

Programme: Music Programme centenary celebrations weekend

Friday, 25 September

Event Welcome by Head of Programme, Professor Jen Cattermole

2.15pm

Location: Council Chamber Clock Tower

Afternoon presentations by Alumni

2.45pm – 5pm

Book Launch Social Evening

5:30pm – 7pm

***Ka mua, ka muri: 100 Years of Music at Otago University* by Ian Chapman**

The book features the lively stories and recollections of numerous staff and students who recount in their own words their experiences of teaching, studying and making music at Otago. Every book launch attendee will receive a complimentary copy of the book (\$54 RRP)

Introduced by: Terence Dennis

With performance by Emily Murphy.

Light meal provided.

Location: The Staff Club

Bangers and Brews 'pub singalong' at the Staff Club

Hosted by Arlie McCormick and Harriet Moir

7pm – 8.30pm

Bangers and Brews is a 'pub' singalong – you don't need to be able to sing in tune, but you do need to like blasting out a song with a glass of something in your hand.

Arlie will guide you through a well-known song with the lyrics on the screen. She arranges the songs into simple parts with harmonies and perhaps a call and response and even a touch of 'air guitar'.

It's super fun and very easy to follow. You're sure to have a great time! The songs will include some banging Kiwi hits from the '80s and '90s.

Location: The Staff Club

Saturday, 26 September

Workshops 10am – 3.15pm

AI in Music – a panel discussion

10 – 11am

Panel members: Hugh Harlow, Mike Holland, Grace Shaw, Neil Pickering, Xavier Johnson

As Generative Artificial Intelligence continues to develop and find its way into many facets of our lives, there is increasing debate about the role AI plays in music.

While some claim that Generative AI will democratize musical expression and creation, others warn of the negative effects that AI may have on musicians, music communities, and cultures. Join a panel of staff and postgraduate students as we explore some of the challenges and concerns brought about by AI.

Panelists will discuss their research into music AI and field questions from the audience.

Location: Tūi main studio , Performing Arts building, 90 Union Place East

Studio Experience at Te Korokoro o te Tūi

11:15am – 12:15pm

Facilitators: Hugh Harlow & Mike Holland

Other participants: Adelaide Dunn, Keira Wallace, string quartet (TBC)

[Te Korokoro o te Tūi](#) is the School of Performing Arts' purpose-built recording studio and production facility. Opened in 2020, Te Korokoro o te Tūi is a space for creativity in a range of contexts, from music recording to live theatre, and is home to projects for education, research, community and commercial purposes. As part of the centenary celebrations, we invite you into the studios to explore the spaces, observe some recording and mixing work, and find out more about the work our staff and students do in this state-of-the-art facility.

Location: Tūi main studio , Performing Arts building, 90 Union Place East

Ka mua Ka muri – Walking backwards into the future

1:15pm – 2:15pm

Facilitator: Terence Dennis

A facilitated discussion with alumni reflecting on the past, sharing individual experiences, and then looking ahead.

As we mark the music programme's first hundred years at Otago, what lessons can we draw from its history? How can those insights shape our vision for the next century, particularly at a time when university music programmes worldwide face significant challenges?

Location: Marama Hall

Taonga Pūoro Workshop

2:30 – 3:15pm

Facilitator: Jen Cattermole

Listen to, learn about, and get the opportunity to play taonga pūoro – traditional Māori musical instruments.

Location: Koro1.06 , Performing Arts building, 90 Union Place East

Concerts and Dinner

A Century of Sound: The Classical Centenary Concert

3:30pm – 5:00pm

Facilitator: Terence Dennis

Classical music has been performed at Otago University for one hundred years, its performers renowned for their technical mastery and brilliance. Join us as we turn the page on a century of excellence.

The celebration ignites with a majestic Opening Fanfare from our Brass Quintet, before we make history with the Dunedin Première of Anthony Ritchie's new Piano Trio, performed by TriOtago (Tessa Petersen, Heleen du Plessis and Terence Dennis).

Prepare to be spellbound by our guest artists, including Rebecca Ryan and Abhinath Berry.

The event also features mezzo-soprano Tessa Romano singing de Falla, Handel and Mozart, as well as performances by acclaimed pianists Terence Dennis and Tom McGrath.

The soaring grand finale, Leonard Bernstein's Let My Garden Grow, features the combined expertise of our senior Classical voice students.

Location: Marama Hall

Centenary Celebrations Dinner

6pm – 8:00pm

Celebrate a century of Music teaching and learning with us at the Music Centenary Celebrations Dinner. Come ready to enjoy a 3-course dinner and raise a glass to Music. Includes student musicians, complimentary drinks, and a cash bar. Location: Auahi Ora / the recently refurbished Student Union building

Music at 100: The Contemporary Edge Concert

8:00pm – 10:00pm

Facilitator: Arlie McCormick

Location: The Main Common Room, the Student Union building

As the sun sets on our centenary, we turn up the volume on the future of music at Otago. Experience an evening of talent, showcasing the diversity and creativity that defines today's musical landscape at Otago.

Feel the energy as local performers and current students The Cleos and Turtle Hearts share the stage with alumni stars Emily Alice and the iconic Jake Barton (of Summer Thieves fame). Hold onto your seats as the Musical Theatre Voice class ignites the room with a Broadway spectacular, performing 'Keep roaring on' from The Great Gatsby and the anthemic 'Footloose'.

The Cleos

A five-piece folk rock band from Ōtepoti formed in early 2025. The female fronted group is known in the student scene for their unique sound. The Cleos enjoy writing music in varying genres, including country, folk-rock and indie.

Check out a recent live to air recording at Te Korokoro <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJSVflHgmNI>

The Musical Theatre Voice class

Performing 'Keep roaring on' from the Great Gatsby and 'Foot Footloose' from Footloose.

Turtle Hearts

A local Ōtepoti band blending jazz, prog, and pop influences to create a unique sonic world. Formed at the University of Otago, the group brings together musicians from across the South Island, united by a love of genre-bending songwriting and intimate live performance.

After releasing their debut single, "Tom Frop," in 2025, Turtle Hearts quickly began establishing themselves in the local music scene, performing at venues and events across Ōtepoti. Their music combines intricate musicianship with catchy melodies, balancing playful experimentation with heartfelt storytelling

Emily Alice

A popular jazz-pop fusion band originating from Dunedin and currently based in Wellington, featuring lead vocalist Emily Kerr-Bell, key releases like the 2026 single "Find Out", and recent live performances including a sold-out show at Rogue and Vagabond in July 2026.

Jake Barton from Summer Thieves

Jake is a Singer-songwriter of Acoustic & Dirty Roots/Soul.

A highly accomplished vocalist & guitar player who first picked up a guitar at age 7, and started performing live at 13, Jake is the frontman of the band Summer Thieves who are signed to Universal Records NZ.