



# The Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan



# Workshop outline

- Workshop purpose
- Defining “live music”
- Ōtepoti Dunedin live music history and landscape
- Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan 2023 -2026
- Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan 2026 - 2029
- Next steps





# Workshop purpose

- Provides an overview of the original Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan (ŌMLAP)
- Introduces you to the ŌLMAP refresh: a community-infused document
- This plan:
  - builds on the success of the ŌLMAP 2023 – 2026
  - highlights how we can continue developing connections between :
    - DCC teams
    - musicians
    - venues
    - local, national & international audiences
  - outlines a pathway that reflects the goals and aspirations of the live music community.

This plan contributes to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our city.





# What is “live music”?

“Live music” is an in-person performance by an individual musician, a band, or a collective of musicians, singers, or noise artists. Live music can have an audience of one person, a stadium of loyal fans, or roaming listeners during a street festival.

Live music can turn into a song or album that is captured online and in physical media, which can, in time, become the soundtrack of a city, a moment in time, or a memory.

“Art is how we decorate space; music is how we decorate time.”

*Jean-Michel Basquiat*

Ōtepoti Dunedin has been decorating time since it was settled by Māori and then settled in 1848.



# Dunedin: decorating time with live music



Kāi Tahu haka,  
waiata, mōteatea  
and oriori



Charles Begg &  
co Pianos est.  
1861



The Crown Hotel  
est. 1862



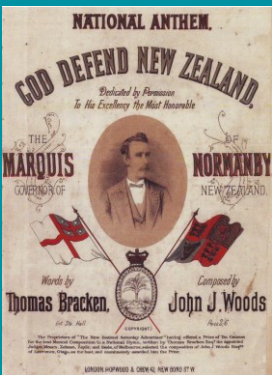
Dunedin Youth Orchestra  
Est. 1972



Whare Flat Folk  
Festival est.  
1975



*Soon may the  
Wellerman come*  
Sea shanty  
(1831)



*God Defend New  
Zealand* written and  
premiered at the  
Queens Theatre (1876)



Dunedin Choral  
Society est. 1871



Dunedin Symphony Orchestra est. 1966



University of Otago Music  
Department est. 1926





# Dunedin: decorating time with live music

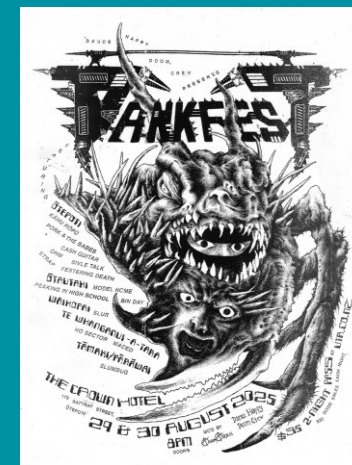
RadioOne  
Student  
radio  
station  
est. 1984



