

SYNERGY

MUSIC. DANCE. CULTURE.



NORTH SHORE WINDS SYNERGY 2026 BRUCE MASON CENTRE

FEATURING: Dust Palace • Tap NZ • Event Flair • Northern School of Performing Arts
Aotearoa Art Academy (新西兰艺术学院) • Doyle Academy of Irish Dance
Keys for Cure Dance Team • Lindy Hop Auckland • E-PACS Lion and Dragon Dance Group



LEAH MUNROE

Artistic and Musical Director / Conductor

Leah is the mastermind and lead coordinator behind Synergy, shaping its artistic direction and bringing its ambitious vision to life. This year's production marks the second instalment of the Synergy concept, following the well received 2024 debut. Leah also produced Heroes and Legends in 2025, a fun experience that blended dynamic film music with live stunts.

A highly versatile musician, Leah is both a composer and arranger, with a couple of her arrangements featured in this year's show. She is passionate about championing the often-unexplored world of wind band music, and she works tirelessly to highlight its expressive range, cultural value, and capacity to bring communities together. Her work is driven by a commitment to fostering collaboration, celebrating shared creativity, and creating highly engaging performances that are fresh and exciting.

MARIA FERNANDEZ

Master of Ceremonies



SPECIAL THANKS

STAGE MANAGER:

Steve Pipes

LIGHTING AND SOUND ENGINEERS:

Jacob Parkes and Lindsay Clements

STAGE HANDS:

Alesha Zink, Luka Stenton, and John Brockelbank

Venue Technical Manager:

Craig Dustin

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT:

Janet Channon and Sayaka Wild

PROGRAMME DESIGNER:

Jonathan Munroe

THE BAND

FLUTE

Michelangelo Bisquera
Bex Parkes
Kara Teale
Raewyn Winter
Petra Damianovich
Rebekah Monastra

PICCOLO

Michelangelo Bisquera

OBOE

Anthea Tok

CLARINET

Yvonne Wang
Jiacheng Yao
Charlie Bi
Dennis Liu
Rochelle Port
Yixuan Liu

BASS CLARINET

Georgia Alexander

BASSOON

Jonathan Lau
Glenys Rule

SAXOPHONE

Steve Sheriff
Jonathan Munroe
Shane Warman
Kai David
Kieran Galligan

TRUMPET

Hayden Patching
Greg Stockwell
Sang Hyun Kim
Callum Shuker-Brown

FRENCH HORN

Luke Thomson
Stephanie Manley
Sumire Sakakita

TROMBONE

Andrew Lile
Anga Uasike
Tavite Tonga

EUPHONIUM

Joshua Curham

TUBA

Kimi Chemlev
Daniel Hulley

ELECTRIC BASS

Joshua Fernandez

PERCUSSION

Mary Lewis
Joshua Chong
Sarah Fink
Isaiah Chong
Aiden Lee
Joshua Fernandez

PROGRAMME

FIRST ACT

Band only

Retro

Tico Tico

El Cumbanchero

Aotearoa Art Academy

Folksong of Midu

E-PACS Lion and Dragon Dance

Spring Festival

Northern School of Performing Arts

Die on this Hill

Lindy Hop Auckland

Moonlight Serenade

Doyle Academy of Irish Dance

Breakout

Dust Palace

Sòlas Ané

SECOND ACT

Tap NZ

September

Keys for Cure Dance Team

Golden

Lindy Hop Auckland

Sing, Sing, Sing

Event Flair

Mojito

Northern School of Performing Arts

Come Alive

Doyle Academy of Irish Dance

Gaelforce

Dust Palace

Thrash

Tap NZ

Where is My Husband!



NORTH SHORE WINDS

MUSICAE ET ANIMUS



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RETRO

MASAMICZ AMANO

This dynamic concert band piece composed by Masamicz Amano was commissioned as a required set piece for the 2023 All Japan Band Competition. Amano structured the work into three distinct parts designed to challenge ensembles with authentic, sophisticated jazz and pop harmonies. The piece serves as a technical showcase that blends nostalgic, retro musical idioms with intricate rhythms and dense chord progressions.

