adults alike is being invested in. A source of learning, a sense of achievement, of pure artistic pleasure and like-minded community that you just can't get anywhere else. It will be life enhancing – a gift for all of us to benefit from.

The following artist's impression illustration show a cross section of the proposed new building.

Impact Stories from Our Alumni

Bic Runga

I have really fond memories of singing with Stu Buchanan's CSIM Stage Band. Stu had championed my older sister Boh as a solo singer, and when she moved away to Auckland, I kind of had a go in her place.

It was well out of my comfort zone and I don't claim to be a jazz singer at all, but as a young intermediate-age kid it was my first chance to sing in public with really great musicians. We did a tour of high schools – I think I was only 11 – it was absolutely terrifying! But when it comes to performance, the younger you try and then fail and then try again, the better. I'm glad I got to embarrass myself and then get over it early on in life!

I think the lesson I learned most that I still use now, was how Stu led a band, how he tirelessly directed every detail, particularly his attention to phrasing and feel. He used to bawl people out for playing in an insipid way, so nobody dared do that! We all tried our best to attain the level of musicianship he was hearing in his head. Striving for excellence has many levels but Stu's level was really high and I'm glad I was exposed to that. I ended up moving into pop music and song writing, but it was Stu and the CSIM Stage Band that gave me my start in a career in music.

Bic Runga (Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongomaiwahine) has been awarded almost every musical honour in New Zealand, including winning more Tui Awards (twenty) than any other individual artist, as well as the prestigious APRA Silver Scroll song writing award. In January 2006, Bic was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, and in 2016 she was the recipient of the Legacy Award at the New Zealand Music Awards and was inducted into the New Zealand Music Hall of Fame. www.bicrunga.com

Benjamin Morrison

The Christchurch School of Music (CSM) played an extremely important role in my development as a violinist and my appreciation of music.

The skills I learnt in orchestral playing at CSM were important in getting to where I am today. It was a long journey that still continues, but it began at the Christchurch School of Music. I vividly remember tentatively joining the back of the first violins of Orchestra 8, where the very first piece I played was the Radetzky March by Johann Strauss I. I now perform this piece every year at the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Concert for millions watching on TV. It's symbolic that the first time I played this piece at CSM my passion for music and making music together was sparked, and the flame has been brightly burning ever since. CSM was a huge part of my childhood life, a peaceful time where one could learn whilst enjoying making music together. It would be hard to overstate the huge impact that CSM has had on the culture and community of Waitaha Canterbury.

Benjamin Morrison made his orchestral debut at 10 and released his first album at 15. In 2004 he won the National Concerto Competition in Christchurch, playing Sibelius' Violin Concerto and he has also been a prize-winner in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition and the International Brahms Competition. In 2007 he moved to Austria to study, graduating with a Masters in Performance and Chamber Music. He joined the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017, the only New Zealander to have secured this prestigious position, and is now principal first violinist. His quartet, the Nicolai Quartet, has performed in many countries, and in 2019 their Beethoven album won the Pasticcio Prize. Interesting sidenotes are that Benjamin's father David also attended CSIM, and that one of Benjamin's violins was made by David.
www.morrisonviolin.com

Impact Stories from Our Current Students

Susan Foster-Cohen

I played the piano as a child and sang in choirs, but for a big stretch of my adult life, due to work demands and raising my family, I wasn't making music. I hit a point where I had a big job and was responsible for a large organisation with a lot of staff, and it was quite stressful.

I realised that I needed to bring the joy of music-making back into my life so I called Mark Walton (then Music Director of CSM) and he started teaching me saxophone. He also had me join the Barbadoes Street Sympathy Orchestra! This was an ensemble focused on adults starting a new instrument or getting back into playing. The only criterion for joining was that you knew which way up your instrument was supposed to be! It was such fun and so supportive and I have learned and played with CSM groups ever since.

I currently play clarinet and saxophone in five different groups, both adult only and mixed age. I get a lot of joy from all my groups, and I have these moments when I'm playing with younger people or I see little people carrying around their tiny cellos and I think - you have been given such a gift that will enrich your entire life! It is not about becoming a professional musician, though that may happen, it's about all the contributions that playing music will make to your emotional and intellectual development and the pleasure that it will bring you. This is truly a gift to be treasured it for a lifetime!

