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School hosts summer music camp

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Rebecca Ryan | Wednesday, January 11, 2012 7:00

It may be school holidays, but Waitaki Boys' High School is full of life this week playing host to musicians from all over New Zealand for the annual Waitaki Summer Music Camp. More than 70 musicians have descended on Oamaru for the camp, now in its 16th year. Held each January, the 10 day camp is an opportunity for musicians of all ages to play orchestral, chamber and concert band music in a relaxed, sociable and fun environment. There are two programmes - the chamber music programme, run over the first four days and the orchestral programme, run this week.

Organiser Paul Claman said they were catering for participants who had travelled from all over New Zealand and Australia and whose ages ranged from nine to 80.

"There's such a range of different people here... They're from different places and have different skill levels, but they are all here for the same reason - a love of making music," he said.

Camp veteran Tim Wilkinson, of Christchurch, said the camp was always the highlight of his summer. "This is my seventh camp... It's just a lot of fun," he said.

Conductor Peter Adams from Otago University and tutors from Canterbury University, Southern Sinfonia, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra have been co-ordinating rehearsals.

Camp participants will play a lunchtime concert at the Oamaru Opera House at 1:30pm on Friday and a Saturday evening concert in the Waitaki Boys' High School auditorium where they have been preparing.

"There aren't many times this sort of thing happens in Oamaru. We've tackled some big numbers and with such a huge orchestra it will sound great," Mr Claman said.

Among the music being played will be Liszt's "Les Preludes", Elgar's "Enigma Variations", "Capriol Suite" by Warlock and "Symphonia Concertante" by Mozart.



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE: 2012 Waitaki Music Camp soloists Sarah Claman and Jc rehearse in the Waitaki Boys' High School on Tuesday afternoon. PHOTO/Rebecca R

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