

## **SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF MUSIC TEACHERS.**

### **JOHANNESBURG CENTRE.**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010.**

In spite of the fact that 2010 started with "World Cup" on everyone's lips, magazines, TV etc., pupils eventually settled down, and we managed to have a good standard at our Junior Concert in March. As usual, the response from teachers was very slow and we ended-up in phoning around to make it worth while! Surprisingly the Senior Concert was well supported, not only for piano but also violin and flute.

In May, we had the annual convention planned by our ex Vice Chair, Etresia Labuschagne. It was an excellent venue, at Pridwin Prep. School. The Executive Office of the S.A.S.M.T, Elma Britz welcomed a well attended floor, after which, Etresia gave her ideas on how to prepare a pupil for a music competition. An interesting lecture on whether the S.A. concert pianist can survive was given by Charl du Plessis.

A short concert by a few talented pupils followed. After this a festive lunch was served. A selection of music books, as well as compositions by Mark Baker, a member of our Committee, was on sale.

The Master Class that followed was conducted by Prof. Joseph Stanford.

Our Festival for the Advancement of Music started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and was beset by some problems. The adjudicator for the piano section, Marian Friedman took ill and fortunately Malcolm Nay was able to stand in for her until she was available again. Unfortunately several power cuts at night disrupted some evening sessions. This gave experience to the advanced students to perform by candle light!

As usual, there was a shortage of helpers, and the piano section was mainly managed by Lynn, Mark and I. Flora was an absolute gem helping with the takings at the door.

Our sincere thanks to Diane Heller for the strength shown in the smooth running of the Instrumental Section and Choirs, which she achieved almost single handedly, as she was let down through the resignation of our Vice Chair. Thanks to Ingrid Janse van Rensburg who as usual managed the Harp section most efficiently. Our Gala Concert was a great success. Last but not least, our sincere thanks to our Secretary / Treasurer Evelyn, who had all the duties in control day after day.

Our second Beginner's and Junior Concert held in October, ended up being very short, but of good standard. Disappointingly, the Senior Concert had to be cancelled as we did not have sufficient support from the teachers.

In closing, I firstly wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Juliette on the loss of her dear husband, Raphael. Secondly, my thanks go to my Committee for their support during the year. Hopefully, we will start our new year with renewed enthusiasm to keep music alive and well.

**LAETITIA VAN ONSELEN**