

# ANNOUNCING - FORMATION OF NEW ORCHESTRA!!

Dear Students, Parents and Teachers,

A new string group '**The Virtuoso Strings**' is being formed for students who are not yet ready for the Wellington Youth Sinfonietta training orchestra. The new group is aimed mainly at string students who would find the Sinfonietta repertoire too challenging or need further experience in ensemble playing. It would also be suitable for advanced younger students who do not have the maturity or stamina to last through long Sinfonietta rehearsals or would prefer to socialise with kids closer to their own age. We would expect the majority of participants to be around Grade 3 to Grade 4 standard, however we believe we can also cater for motivated students at a lower level as well as more advanced young students in leadership roles. Adult students are also welcome to join provided they are currently receiving lessons.

Craig and I will operate and manage the new string group in collaboration with parents and teachers of students, particularly with regard to the choice of concert repertoire. We will also work cooperatively with existing ensembles where appropriate. The first half of each practice will be a sectional rehearsal followed by a relaxed afternoon tea and then an ensemble rehearsal. Our intention is to involve other teachers in the running of sectional rehearsals. Craig and I will jointly run the ensemble rehearsal with assistance from guest conductors.

*Rehearsal time:* Saturday afternoon during the primary school term from 1pm to 2:45pm

*Rehearsal venue:* New Zealand School of Music (to be confirmed)

*Annual fees:* \$300 (or \$200 for members of same family). A limited number of scholarships are available.

Auditions will be held on Saturday 18th February between 2pm and 5pm at 9 Fitzwilliam Tce, Tawa. Auditions are mandatory for students seeking leadership positions or solo opportunities, however *all other students will be accepted upon the recommendation of their teacher and need not audition.*

Please call 232-9200 or email [liz@virtuosostings.co.nz](mailto:liz@virtuosostings.co.nz) to request an application form.

Cheers,

Elizabeth Sneyd and Craig Utting