



## Musical Achievements at Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls is proud of its vibrant and busy Music Department with many and varied co-curricular ensemble groups that contribute to its longstanding reputation for excellence. Each Premier ensemble group has a development pathway leading in, ensuring that every young musician is developed, whatever their starting level. Our association to music at Westlake Boys High School, allows us to cooperate in numerous mixed ensembles, providing socialisation through music making. For many years the Westlake schools have dominated regional and national music competitions as well as achieving great success in many international competitions.

2016 was an outstanding year of success for our premier groups. At the Big Sing Finale, Choralation Choir won the Platinum award for the sixth time, and Cantare Choir achieved their second high Silver. At the KBB Music Festival, the Westlake premier ensembles achieved a clean sweep of the top awards – Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band and Big Band, all won the Most Outstanding Ensembles in their categories. In the NZ Chamber Music Competition, the WGHS trio 'Domov' competed at the National semi-finals.

The last International music tour was in 2014 when the combined Westlake premier groups (124 students and 16 staff) travelled to Europe in July to perform music in Germany, Austria and Hungary over four weeks. The highlight of the tour was participating in the prestigious 'Summa cum Laude' Music Festival in Vienna – with amazing success. After competing against school, youth and university level groups from around the world, Westlake came home with top honours in three out of the four categories:

- Westlake Concert Band 1st place
- Westlake Symphony Orchestra 1st equal
- Choralation 1st equal, Mixed Choirs section
- Westlake Chamber Orchestra 3rd place

During the year, all of the Westlake music ensembles perform within the school and for the local community, with annual highlights being the 'Last Night of the Proms' in Term 1 and the 'Gala' Showcase Concert in Term 3. In addition to this year's regular music events calendar, Cantare choir are competing in the ASPIRE international music competition and participating in the Choralfest Choir Conference both held in Brisbane in June. Plans for touring in 2018 include Choralation choir who will be travelling (with Voicemale choir from WBHS) to Italy for a concert tour and competition in Florence.

### Choirs

En Masse (All comers - girls), Nota Bella (Development - girls), Cantare (Premier - girls), Choralation (Premier - mixed)

### Instrumental Groups

Symphonic Band (Development - girls), Taharoto Symphony Orchestra (Development - mixed), Westlake Symphony Orchestra (Premier - mixed), Westlake Chamber Orchestra (Premier - mixed), Westlake Concert Band (Premier - mixed), Westlake Big Band (Premier - mixed)

### Ensembles

Chamber Music groups (Development and premier - girls), Rock Bands (Development - girls), Volante String Group (Development - girls)

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