Lines of Flight Festival est.  
2000



Fea Stock est. 2009



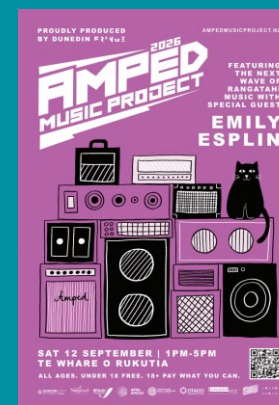
DankFest est.  
2019



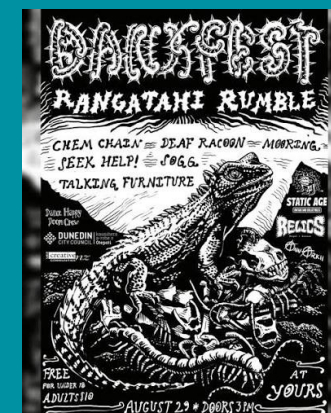
Otago Access  
Radio est. 1990



Otago Polyfest est. 1993



Amped Music  
Project est. 2010



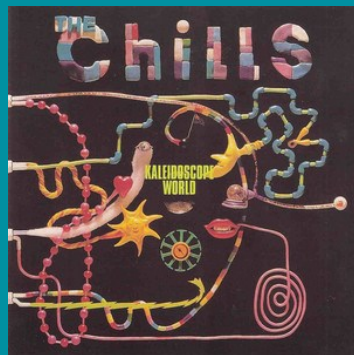
Rangatahi  
Rumble est. 2023



## Dunedin: people that decorate time with live music

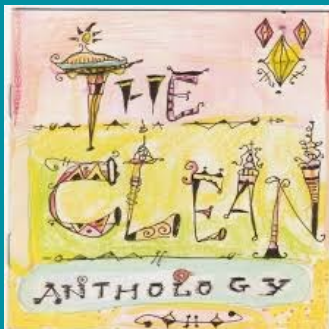


The Verlaines



The Chills

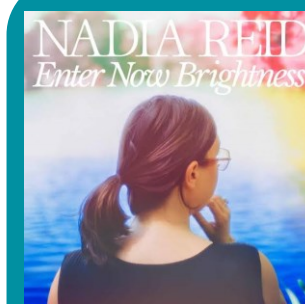
### The Dunedin Sound



The Clean



Jonathan  
Lemalu



Nadia Reid



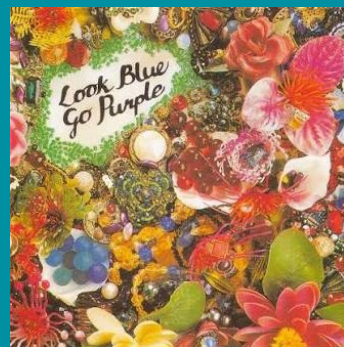
Six60



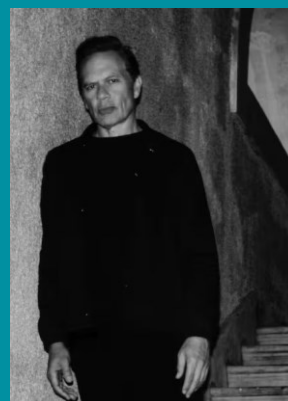
Dale Kerrigan



Netherworld  
Dancing Toys



Look Blue Go  
Purple



Shayne Carter



Night Lunch



SEEK HELP!

# Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan 2023-2026

The ŌLMAP was adopted by Council in 2023.

Within this plan, there were four key themes:

- *Supporting Artists*
- *Supporting Audience*
- *Supporting the live music ecosystem*
- *Supporting the live music infrastructure*

In the refresh, these themes will remain, with innovation happening at the implementation stage





These themes framed up the Implementation Plan that sat alongside the plan:

**THE ŌTEPOTI  
LIVE MUSIC  
ACTION PLAN**

**DUNEDIN** | Kaupihara  
CITY COUNCIL | Ōtepoti



# Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan 2023-2026

Since 2023, Ara Toi has worked alongside teams within the DCC, and in partnership with the community to deliver:



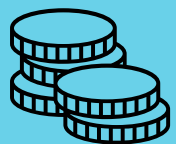
A Noisy! Spaces! Guide that highlights free and low-cost rehearsal spaces around the city

Developed an online weekly gig guide



SECOND  
GENERATION  
DISTRICT PLAN

Acoustic inner city insulation standards (2GP)



Supported music projects via contestable funding

Developed resources to support the delivery of safe and accessible gigs (Gigs101)



Facilitated a Music Advisory Panel which was established in 2024





# ŌLMAP: Music Advisory Panel

Francisca Griffin

*Chair, musician, advocate*

Councillor Steve Walker

*DCC portfolio lead*

Karl Brinsdon

*Music studies graduate, musician  
and community member*

Dave Bennett

*Representatives of Save  
Dunedin live Music, sound  
technician*

Bea Ward

*Dunedin Youth Orchestra Chair  
person*

Councillor Mickey Treadwell

*DCC portfolio lead*

Dr Fairleigh Gilmour

*Representatives of Save  
Dunedin live Music, musician*

Stephen Stedman

*University of Otago school of Performing Arts, Studio  
manager at Te Korokoro o Te Tūi*



The Music Advisory Panel reflects vast industry knowledge, technical and musical expertise, and years of experience in the sector. The panel provides feedback on how the plan is realised, and allows for a collaborative approach in both addressing concerns and celebrating wins for live music in Ōtepoti.