TICO TICO

ZEQUINHA ABREU
arr. NAOHIRO IWAI

Naohiro Iwai has adapted Zequinha de Abreu's famous 1917 Brazilian choro masterpiece, "Tico-Tico no Fubá" for wind band, infusing the traditional Latin piece with high-energy samba and jazz rhythms.

EL CUMBANCHERO

RAFAEL HERNANDEZ
arr. JÉRÔME NAULAIS

El Cumbanchero is a high-energy arrangement of the iconic Puerto Rican classic originally composed by Rafael Hernández. Reimagined by French composer and arranger Jérôme Naulais, this version transforms the infectious, fast-paced Latin piece into a thrilling showpiece featuring driving syncopated rhythms and vivid percussion sections. The arrangement builds an exciting dialogue between agile woodwind lines and powerful brass riffs, making it a popular, crowd-pleasing choice.



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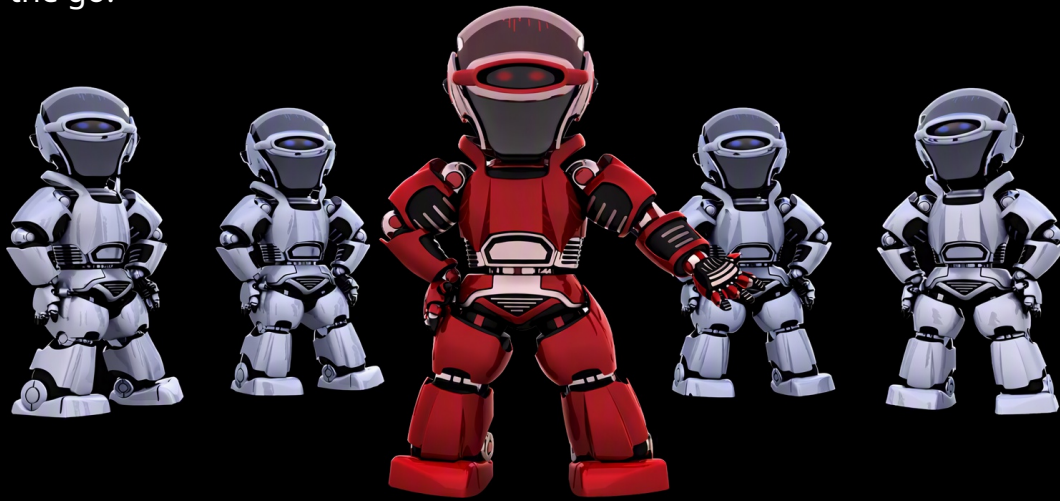
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FOLKSONG OF MIDU

LI CHAN

Folksong of Midu is built upon a traditional folk melody from Midu County, a mountainous region in southwest China's Yunnan Province. It blends pentatonic folksong writing with colorful modern wind band orchestration, evoking the lush mountain landscapes and vibrant community celebrations of the Bai people.

SPRING FESTIVAL

CHEN YI

A lively celebration of Lunar New Year traditions, Spring Festival draws its vibrant melodic themes from a southern Chinese folk ensemble piece titled "Lion Playing Ball". Remarkably, Chen Yi structured the composition using the ancient mathematical proportions of the Golden Section (the Golden Ratio), seamlessly blending traditional percussion-driven Chinese aesthetics with syncopated rhythms and contemporary Western techniques.

DIE ON THIS HILL

SIENNA SPIRO, OMER FEDI, MICHAEL POLLACK
arr. LEAH MUNROE

Die on this Hill is a raw, emotional ballad sung and co-written by British singer Sienna Spiro. Leah Munroe beautifully captures the soul of the ballad in this instrumental arrangement.

