

Auckland
Philharmonía.

Kiwi Kapers Concert 2025

Kia whakahihiri ai te
hono ki te rāngai pūoro

Inspiring orchestral connections

Education Resource for the New Zealand Curriculum

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🕒 Friday 24 October

10am - 11am – concert #1

11.30am - 12.30pm – concert #2

📍 Aotea Centre, Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre

NATIONAL
YOUTH
THEATRE



Kia ora!

We look forward to welcoming you to our Kiwi Kapers concert where we'll introduce primary and intermediate students to the Symphony Orchestra.

In 2025 we partner with the National Youth Theatre to bring to life the music and story of Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt* with a New Zealand twist.

This study guide entails information about the composer Edvard Grieg and his music to Henry Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

Also included are activities that tamariki can complete before or after the concert takes place.

We would love for you to share your artworks with us! If you'd like to, please email a scan or photo to learnandparticipate@aucklandphil.nz

We hope you enjoy exploring the music!



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About *Peer Gynt* – the story and the music

Peer Gynt is a story originally written by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen in 1867, over 150 years ago. It tells the tale of a young dreamer named Peer who goes on a wild adventure full of trolls, deserts, storms, and questions about who he really is.

About 10 years after Ibsen wrote the story, he asked his friend Edvard Grieg, a fellow Norwegian, to write music to go with the story. His friend agreed, and the play was performed on a theatre stage with Grieg's music in 1876. In the following years, Grieg revised the music several times and finally set on the incidental music to *Peer Gynt* which is known as *Peer Gynt*, Opus 23, containing 26 movements. In our concert, we will play the Prelude: *At the Wedding* from Act 1.

Another decade after the first performance, Edvard Grieg took 8 movements from the incidental music and created two orchestral Suites, each containing 4 movements. The Suites don't follow the storyline, but they do let us hear the magic, mischief, wonder, and drama in Peer's journey. In our Kiwi Kapers concert, you'll hear four movements from the Suites.

The Story of *Peer Gynt*

Henrik Ibsen wrote this story for adults, and Peer is a bit of a philanderer and made questionable ethical choices...so here is a child-friendly synopsis:

The story of *Peer Gynt* is essentially about a young, selfish man, Peer Gynt, who loves to make up stories, mainly about things he's done. He lives in Norway near mountains and the sea and loves exploring.

One day, he kidnaps a bride at her wedding; meanwhile, another lady, Solveig, falls in love with him. Following that, he runs away and gets lost in the mountains. He finds a cave, where trolls live, who take him to their King's Royal Hall.

Peer fears the trolls and their King, but he acts brave and tells them he is a prince (he is lying again!). The Troll King believes him and says he should marry his daughter and stay with the Trolls. Peer doesn't want this to happen and gets scared. He runs away, but the trolls chase him. Luckily, he manages to escape – whew!

After this adventure, Peer goes off travelling the world, seeking his fortune and having many fantastic adventures, but not always with good choices. He eventually comes home, an old man, regretful of his life, to learn that Solveig, who fell in love with him many moons ago, still loves him and welcomes him home.



This year's Kiwi Kapers performance and repertoire

At the concert, you will hear the orchestra play:

- Four movements from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1 & 2, and one movement of the incidental score, played by the full orchestra of the **Auckland Philharmonia**

As well as:

- Three original songs, and a fresh, imaginative retelling of the story – with a uniquely New Zealand twist, narrated by Auckland Phil's Principal Timpanist **Steven Logan** and performed by the **National Youth Theatre**

Grieg, Peer Gynt, Op 23, Act 1, No 1:
Prelude. At the Wedding

Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite No.1, Op 46:
Morning Mood

J. Alver/J. Doy, arranged for orchestra by Carl Doy:
Wings Unfurled (National Youth Theatre song)

Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite No.2, Op.77:
Arabian Dance

Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite No.1, Op. 26:
In the Hall of the Mountain King

J. Alver/J. Doy, arranged for orchestra by Carl Doy:
Tooth & Claw (National Youth Theatre song)

J. Alver/J. Doy, arranged for orchestra by Carl Doy:
When you Love Somebody (National Youth Theatre song)

Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite No.2, Op.77:
Homecoming



Edvard Grieg's two orchestral Suites, and activities to the music

Listening

Without naming the music, listen to each of the movements (links to audio without video below). Describe what you hear and see in your imagination, jot down ideas and thoughts that come to mind.