# ŌLMAP: Ōtepoti Hou Compilation 2026

2025/2026 saw the delivery of Ōtepoti Hou, a compilation of 10 original songs by Dunedin-based musicians, bands, and cultural groups. This project was an innovative way to:

3)

Prioritise the support of community music organisations that regularly provide development opportunities – particularly for youth & Māori, Pāsifika musicians

2)

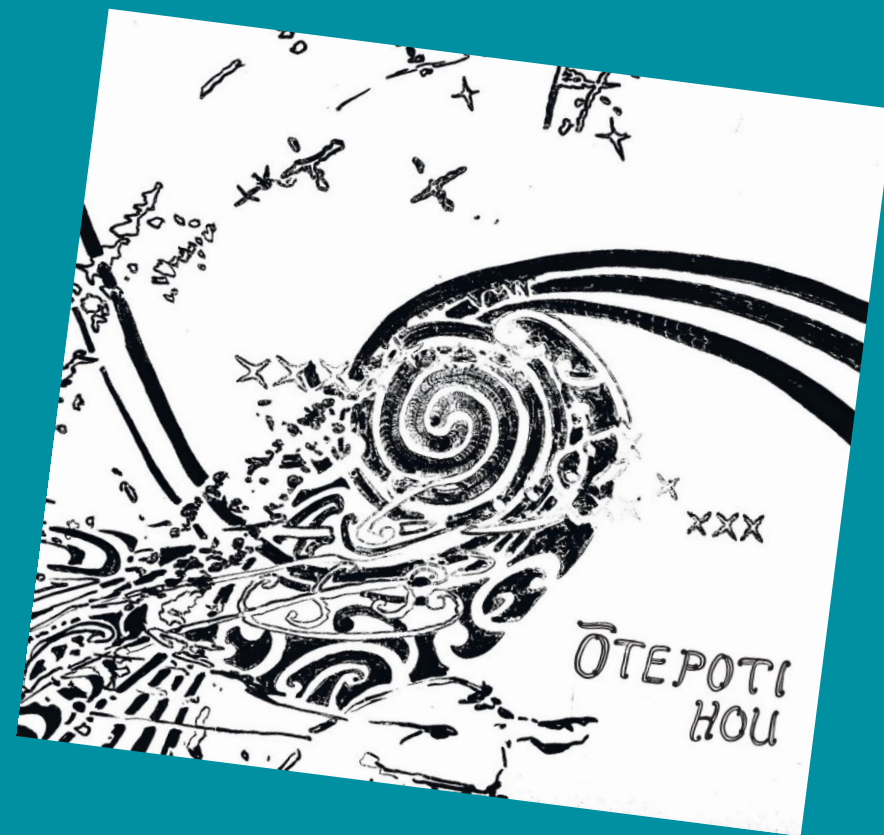
Establish mentorships to support sustainable career opportunities for music practitioners.

6)

Support the development of professional and technical production skills for local, early career musicians

17)

Include music-focussed events in DCC marketing & promotion and support new and unique ways to promote live music in Ōtepoti





# ŌLMAP: Ōtepoti Hou Compilation 2026

The album was launched during NZ Music Month this year

## MEDIA COVERAGE



92 likes, comments and over 2k views

Otago Daily Times covering the vinyl launch on Saturday May 23rd



Review in the Sunday Star Times (June 7<sup>th</sup>)



Rachel Ashby wearing Ōtepoti Hou merch on the NZ Music Commission socials



Download the free album here





# ŌLMAP: Ōtepoti Hou Compilation 2026

The



## LISTENERSHIP

SRN Hit Picks ft. HŌHA (May 31<sup>st</sup>)

**HIT PICKS**

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| RADIO ACTIVE FM 101.5 | VENUS MAE      |
| RADIO 101.5           | CRASH OUT      |
| 95.1 FM               | SEEK HELP!     |
| 104.9 FM              | MADE WITH HATE |
| 104.9 FM              | OSKI X SHI     |

WHO ARE THE SRN?

**SRN TOP 10**  
TE TEKAU O RUNGA REREKĒ (O AOTEAROA)

WEEK 21 ENDING SUNDAY JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | BANANAS          |
| 2  | MEDICINE         |
| 3  | ABANDONED CRYING |
| 4  | MEDICINE         |
| 5  | CRASH            |
| 6  | MELODY           |
| 7  | BLAKE            |
| 8  | HŌHA             |
| 9  | LOVE REMAINS     |
| 10 | CRASH            |

Student Radio Network Top10 ft. HŌHA (June 7<sup>th</sup>)

Wednesday 7 June  
"These girls!"  
Every Wednesday night have your chance to win Radio One's Top 11. Counting down the top 11 tracks on the Radio One playlist. 8PM - 10PM. Join Mazgran and team. Who will save the top spot? Tune in to find out. Or vote online at [www.radioone.co.nz](http://www.radioone.co.nz). Voting closes Thursday 8PM.

