



KING'S HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS

ROCK BANDS, SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST AND SMOKEFREE TANGATA BEATS

King's bands have a proud history of entering the annual Smokefree Rockquest competition. In 2022, King's band Sense of Time showed their musical prowess and high energy live show and advanced through the regional events all the way to the national semifinal event in Christchurch.

In previous years MeloKeys have won awards for Best Vocalist (for singer Te Kahurangi Mclean) and have won the regional Tangata Beats award. Outside of these successes, many students have competed and had a fantastic experience performing their original music in a professional gigging environment.

SHAKESPEARE SHEILAH WINN FESTIVAL

The annual Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ University of Otago Regional Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival provides an opportunity for teachers and students who have a real passion for Shakespeare to perform scenes from the Bard's plays.

- 2024 King's placed 1st in Otago for the 15-minute teacher directed scene and will compete in Wellington.
- 2023 King's gained two Judges Discretionary Awards, one a Notable Performance Award and one for Costumes in the Otago competition.
- 2022 One of our students Daniel Honey was selected to perform at the Globe Theatre in London.



2021 King's placed 1st in Otago for the 15-minute teacher directed scene and went on to compete in Wellington.

2020 King's placed 1st in Otago for the 15-minute teacher directed scene and 1st for the 5-minute student directed scene and went on to compete in Wellington.

SONG WRITING AND MUSIC COMPOSITION

Composition and song writing are key components of Music and Music Technology classes at King's. In addition to this, many students will continue to hone their craft through lunchtimes using the practice rooms and recording studio. A song writing club runs at King's where students can come along to learn the basics of song writing such as developing musical ideas, structuring songs and writing lyrics. This takes place most lunchtimes and can be done in small groups or one-to-one. We are very proud of the fact that many current and former students have crafted music in our facilities and have commercially released that music to the world.

Student-led band Sense of Time have leveraged demos recorded in our studio to get gigs in the local live music scene. Former student Ben Horlock has been steadily working on music professionally, working with re-nowned producers and record labels. Former student Tomuri Spicer was named as a finalist in the Play It Strange Lion Foundation Song Writing Competition in both 2019 and 2020, for each, winning a day in a professional recording studio and had his songs released through the Play It Strange compilation album. Tomuri's prolific song writing also saw him receive 2nd place in the Hook, Line and Singalong song writing competition, and first prize in the Uke-Can-Do-It song writing competition.

THEATRESPORTS

Theatresports is not only enjoyable and challenging. It is also a valuable activity for any Drama student. The games played help to develop the skills of improvisation, which are essential for all actors on-stage and give performers a huge amount of confidence.





PERFORMING ARTS

Through involvement in the performing arts, students explore, challenge, affirm and celebrate unique artistic expressions of self, community and culture.

The school strives to provide students with a diverse range of opportunities to help them develop the interest and passion they have for performing.

CHAMBER MUSIC

A chamber music group is a small ensemble group of instrumentalists. Playing in ensembles requires young musicians, regardless of standard or experience, to perform together and strive towards excellence. Each year King's aims to provide this experience to those who show the interest and commitment. Those involved can enter the New Zealand Chamber Music competition.

CHOIR

Singing in a choir is a fantastic creative outlet, a great social activity and wonderful for wellbeing. Currently, King's has two choirs – ACafellas – our all-comers choir and Polyhymnia, our auditioned choir which is combined with students from Queen's High School. The boys in both choirs clearly enjoy a real sense of loyalty and camaraderie as they work towards major events such as The Big Sing, Prizegivings, Special assembly performances and events as well as invitations to perform outside of the school. In both 2023 and 2024, Polyhymnia was celebrated for its high-calibre performance at The Big Sing and was invited to compete in the Cadenza.

CONCERT BAND

The recently re-formed King's Concert Band (previously Orchestra) welcomes all students learning orchestral or jazz band instruments to get involved in group music making. Rehearsals are always a fun occasion, with light-hearted, modern repertoire and much light banter.