MOONLIGHT SERENADE

GLENN MILLER, MITCHELL PARRISH
arr. JOHN IVOR HOLLAND

John Ivor Holland captures the signature big band sound in this adaption of Glen Miller's legendary 1939 swing ballad, evoking a sense of warm nostalgia.

BREAKOUT

RONAN HARDIMAN
arr. PETER GRAHAM

Breakout serves as the electrifying third movement of the celebrated Cry of the Celts concert suite, which adaptively captures the music from Michael Flatley's global dance extravaganza, Lord of the Dance.

SÒLAS ANÉ

SAMUEL R. HAZO

Sòlas Ané (Gaelic for "Yesterday's Joy") is a captivating wind band piece, which beautifully blends lyrical, wistful woodwind solos, beginning with a distinctive, folk-like piccolo line with rich full-ensemble textures and powerful, driving Celtic drumming. The piece balances these intense, emotionally charged full-band passages with quiet and reflective moments.

SEPTEMBER

MAURICE WHITE, AL MCKAY, ALLEE WILLIS
arr. PAUL MURTHA

Paul Murtha preserves the infectious groove, driving bassline, and upbeat brass riffs of September, the iconic 1978 funk and disco hit by Earth, Wind & Fire.



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GOLDEN

MARK SONNENBLICK, TEDDY PARK, KIM EUN-JAE
arr. CALEB GOMES

Golden, arranged by Caleb Gomes, is a dazzling, cinematic wind band adaptation of the breakout K-pop anthem originally performed by the fictional group Huntr/X from the Netflix animated hit, KPop Demon Hunters. The original song has reached almost two billion views on YouTube.

SING, SING, SING

LOUIS PRIMA
arr. NAOHIRO IWAI

Naohiro Iwai masterfully reimagines the Benny Goodman big band sound in this exuberant arrangement of Louis Prima's iconic 1936 swing classic.

MOJITO

TAKASHI HOSHIDE

This composition is designed to evoke the crisp, sun-drenched atmosphere of dancing to cool mambo and Latin-pop rhythms under a tropical sky. The instrumentation expands upon a traditional symphonic wind section by integrating a heavy, rhythm-driven pop foundation that includes electric bass and an array of authentic Latin percussion.

COME ALIVE

BENJ PASEK, JUSTIN PAUL
arr. LEAH MUNROE

Come Alive was composed by Oscar and Tony-winning duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul for the hit 2017 musical film The Greatest Showman. This high-energy anthem has been meticulously transcribed for wind band by our very own Leah Munroe.

GAELFORCE

PETER GRAHAM

Gaelforce is written in the same infectious Celtic style as the Cry of the Celts suite. The piece exploits three traditional Irish folk tunes: The Minstrel Boy, Tossing the Feathers, and The Rocky Road to Dublin, which concludes the suite for a spirited finish.

THRASH

RANDALL D. STANDRIDGE

This "heavy metal overture" was directly inspired by the composer's junior high school days listening to 1980s metal bands like Metallica and Iron Maiden. The composition relies heavily on driving, syncopated rhythms, dissonant modern harmonies, intense percussion, and orchestrated power chords to replicate the untamed velocity and headbanging motion of thrash metal.

WHERE IS MY HUSBAND!

RACHEL KEEN, MICHAEL SABATH
arr. JOHN IVOR HOLLAND

Theatrical, humorous, and slightly chaotic, the song is built around a playful narrative: the singer is impatiently waiting for the man she believes she's destined to marry, wondering why he's taking so long to find her. While the search for true love might be taking its sweet time, finding the perfect beat with this exciting instrumental soundtrack for our guest dancers certainly didn't.

MATINEE PROGRAMME

Event Flair
Mojito

Northern School of Performing Arts
Come Alive

Aotearoa Art Academy
Folksong of Midu

Lindy Hop Auckland
Sing, Sing, Sing

E-PACS Lion and Dragon Dance
Spring Festival

Dust Palace
Thrash

Doyle Academy of Irish Dance
Breakout

Tap NZ
Where is My Husband!



