

## Background

For 56 years, the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra has provided diverse orchestral experiences by and for the Dunedin community contributing to Dunedin's thriving cultural scene and events. This is through:

- DSO concerts: from musical treasures by Bach to Rachmaninov, Dunedin's own Anthony Ritchie and The Chills, *Songs of Moana* to community events such as *Beethoven's Big Bash*.
- A wide range of educational outreach projects: a junior Academy to Masterclasses, including collaborations with the University.
- Accompaniment e.g. for City Choir Dunedin's 'Messiah' and Opera Otago's 'Die Fledermaus'
- Performances around Otago.

The orchestra employs c. 80 Dunedin musicians for its concerts, and engages top-quality conductors and soloists from Dunedin, from around New Zealand and from around the world.

## Summary: DSO's contribution to Dunedin culture and request for restoration of DSO's previous grant level

- The DCC's investment in arts and culture provides the foundation stone for the community's cultural vitality.
- In particular, consistent and substantial funding from the DCC has enabled the orchestra to make its significant contribution to Dunedin's culture since 1966 – for 56 years.
- The DSO notes the recent changes in funding available to arts organisations through the DCC's Grants Sub-Committee.
- The DCC's 2020/2021 grant to the DSO was decreased by nearly \$40,000 – a 30% decrease.
- It is the long-term and strategic consequences of this that the DSO wishes to address, including the sustainable capability of the DSO to contribute to the city's long-term strategic artistic objectives.

## The effect of the DCC's 30% reduction in the DSO's grant

- In more normal times, the DSO's level of activity is predicated on receiving its core funding from three sources: Creative NZ, DCC and Otago Community Trust. In return for Creative NZ's funding, it requires the DSO to operate as a City Orchestra, maintaining certain levels of activity and maintaining its artistic standards, and for 56 years the DSO has demonstrated that it is capable of doing this.
- In 2020, the 30% decrease in the DCC's grant was coupled by an effective increase of \$24,000 p.a. in the hire cost for the Town Hall, resulting in a shortfall of \$60,000 p.a.
- In order to sustainably manage this shortfall, a strategic re-set for the DSO could include a proportional reduction in activity e.g. the reduction of 20% in core concerts
- DSO is funded by Creative NZ as a City Orchestra on the basis that:
  - o [the orchestra] presents "a regular programme of quality, live orchestral music being available for audiences in the city".
  - o CNZ's expectation that other public agencies such as "local government and/or other publicly funded organisations" to also contribute at least 20% to a city orchestra's revenue. (20% of the DSO's revenue would equate to a \$200,000 grant from the DCC, as the DCC is the sole organisation in this category.)
- A reduction in activity and a reduction in local government funding may impact on the DSO's ability to continue to match CNZ's funding criteria for future funding in the City Orchestra category

## Current contributions by the DSO to DCC's arts and culture outcomes

### Identity, Pride and Inspired Connections

- Connecting Dunedin's diverse communities through orchestral music
- The main provider of orchestral experiences in Dunedin for Dunedin's community

- Showcasing Dunedin musicians: In 2021 ...

80 Dunedin orchestral musicians employed	50% of DSO soloists are from Dunedin	33% of DSO conductors are from Dunedin	c. 80 community musicians on stage for <i>Beethoven's Big Bash</i>	c. 15,000 people p.a. inspired by DSO performances	c. 20 Dunedin community groups hire Hanover Hall each year
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- Creative connections with the University – offering University staff and students unique high level professional orchestral experience. In 2021 ...

40% of the DSO conductors, soloists and players are University lecturers or students	61% of players have studied or are studying at the University	University collaborations: Pre-concert talks, Composers Workshop, Masterclasses, DSO scholarship, tuition support
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- Promoting Dunedin, its music and musicians, and bringing the world of music to Dunedin

International links: Bringing international conductors and soloists to perform to Dunedin audiences and to inspire Dunedin musicians	Proudly promote Dunedin's musicians through digital media.  Permanent concerts: Digital concerts	Time travel: Musical treasures from over 5 centuries: Bach to Anthony Ritchie.	Collaborations with Dunedin Youth Orchestra, City Choir Dunedin, Dunedin Arts Festival, Dunedin Fringe Festival, University of Otago, Opera Otago, NZ International Science Festival, Saturday Morning Music Classes, Alzheimers Otago, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras, Queenstown's Turn Up the Music Trust, Radio NZ, Video Factory.
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### Access and Inclusion – Growing our future players and audiences –Diversity

Inspiring c.10,000 children at 38 Otago schools – DSO schools tours (2019)	170 free tickets for school children. Free <i>Halloween</i> tickets for Covid-19 Essential Workers	For young audiences: <i>Beethoven to Baby, Halloween</i>	For diverse audiences: <i>Tally Ho!, Songs of Moana</i>	Community inclusion: Alzheimers Otago concert, <i>Beethoven's Big Bash</i>	Accessible: Hanover Hall concerts – pay what you can, venues wheel-chair friendly	Digital concerts: access across Dunedin, New Zealand, and overseas
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## Financial Resilience – Creative Economy (2019 figures)

77% increase in sponsorships from 2018	Donations exceeded \$60,000	Turnover over \$1 million	Bringing \$330,000 central government investment in Dunedin p.a.	Doubling of DSO investment in Development Manager’s position. Launch of several fundraising initiatives	30% of DSO players have returned from other NZ centres or overseas to work in a variety of trades – enhancing Dunedin’s skill pool and its creative economy
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### What DSO supporters say

- “Love the DSO and grateful that Dunedin has a wonderful orchestra with talented musicians, conductors & composers.”
- “Keep the DSO viable...it makes us a city...Dunedin is very lucky!”
- “We came out of the concert last night positively beaming. We met friends who said, "we could have been in Europe", which pegs the standard very high indeed. It is difficult to think of much more to say when you lifted several hundred people out of the doldrums and elevated most to cloud 9, where we floated for the rest of the evening. Dunedin is proud of its orchestra and we look forward to the season ahead. Thanks for a magnificent job well done.”

### Conclusion

- The DSO is an iconic Dunedin cultural institution enhancing the well-being of thousands of Dunedin citizens every year through inspiring orchestral events and experiences.
- The DSO requests the DCC consider re-instating funding to the DSO to \$120,000 so that the orchestra can operate sustainably.
- The DSO requests that the DCC re-consider the mechanism by which the DSO is funded so as to ensure long-term sustainability for one of New Zealand’s major orchestras. This could for example include greater resourcing being made available to the Grants Sub-Committee.
- The value of the DCC’s investment in its arts and culture is incalculable. Thanks to the city’s investment in the DSO for 56 years, the city’s music has flourished. Appropriate funding will ensure the DSO can continue to play its part in contributing to the well-being of the city’s citizens into the future.

### Contact details:

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The DSO wishes to speak to its submission in-person.

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