Panckhurst Family

Victoria

I'm a parent of three CSM students who all started in preschool Orff classes as toddlers. They were learning Suzuki strings before they started school, and have continued to learn instruments and play in ensembles at CSM, so I've been a CSM roadie for about 13 years now, making a few trips each week, and I still love it! I am involved because I believe music education is essential. I started violin aged 4 at CSIM and realised early on what science has proven: music enhances learning and humanity in a way no other subject does.

My children have had a wonderful life being part of CSM and have had a lot of fun with friends they've met there. They see each other each week for rehearsals, have camps and concerts together, and also meet outside of CSM – making lifelong friends.

I think it is such testament CSM's value that it has kept going since the earthquakes destroyed the Music Centre. I remember when it was there, and sadly, there is something missing now. Despite the community being strong, it is disconnected due to not having a central hub. I remember when the old Music Centre was humming with activity and there was more ability for the community to engage with each other. I'm really looking forward to seeing the old vibe of CSM re-established.

Harriet

I play cello in Christchurch Youth Orchestra (CYO).
My sister Charlotte plays viola in CYO too, and my brother Jimmy plays trombone in Sinfonia and Big Band. A lot of my best memories involve CSM. I was just four when I went on my first Junior Symphony Orchestra (JSO) camp, and I remember being really impressed by the big kids who were 8 or 9 – some could even play out of first position!

I'm still in orchestras with these people and we've grown up together which is nice. In JSO and Intermediate Symphony Orchestra (ISO) we got a break where we could go to the tuck shop and get lollies. But once we got into Sinfonia there were no tuck shop breaks; we played solidly for an hour and a half and got to play some really fast and difficult music! We were all serious musicians by then and our playing really improved. I really liked going to the CYO concerts and now I'm in CYO and I still love the concerts.

We play really good music and the rehearsals are great. Sometimes they're funny like when we were trying to get Khachaturian's Sabre Dance ready last year. Everyone was struggling to keep in time and despite all of the head nodding it wasn't happening! I've met so many interesting people through CSM and I can't imagine life without it. I like going to watch professional musicians play in chamber groups, orchestras and as soloists, and I wouldn't have the appreciation for what they do, or enjoy it nearly as much if I hadn't been a CSM student all of my life.

Christchurch School of Music, Te Kura Puoro

Giving

What can your donation help us achieve?

Simply put, this project is transformational.

Thousands of lives will be positively impacted and whole generations enriched forever, but we need your support today.

To bring our building to life, we need to raise $15 million.

This is no small feat, but with your pledge, we can raise up our building and with it, our mission to nurture life- enhancing music-making for all.

Time and time again, CSM has provided the opportunity for connection and healing through music. Through the most challenging times we rallied, worked tirelessly, and provided a place for recovery, respite, hope and joy. Now, with your help, we can build our own place of stability to call home.

We invite you to contribute to the CSM building campaign, whether individually, or as a legacy to your family. This is an opportunity to be part of something truly historic, not only for our school but for the regeneration of the Christchurch performing arts and our city.

Support Our Campaign

Call to action and information on acknowledgement options

Not only will your gift enable us to ensure stability for our students today, but it will also breathe life into Canterbury music for generations to come.

We invite you to contact us today to discuss the level at which you can support our campaign. There are naming opportunities for our performance, rehearsal, and teaching spaces, and donations made to this project may qualify for a 33% tax rebate. We invite you to talk to us about how you chose to give, whether today or by making annual pledges over a specific period (eg, three years).

Your support will enable CSM to keep nurturing emerging talent and provide the Christchurch arts with world-class music-makers. Now is the pivotal time to join us and help lay strong foundations for the next 70 years of music making in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Contact Us

We have put in place the building blocks for exceptional musical education in the city. Help us continue our pioneering work by donating today and bringing the new CSM building to life, 'brick by brick'.

For more information on how to contribute, please contact us.

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Or contact CSM at office@csm.org.nz| csm.org.nz

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