

# National band selection for young musician

**EMMA JAMES**

A Japanese girl living in Cambridge has been selected for the New Zealand National Youth Band for 2016.

Minami Motoki has been at Cambridge High School since coming here in March, aiming to perfect her English so she can study it at Wai-kato University next year.

Having played brass instruments in Japan for several years, she quickly joined the Cambridge Brass Band.

Member Paul Murphy said she immediately added to the band's sound.

"Arguably, she plays the hardest and largest instrument – the tuba."

Paul said Minami's arrival meant she was quickly swept up in preparations for Anzac Day. She was also part of the pit-band for June's stage production of the movie *Brassed Off*, and then prepared for Regional Championships in September, where she won the Under 19 Regional Variation Competition.

Minami also placed fourth in the recent New Zealand Secondary School Brass Player of the Year,



**Cambridge's Minami Motoki has been selected for a national youth band.**

PHOTO: EMMA JAMES/FAIRFAX NZ

where she was picked as a wildcard entry for the finals.

She lives in Cambridge with her grandmother Elizabeth Jenkins and Gillian Hunter, but is returning to Japan for Christmas where she will help coach her former high school's marching band.

Minami will be back in Cambridge in January to take her place in the National Youth Band which gathers in Havelock North before touring.