Before the second listening, discover the names of each movement and practice saying them in te reo Māori. Listen to them again. Can you see, or hear, different pictures in your mind from your first thoughts?

Here are some ideas of images you might experience:



1. Morning Mood

Te Wairua o te Ata

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46: I. Morning Mood

- Gentle, peaceful, like the sun rising
- What you might picture: birds, warm light, a new day beginning
- Instruments to listen for: flutes, oboes, strings

2. Arabian Dance

Kanikani Ārapi

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 2, Op. 55: II. Arabian Dance

- Distinct rhythm – can you clap along?
- What you might picture: someone dancing playfully at first, then boldly, and then with beautifully gracious movements.
- Instruments to listen for: plucked strings (pizzicato), flutes (piccolos imitating a ney, a type of flute originating in the Middle East), tambourine and triangle.

3. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Kei te hōro o te Kīngi o te Maunga

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46: IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King

- Creepy and sneaky at first... then louder and faster!
- What you might picture: Peer being chased by trolls!
- Instruments to listen for: low strings and bassoon building up to full orchestra.

4. Peer Gynt's Homecoming (Stormy Evening on the Sea)

Tā Peer Gynt
Te Hokinga Mai

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 2, Op. 55: III. Peer Gynt's Homecoming

- Wild and stormy, with crashing waves and thunder
- What you might picture: a ship in a storm
- Instruments to listen for: percussion, brass, fast strings



Listening and watching

Watch these following clips with video of orchestras playing. Notice which instruments feature prominently in each movement. Discuss the mood and effect this might create and why you think the composer chose the instruments he did.



1. Morning Mood

Te Wairua o te Ata

Watch this 3:50 minute clip of the United States National Symphony Orchestra playing Morning Mood. It clearly shows how different instruments are played:

National Symphony Orchestra, Morning Mood

- The lyrical, opening scene of act 4, when Peer Gynt wakes up in the desert in Morocco
- He is alone, his friends have deserted him
- The scene depicts the rising of the sun
- Peer interacts with monkeys

2. Arabian Dance

Kanikani Ārapi

Watch this 4:50 minute clip of the London Symphony Orchestra playing the Arabian Dance. There are good examples of the violins using pizzicato (plucking) and bowing:

Edvard Grieg: Arabian Dance from 'Peer Gynt' // Nicolò Umberto Foron & London Symphony Orchestra

- Peer Gynt is in the Morocco desert in a Bedouin Camp
- Move to the music and notice the different moods

3. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Kei te hōro o te Kīngi o te Maunga

Watch this 2:30 minute clip of the London Symphony Orchestra playing In the Hall of the Mountain King. There are good close-ups of various instruments:

London Symphony Orchestra, In the Hall of the Mountain King

- Note how the music begins slowly and full of suspension (the trolls are approaching Peer and bringing him into the cave).
- The music slowly gets louder and faster (now there are many of them, and the Mountain King is sitting on his throne. The king wants Peer to marry his daughter, as he thinks Peer is a prince).
- The music gets very fast and loud (Peer refuses and the trolls roar and chase him. They almost catch him, but he runs faster).
- Very loud chords and cymbal crashes towards the end the movement portraying the chaos and the anger of the trolls as Peer finally escapes.

4. Peer Gynt's Homecoming (Stormy Evening on the Sea)

Tā Peer Gynt
Te Hokinga Mai

Watch this 2:50 minute clip of the Camerata Chicago, Chicago's Leading Chamber Orchestra, playing Homecoming.

Camerata Chicago Grieg Peer Gynt Suite 2 Mvmt 3 Peer Gynt's Homecoming (Stormy Evening on the Sea)

- This movement is also known as Stormy Evening on the Sea.
- It depicts Peer Gynt's perilous journey back to Norway on stormy seas.
- Peer reflects on his life, with some regrets.
- The music builds to his reunion with Solveig, who offers him comfort.

The Orchestra: A Musical Team

Te Rāngai Pūoro – He Kapa Pūoro

An orchestra is a big group of musicians working together to create incredible music. It's made up of four main families:

Strings

Tira autangi

- Violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp (can be a part of the percussion family)
- Instruments with strings, mainly played by bowing or plucking

Woodwind

Tira pūhau

- Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, cor anglais
- Instruments that are blown into via a mouthpiece, or across an opening

Percussion

Tira papā

- Drums, cymbals, triangle, xylophone, tambourine and many more
- anything you strike, shake or hit can be a percussion instrument
- there are tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Tuned means the instruments can create pitches to play a melody, like a marimba or a xylophone. Untuned percussion instruments make sounds that are used to create rhythm and texture, like a snare drum or a cymbal

Brass

Tira pūtētēre

- French horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba
- Instruments that are played by 'buzzing' the mouthpiece

The Conductor

Te Kaikōtui

- The conductor is like the captain of a ship.
- They lead the orchestra, keeping everyone in time and guiding how the music sounds.
- Watch how the conductor uses hand movements to shape the music!