Make your choice - Vote Now!

RadioActive Chart (June 10<sup>th</sup>) ft. Tough Guy's Whakapapa as a voting option

**Radio One Top 11 Countdown**

|                                    |                               |                  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1                                  | Emily Esplin (Dn)             | EAT ME ALIVE     |
| 2                                  | HŌHA (Dn)                     | Quickly          |
| 3                                  | Ammonita (Dn)                 | Walnut           |
| 4                                  | Phaedra Love (Dn)             | Placeholder      |
| 5                                  | Vagina Dry (Dn)               | Brutalised       |
| 6                                  | Logan Edwards (Dn)            | Isla             |
| 7                                  | Scapegoat MERCY (Dn)          | LOVE             |
| Feat. Levine Lale & Jessica Kokaua |                               |                  |
| 8                                  | SEEK HELP! (Dn)               | Thus With A Kiss |
| 9                                  | Aldous Harding (NZ)           | I Ate The Most   |
| 10                                 | boyrcracer (NZ)               | OUTFIT           |
| 11                                 | The Mentalist Collective (Dn) | E Rere           |

Mazgran Hit Picks  
Jon Stevens (NZ) - Jezebel (Dice's Update)  
EMILIE X BKAY (NZ) - Underground

Radio One Top 11 ft. HŌHA, Scapegoat Mercy & SEEK HELP! (June 10<sup>th</sup>)

**THE 95b FM TOP TEN**  
10 JUNE 2026  
WITH ELLA AND KATLYN

|    |                                          |
|----|------------------------------------------|
| 1  | JUNNY - LINE 19                          |
| 2  | MAINARD LARKIN, TOM LARK - LOST MY SMILE |
| 3  | CINDY - ALL THE NICE PEOPLE              |
| 4  | CCTV - COWBOY SONG                       |
| 5  | CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY - BUSY GARDEN  |
| 6  | DATLINE - MELTDOWN                       |
| 7  | LEAO - LALELEI                           |
| 8  | HŌHA - QUICKLY                           |
| 9  | KNEECAP - FENIAN                         |
| 10 | MARSHA - MAGDALENE                       |

95bFm Top 10 ft. HŌHA (June 10<sup>th</sup>)

Radio One Top 11

1. HŌHA - QUICKLY

HŌHA in the R1 Top11 (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)

7. THE MENTALIST COLLECTIVE (Dn) - E RERE

8. Phaedra Love (Dn) - Placeholder

9. Fables (NZ) - Eyes Closed

10. Vera Ellen (NZ) - thaw

11. Aldous Harding (NZ) - I Ate The Most

Mazgran Hit Picks  
SEEK HELP! (Dn) - Thus With A Kiss  
Scapegoat MERCY (Dn) - LOVE  
feat. Levine Lale & Jessie Kokaua

1. 95.1 FM

Mazgran Hit Picks ft. SEEK HELP! & Scapegoat Mercy ft. Levine Lale & Jesse Kokaua (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)



Download the free album here



# Why do we need an ŌLMAP refresh?

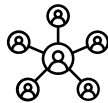
We have achieved a lot in the three years in collaboration with the community, but there are areas of the plan to improve, evolve to meet the current climate, and reflect the shifting needs for live music in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Through conversations with the community and the Music Advisory Panel, we know that:



Our live music scene continues to grow and diversify



There is more music being made and performed by our youth



We have the foundation to build a strong, resilient ecosystem to support live music



We need to address systemic issues that are keeping Dunedin from being included in the tour circuit, or considered as a destination for live music



# Progress on the ŌLMAP refresh

- Conversations underway with:

DCC teams

Venue owners

*Dunedin Youth Council*

Musicians

Music Teachers

Community leaders

Music mentors

Music Festival  
organisers

Music Advisory Panel

Music organisations

Disability Issues Advisory Group

# Progress on the ŌLMAP refresh

- Conversations underway with:

