



Full orchestra . . . Participants are plentiful enough to make up an orchestra that will perform a public concert tomorrow night.

PHOTOS: SALLY BROOK

Musicians visit from near and far

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Musicians are revelling in their art at Waitaki Boys' High School this week.

The 26th Waitaki Summer Music Camp has taken over part of the campus since last Sunday and will culminate in a public concert in the auditorium at 7.30pm tomorrow.

One of the organisers, Tim Wilkinson, said there were about 70 players attending this year. He was delighted with that number, which made up a full-size orchestra.

They are aged 14 to 80-plus, and musicians from the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States are among them.

"From within New Zealand, they come from north of Auckland and south of Invercargill," Mr Wilkinson said.

They include three from Oamaru and two from the Waitaki hinterland.

A lot were returning, having enjoyed the camp in previous years, he said.

"It's always nice to have new ones, too."

The camp was known for being "very friendly".

"It's a nice mix of ages and abilities and it's very inclusive," Mr Wilkinson said.

The younger musicians said it was great to be among like-minded people, rather than feeling a bit out of the ordinary through their love of classical music.

This year's tutors also came from all over New Zealand, he said. They were members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Dunedin Symphony Orchestra and a jazz band.

The conductor is Peter Adams, from Dunedin, who has become a popular regular at the camp.

Renowned New Zealand composer John Rimmer, who is playing the French horn in the orchestra, has written a piece called *Waitaki Reflections* for the camp. It will have its international premiere at tomorrow's concert.

The programme also features Franck's *Symphony in*



Family interest . . . Anne Vawter (left) and her daughter Elizabeth have travelled from Blenheim to attend the Waitaki Summer Music Camp for the first time. Elizabeth is a violinist and her mother has been co-opted into the percussion section on cymbals. The Vawters are viticulturists from California who sailed around the world and landed in New Zealand when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. They sailed around New Zealand and have now settled in Blenheim. Mrs Vawter said her husband and other daughter would be coming to Oamaru to join them for a short break before the busy grape harvest.



Rehearsal . . . Conductor Peter Adams puts the musicians through their paces. Elizabeth Vawter the violinist from Blenheim via California, is in the centre.



The bees' knees . . . The horn players in the back row are sporting headbands this year.

D minor, Sibelius' *Karelia suite*, Elgar's *Serenade for strings*, Strauss' *Serenade for winds*, and ensemble work for brass.

Tickets are available at the door — \$15 for adults, \$5 for school-aged people, or \$30 for a family.

The camp has been running annually since 1996, with the exception of 2021 due to Covid-19.

It was originally organised by

Paul Claman and Al and Jenn Sands, who had attended music camps at Campbell Park Estate near Duntroon that were run by the University of Otago's extension department.

When those camps stopped, Mr Sands suggested they start their own version.

They chose Waitaki Boys' for its central location, auditorium, and hostel accommodation.



Loving it . . . Music camp co-organiser Tim Wilkinson slots into the strings section in between his administrative duties.