Pre- and post-concert activities



Explore the author Henrik Ibsen & the composer Edvard Grieg



Divide the class in half. Each half can find out what they can about either the author of the story, **Henrik Ibsen**, or the composer, **Edvard Grieg**.

For example, where were they born (where is that country), where and when did they die, any interesting facts about the two men?

Explore the music and orchestral instruments

- From your own knowledge, and watching the videos of the orchestras, discuss how the different instruments are held, how their sounds are made, how big each one is (and what effect being bigger or smaller makes to the sound).
- Do you play an instrument? Can you bring it to class for others to watch closely how they are played and cared for (e.g. the case they are kept in, any cleaning of the instrument that is required).
- Do other students or staff play instruments who could visit your classroom?
- Do you have a school orchestra? Ask if the class could attend a rehearsal.
- How do you think the conductor keeps the orchestra in time – the players seem to be only looking at their music (can you find any players looking up at the conductor – why do they do that?).
- Mime conducting *In the Hall of the Mountain King* while it plays (use a pencil or ruler, or your Harry Potter wand if you have one!!)
- Find out why the word 'cello originally had an apostrophe in front of it.
- How many types of drums can you find out about? How are they different?
- Research instruments from different countries eg Morocco where Peer Gynt visits.
- When watching the clip of *In the Hall of the Mountain King* particularly, observe how different instruments are played – for example, the stringed instruments sometimes use pizzicato, or plucking with their fingers, (not using the bow). This helps to create the softness for Peer's footsteps as he tries to escape.

Create body percussion (and real percussion if you have it) to mimic footsteps – for example, troll versus Peer Gynt. How would the sounds be different?
- After the concert: Could you hear any differences between Grieg's music and the music in the songs performed by the National Youth Theatre? Try to describe what you heard.



Create artworks inspired by the music ✨

- Paint pictures of trolls, the fjords, morning mood or of orchestral instruments while listening to the music (use the links without video above). You are invited to send them to us and we will display them on the big screen behind the orchestra before and after the concert.

Email learnandparticipate@aucklandphil.nz and remember to label them with your school, name and year level.

- Choose your favourite instrument and make a replica drawing of it.

If enough students select different instruments you could create a collage of an orchestra; or instruments could be allocated across the class, to ensure they are all represented.

- Create a mask for a troll (or taniwha) character. ✨
- Design a programme for the Kiwi Kapers concert.



Explore the history, cultural and social background of Grieg and Ibsen's time

- Both Edvard Grieg, the composer, and Henrik Ibsen, the author, were born and lived in the 19th century in Europe. What was life like in the 1800s? How did people generally live, e.g. electricity, transport, clothing, education, games. Compare different countries.
- What was happening in New Zealand at that time?
- Find Morocco on a map. Research the type of country it is, what Peer Gynt might have seen, how might he have felt there after living in Norway? What route might Peer have taken and what modes of transport do you think he used?
- This link may help you understand the life of Bedouin people who Peer Gynt stayed with for a while (Arabian Dance): <https://kids.kiddle.co/Bedouin>. Discuss different people's way of living. How is it different/ same for how we live today?



The message and values behind Peer Gynt's story:



Some key themes from the story: ✨

Telling the truth

Me pono te kōrero

Peer learns the importance of telling the truth, even when it's hard.

Being brave

Me māia

He shows courage when he's in trouble with the trolls.

Love and forgiveness

Ko te Aroha me te Murunga Hara

Solveig's love for Peer helps him find redemption.

Making mistakes

He Taonga te Hapa

Peer's journey shows that everyone makes mistakes, but it's important to learn from them.

Home is important

He Taonga te Kāinga

Even though Peer travels the world, he ultimately finds happiness back home.



- Discuss these values and, in small groups, discuss examples of them in your life. You can role-play some examples.
- Describe how you think Peer Gynt would have felt in each of the movements. The mood of the music may help you.
- Discuss how it would feel to travel to new countries where you don't know the language, people, how to shop, or culture. Maybe you have classmates who used to live in a different country and could share their stories?
- Have you experienced homesickness? Write a story describing where you were and how you dealt with your feelings of missing home.