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AOTEAROA ART ACADEMY

Founded in 2016, Aotearoa Art Academy has guided numerous students into prestigious international schools such as the Paris Opera Ballet School (France), Queensland Ballet Academy (Australia), and the Joffrey Ballet School (United States). Our vision is for New Zealand children to experience the highest calibre of training and opportunities, recognising that the dance world extends far beyond the shores of Aotearoa.

PERFORMERS: Alina Zhang, Angela Zheng, April Bai, Ariel Li, Ashley Bai, Cathy Yan, Chantelle Ge, Cindy Chen, Daric Li, Elsa Wei, Flora Liu, Hannah Chen, Rainie Zhao, Sarah Hu, Sean Jiang

CHOREOGRAPHER: Bin Wang



DOYLE ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE

The Doyle Academy of Irish Dance has shared the joy, energy and tradition of Irish dance in Auckland since 1998. Founded by sisters Leeann Doyle-Loftus and Paula Doyle-Hunkin, the Academy has grown from its South Auckland beginnings into a thriving Irish dance community with dancers of all ages and abilities. With a strong connection to Irish heritage, the Academy celebrates the traditional art form while embracing the athleticism, precision and excitement of modern Irish dance. Doyle Academy dancers have performed at festivals, sporting events, television and major celebrations throughout New Zealand, achieving success at regional, national and international competitions.



PERFORMERS:

Scarlett Cooper, Zoe Armstrong, Chalina Belsey, Daisy Dobson, Zoe Frogley, Kaea Kimitaunga, Elodie Jolly, Ellie Ledgerwood, Caitlin Garth, and guests.

CHOREOGRAPHER:
Paula Doyle

DUST PALACE

Founded in 2009 by Eve Gordon, Dust Palace is New Zealand's leading circus theatre company, blending acrobatics, aerial artistry, physical comedy and devised theatre into unforgettable live experiences. As well as performing original works all around the world, the Auckland-based company runs two circus schools, the Ellerslie Arts venue, and provides performances for events like this. The company has built a reputation for pushing the boundaries of what circus can be, training performers of all levels and fostering a creative, non-competitive community. Their work has taken them from local stages to international audiences, always driven by bold storytelling and world-class physical skill.

PERFORMERS: Eve Gordon, André de Jong, Luis Meirelles



E-PACS LION AND DRAGON DANCE

E-PACs Lion and Dragon Dance Team was founded in 1988 by Master Peter Low, initially as an Oriental cultural society with friends in Auckland, which eventually evolved over the decades into what is now the E-PACs Lion and Dragon Dance Team. Our team is dedicated to preserving the rich lion dance culture and passing it on to multiple generations in Auckland. Our team of performers range from children to adults, who dedicate their time and passion to learning and coaching the skills for lion and dragon dance. Combining skill, teamwork, discipline and cultural pride, our team brings the energy and symbolism of lion and dragon dancing to festivals, community events and cultural celebrations.

PERFORMERS: Bowen Dang, Toby Ko, Jeremy Gong, Joshua Gong, Bishop Lafaele-Pucher, Sam Chen, Cameron Ngini, Juanna Gong



EVENT FLAIR

Event Flair is a team of talented, award winning performers, transforming celebrations from great to spectacular through mesmerizing entertainment. Event Flair provides dancers, musicians, circus acts, roving actors and body painted models for events - we add flair! Our performers are handpicked so they are truly the 'best in the business', and with them we carefully create costumes, choreography, song lists and paint designs that amaze our clients, every time. Whether you want a dazzling dance performance, toe tapping tunes, incredible 'living' art or gravity defying moments - Event Flair is your answer.

