

# Dunedin music

## Local nuggets

Albatross bone flutes, kouauau, are among the most distinctive Otago Kāi Tahu artefacts.

## Who's who

'Norma' is the name given to the magnificent and recently restored Dunedin Town Hall organ.

## Digging deeper...

Thomas Bracken (1843-1898) was a Dunedin journalist, politician and the writer of humorous verse under the signature of Paddy Murphy. Although a noted 19th century poet, today he is remembered mainly as the author of the national anthem... "God Defend New Zealand".

**It didn't all begin with punk musician Chris Knox transfixing the patrons of the upstairs bar at the Cook. A variety of European music traditions were flourishing soon after the first immigrant ships brought Scottish settlers to Dunedin in 1848.**

The Dunedin Choral Society was established in 1863 and the Dunedin Male Choir formed in 1887. Brass bands were established: Dunedin has the Kaikorai (1881), Westpac Trust St Kilda (1901) and the RSA (Returned Services Association) Mosgiel Brass bands. Several smaller centres, including Oamaru and Balclutha, also formed their own bands.

Civic orchestras such as the Southern Sinfonia play an important role in the city's musical scene. They accompany visiting performers and present their own concerts. The Dunedin Opera Company, formed in 1956, produces operas in the Mayfair Theatre. If your tastes tend to the classical, the University of Otago Music Department offers regular lunchtime performances at Marama Hall on campus, as well as evening concerts and opera productions. Since 1956 Calder Prescott has been associated with jazz and big bands in Dunedin, establishing the Dunedin City Jazz orchestra for both young and senior musicians in 1988.

The 'Dunedin Sound' is the name given to the music played by a number of the city's original rock bands in the early 1980s. The Clean and The Chills both went into the national top ten and The Clean's early Boodle Boodle Boodle EP achieved gold status. Other well-known bands from this time included The Verlaines, The Stones, Sneaky Feelings, Look Blue Go Purple, Snapper, The Bats and Straitjacket Fits.



Martin Phillipps of The Chills



The Southern Sinfonia in rehearsal