Dunedin Youth Council

Community leaders

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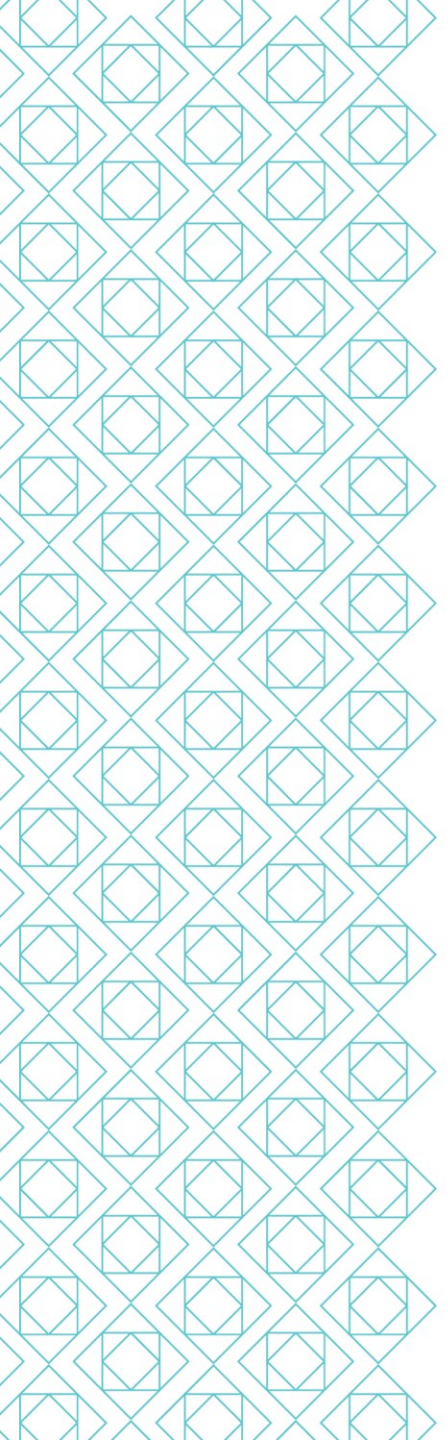
- We asked four questions:

1. What do you like about the live music here in Dunedin?

What are the main challenges or issues for live music in Dunedin?

3. What would a great live music scene in Dunedin look like?

4. Anything else you would like to add?



# What we are hearing:

- What the community love:

Youth music scene

The “Do it yourself/do it together” attitude of the community

The venues, the talent, the support systems, and the resilience of the community

The range of music genres and gigs

Infrastructure: OAR, RadioOne, Amped, Dunedin Youth Orchestra, Dunedin Jazz Club, third spaces like Yours

The quality of output: musical talent in the city of this size and constant regeneration

- What the community find challenging:

Lack of adequate rehearsal spaces, and third spaces

Not many opportunities or spaces to pursue professional opportunities

Lack of venues, impacting touring of shows

Not enough outdoor/street festivals

Grants funding not matching rising costs

Effective promotion of events

Cost of booking large local venues



# What we are hearing

What a thriving live music scene would look like:



“Something for everyone to go to every day / every night”



“Lots of **free/outdoor accessible events.**”



“A thriving Ōtepoti music scene is one where **people can afford to make music**, have somewhere to practise [and] perform it, and have pathways to keep developing.”



“**Stronger pathways** for rangatahi”



“I love the new bands emerging, Dunedin records and the 4 eps release. Also loved the Ōtepoti Hou compilation. **I feel positive about the future**”



“More **venues for all ages gigs** and alcohol free spaces.”



“**Multi year funding** would provide certainty.”



“More venues and choice for performers”  
“**Retention of community centred spaces.**”



“Lots of **collaboration between the different scenes.**  
Easier access for people who don't have money.”