PERFORMERS: Gonzalo Munoz, Alan So, Hobby Hafiz, Amy Lyes, Jemma Goeldner, Theresa Murphy (CHOREOGRAPHER)



KEYS FOR CURE DANCE TEAM

Keys for Cure Charity is a New Zealand registered charitable non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting youth mental wellbeing. We use the arts—particularly music and dance—as powerful tools for community engagement, youth development, and charitable fundraising. Through high-quality performances, creative projects, and youth-led initiatives, we bring together young people, families, professionals, and communities while creating meaningful opportunities for young performers to grow, connect, and contribute. Our goal is to build sustainable social impact through creativity, collaboration, and the power of performance.

PERFORMERS:

Ariel Wu, Cecilia Li, Jolie Zhou, Joyce Zhu, Kiki Zhao, Naomi Mok, Rita Xu, Taylor Zhang, Vivi Pan, Yuli Zhang, Katherine Wang

CHOREOGRAPHY:

Adapted from the original



LINDY HOP AUCKLAND

Lindy Hop Auckland is a vibrant swing dance community based in Auckland, bringing people together through the joy, rhythm, and connection of Lindy Hop. Rooted in African American jazz culture and developed in Harlem in the late 1920s and 1930s, Lindy Hop is known for its playful energy, improvisation, musicality, and strong sense of partnership. Swing music is at the heart of the dance, inviting dancers to be fully present, listening and responding to both the music and one another through movement and non-verbal communication. For SYNERGY, we're excited to bring this community spirit and the joyful energy of Lindy Hop to the stage alongside the North Shore Winds.



PERFORMERS:

Daisy Chen, Wayne Siu, Jared Brandon, Irene Ireland, Jesse Peeters, Cecillia Zhou

NORTHERN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Northern School of Performing Arts was formed in 2018 by Sophia Pedersen, Alicia Chadwick-Cook and Clare Saddington-Smith. This dynamic trio formerly owned Peaches and Pickles Performing Arts, Sole Movement and Northern Performing Arts – each very successful businesses in their own right. By merging and streamlining their companies, they have created an even more comprehensive performing arts school that reaches more people across northern Auckland. NSPA employs some of Auckland's best teachers who inspire, nurture and help children grow in all areas of dance, performing arts and beyond.



DANCING PERFORMERS: Avianna Broomfield, Indiana Connelly, Sophia Evans, Bailey Ewart, Eden Gibbons, Zamara Howard, Hannah Innes, Elliot Job, Caitlin King, Grace Larsen, Georgia O'Malley, Adelaide Ouwejan, Roxanne Perkins, Miela Stantiall, Lucy Sturrock

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER: Alicia Chadwick-Cook

SINGING PERFORMERS: Lily Barrett, Clio Bell, Sophie Douglas, Stephanie Harman, Isla Murray, Olive Neary-Echeverria, Abby O'Donoghue, Luca Patching, Mikayla Snell, Evengeline Ulugia, Millen Unkovich, Moana Williams

CHOREOGRAPHER: Tegan Hoskings **VOCALS:** Annelie Maddock **DIRECTOR:** Sophia Pedersen

TAP NZ

Tap NZ is New Zealand's leading Tap Dance Company, directed by Brandon and Cameron Carter-Chan. The company creates groundbreaking stage performances that captivate and inspire audiences through rhythm and sound. Featuring some of New Zealand's finest Tap Dancers, Tap NZ combines exceptional technical ability with dynamic, innovative performance. Two of the company's dancers have won the PACANZ Tap Nationals, in 2014 and 2024, while another won the Dance World Cup in Ireland in 2026. Tap NZ has staged sold-out shows across New Zealand and recently performed internationally at the World of Dance Finals and OC Tap Fest in Los Angeles.



PERFORMERS: Yigu Ye, Jonathan O'Connor, Daisy Insley, Amelia Irwin, Emily Cooper, Celina Lee

CHOREOGRAPHER:
Brandon Carter-Chan



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