DEBATING

Debating is an excellent social activity for boys interested in developing their confidence as public speakers and

Involvement in the performing arts enables students to become:

- Confident through continual performance opportunities
- Connected through group/band/ensemble activities; they learn to relate well to others
- Involved in general cultural participation at school and in the wider community.

thinking about and debating controversial issues. King's has a strong track record of performance in the Dunedin Schools' Debating Competition. In 2022 our debating team had the distinct pleasure of winning the regional debating champs, winning Dunedin Schools' Debating and winning all three interschool competitions. We also had students selected for the Otago Regional Schools Debating Team and coached by members of the Otago University Debating Society.

Our inter-house competition at King's also includes a hotly contested debating event. This is often the highlight of the inter-house calendar for the boys involved. The interschool exchanges King's has with other Boys' Schools also often include debating.

ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS

The Itinerant Music Scheme is a government funded education scheme that allows students to learn a musical instrument. Lessons take place in school time, for 30 minutes, and are taught by specialist, qualified tutors through the Itinerant Music Programme.

JAZZ BAND

Directed by Paul Claman and assisted by music staff from both King's and Queen's High Schools, the Jazz Band comprises students from Years 9 - 13 who play any instrument found in a Jazz ensemble. Annually, the band works towards competing in the Dunedin Youth Jazz Festival as well as performing at various school and local events. In recent years they have been the Runner-up big band and won awards for improvisation, instrumental skills, and best swing item (twice).

KAPA HAKA – HE WAKA KŌTUIA

He Waka Kōtuia is the King's and Queen's High Schools Māori performing arts group. They perform traditional and contemporary songs and haka that tell the stories of our connection to our land, celebrates our ancestors and their deeds, and promotes indigenous values for the generations to come.

Annually, He Waka Kōtuia competes at Te Hautoko, showing their immense dedication to their craft and culture. In 2023, many months of practice and hard work paid off with a tightly-controlled, powerful performance. They gained first place in most categories and first place overall. This is the third consecutive win for He Waka Kōtuia at Te Hautoka and qualified the group for entry in next year's National Competition again.

MUSICAL

King's has a long history of producing musical theatre of a high standard. Combining music, dance and drama with set design, lighting and costume, many of our past and present students remember their experiences in their high school musical fondly. Working annually with Queen's High School, past shows have included The Little Shop of Horrors, Les Miserables, Jesus Christ Superstar, Spamalot, The Lion King and Cats. The experience brings together expertise in all aspects of musical theatre, allowing a variety of opportunities for those of any standard or experience who are interested in on or off stage roles.

KINGS OF THE PACIFIC

Kings of the Pacific is the performing group for Pasifika students at King's. They perform both traditional and contemporary songs that tell the stories of their connection to the Pacific Islands which celebrate their ancestors and their deeds. They represent the values and hard work that have been instilled in them by their families and have a lot of fun along the way.

The Kings of the Pacific are a highlight of the annual Polyfest celebrations, devoting much of Term 3 to honing a professional show. Throughout the year, they perform

at many school and community events and bring a pride in their culture wherever they go.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

As the number one adult phobia, but also as one of the most significant life skills, King's places a rightful emphasis on public speaking. At King's, we have an annual, Year 9 and Year 10 Speech Competition, both of which are hotly contested and enjoyed with a presentation in the Performing Arts Centre.

As a highlight on the junior calendar, King's also hosts the Otago-wide Secondary Schools' Speech Competition, which sees contestants from High Schools across Otago come together to present their best.

In 2023, Dunedin hosted the National Manu Kōrero Speech Competition. He Waka Kōtuia were there over the three days to participate in the pōwhiri and support speakers from the group, including Kingsman Te Atarau Cassidy on the Wednesday and Zane Rakete-Gray on Thursday.

Zane won the competition, taking home the Jerry Ratima Memorial Trophy for his 10 minute speech in te reo Māori, in which he spoke about the challenges and rewards of transitioning from a Kura Kaupapa Māori to an English-medium high school. His hard work paid off with a lively and fluent delivery, impressing judges and audiences alike.

ROCK ACADEMY

The King's Rock Academy was started to give extension opportunities to junior students who arrive with musical experience. After auditioning, students form bands and begin working towards learning covers, writing original music and preparing for live performances and studio recording situations. This is a fantastic way for junior students to not only meet and work with their musical peers, but also begin preparing for competitions like Smokefree Rockquest and Tangata Beats.