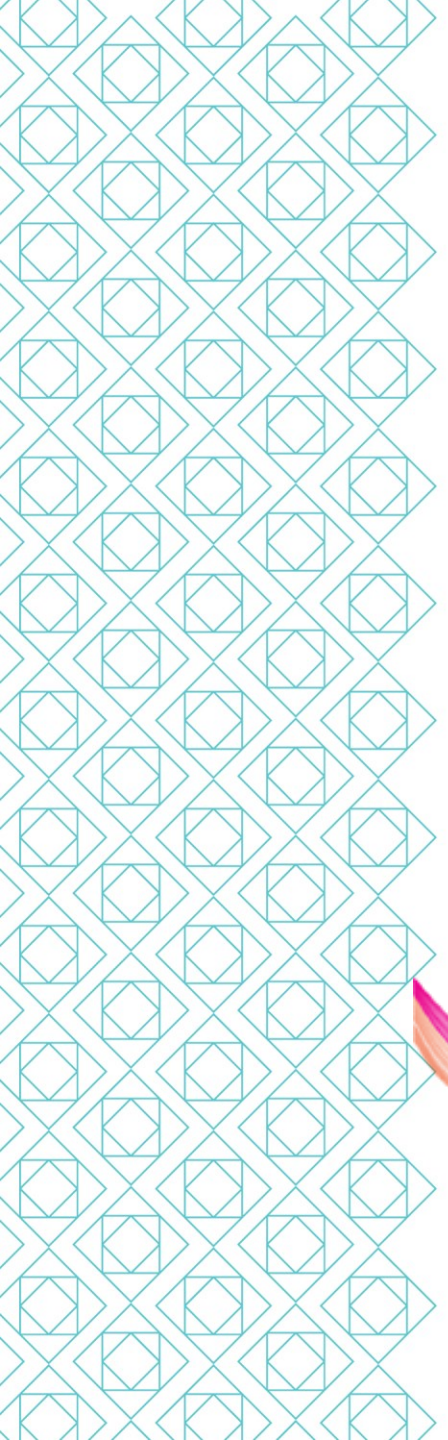
“We have such a **unique culture** here. It needs and deserves to be nurtured”



“**More international and big national acts** coming to Ōtepoti more regularly. More support for Dunedin musicians to record and release music, and to tour.”