A New Zealand Twist of Peer Gynt at Kiwi Kapers

In this (more tamariki friendly) Kiwi Kapers version of the story, Peer's journey is set in Aotearoa, New Zealand. He lives in Te Anau, near Milford Sound. Peer Gynt in the original story, lived in Norway. Instead of trolls, think of taniwha, imagine journeys across oceans and through forests, with themes that speak of identity, belonging, and bravery – all brought to life by young performers and a live orchestra.



Activity

Make a chart with New Zealand on one side, Norway on the other. Discuss differences and similarities between the two countries. Include images and / or infographics if you like.

For example:

	New Zealand	Norway
Hemisphere	Southern	Northern
Population (2024)	5.3 million	5.5 million
Geography		
Language(s)	English, Māori, NZ Sign Language	Norwegian and Sámi
Mythological beings	Taniwha	Troll

- Find images of trolls and taniwha and discuss any similarities/ differences. Make up a story featuring one of these creatures.
- What route might the New Zealand Peer have taken on his adventures? Make a map of New Zealand and plot your route for him. Consider different transport alternatives if necessary.

Learn and explore further with these book recommendations:

- Try to find the book, *The Story Orchestra, In the Hall of the Mountain King* by Hattie Grylls, illustrated by Jessica Courtney-Tickle, pub. Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2022. Auckland Public Library has it, for example.

It is a story with "press here" buttons throughout, linking the illustrated story to snippets of the music of one movement. There are slight variations on the plot but essentially it is the same. It should give a broader understanding of the story and the music of that movement.

Divide the class into four groups and organise for each group to write their version of the story of one of the movements and illustrate it. Then, by binding together each of the movements,

you could create several of your own books of the Peer Gynt story.

- Other books to read and share:

Troll stories

- *The Troll* by Julia Donaldson
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Jerry Pinkney (and other versions)
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Mac Barnett, ill. Jon Klassen
- *The Three Billy-Goats Gruff* by Gavin Bishop (NZ)
- *Troll* by Fran Stickley, ill. Stefano Martinuz
- *The Heartless Troll* by Øyvind Torseter (Norwegian)
- *Troll Stroll* by David Barrow, ill. Eli Woollard

Taniwha stories (NZ)

- *Taming the Taniwha* by Tim Tipene
- *Taniwha* by Robyn Kahukiwa
- *Ko Tama me te Taniwha/Tama and the Taniwha* by Melanie Koster, ill. Monica Koster
- *He raru ki tai / To Trap a Taniwha* by Jane Cooper ill. Story Hemi-Morehouse
- *He pēhea te āhua nei o te Taniwha rā?/ What does the taniwha look like?* by Mike Johnson, ill. Jennifer Rackham

Concert Etiquette & Experience

For many students, this may be their first orchestral concert – help them feel confident and excited!



DO

- Arrive on time
- Sit quietly and listen carefully
- Clap after a piece has finished
- Watch the conductor and performers
- Enjoy the experience!



DON'T

- Talk or whisper during the music
- Use devices or take photos
- Eat during the performance



TEACHER TIP: Practise “concert silence” in the classroom with a short piece of music.

About the Auckland Phil

The Auckland Philharmonia is a leading performing arts organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand, serving Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, the country’s largest and most vibrant city, with concerts, events and activities throughout the year. The orchestra presents more than 60 performances annually, showcasing many of the world’s finest classical musicians as well as exciting collaborations with New Zealand’s most inventive contemporary artists.

To find out more, head to [Auckland Philharmonia](https://aucklandphilharmonia.co.nz)



About the National Youth Theatre

The National Youth Theatre is New Zealand's premier musical theatre training programme for young people aged 7-21.

Open to all without audition, their performing arts training programmes include workshops, holiday programmes, and two full-scale musical theatre productions each year featuring a diverse cast of up to 250.

Within an inclusive and supportive atmosphere, our professional theatre mentors provide unique opportunities for young performers to be part of a major theatrical production whilst inspiring them to have fun, build confidence, and develop essential capabilities.

In this year's Kiwi Kapers concert you will hear three of their songs, sung by NYT performers and arranged for a symphony orchestra, to tell the story of Peer Gynt and add a contemporary, local voice to the performance.

To find out more, head to [The National Youth Theatre - Home](#)

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