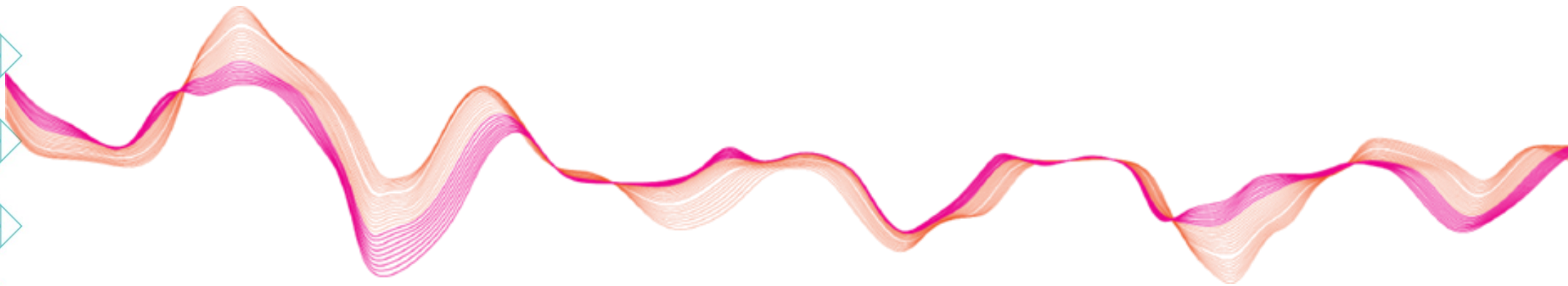


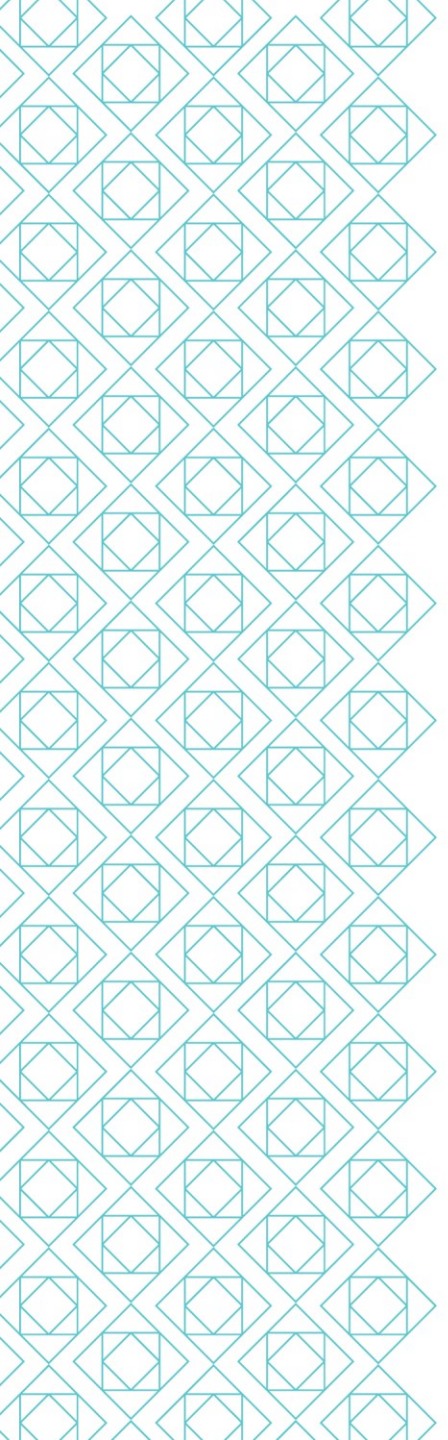
“**Abundant resourced rehearsal spaces.** A gear library (Kaituna Library Makers Space)”



# Key themes, refreshed approach

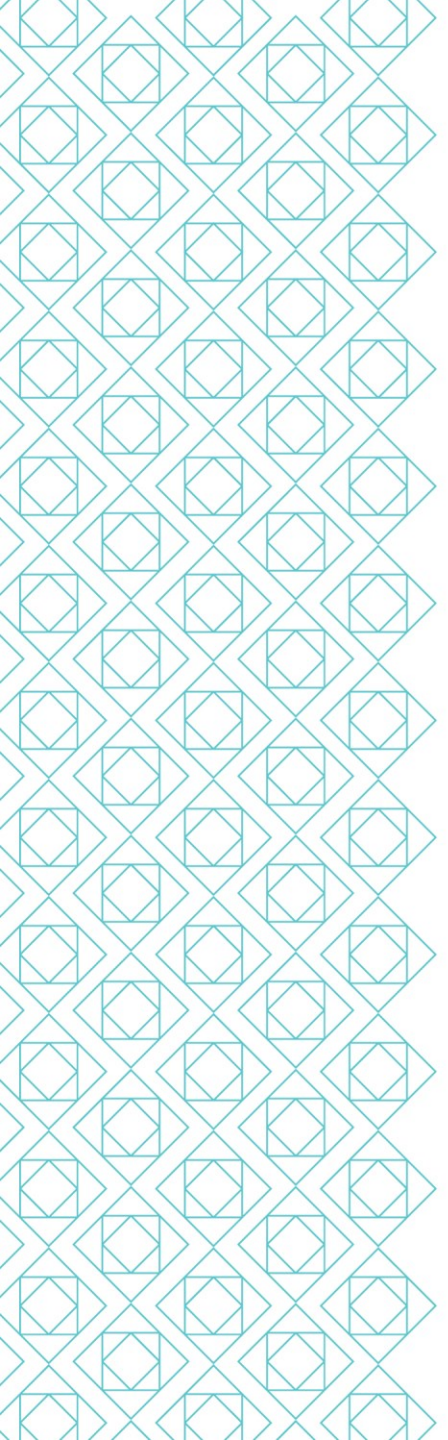
- The plan will reflect the same themes, with a refreshed approach that acknowledges the new challenges, and takes an innovative approach to ongoing issues facing live music
- This approach is strengthened through an inter-departmental DCC approach, a strong Music Advisory Panel, and ongoing conversations with community.





# Current landscape

- Cost of living crisis
- Changing audience behaviours
- Disconnected touring destination
- Large-scale changes to funding landscape



## Next steps

- Finalise the refresh of the Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan and subsequent Implementation Plan
- The ŌLMAP refresh will go to the Policy and Planning Committee meeting
- If approved, the final plan will be designed and launched to the public
- The Live Music workstreams will be refreshed and commence in partnership with the community and stakeholders

**Kā mihi nui to the Music Advisory Panel and Save Dunedin Live Music for their contributions in getting community feedback that feeds into this refresh**

