

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF MUSIC TEACHERS PRETORIA 2011**

I would like to first of all express my appreciation for the confidence placed in me to serve as the Chairperson for the Pretoria Centre of the SASMT. I want to add that it would not have been possible without the support of the committee members who assisted me each in their own way.

Our centre would like to contribute in a significant manner in the music education and enrichment of our teachers and pupils. To this end we have organised concerts by our pupils that provides them with an informal and convenient environment to perform. This serves as an inspiration for younger pupils and contributes toward the preparation for exams and competitions.

During the national SASMT conference our teachers could benefit from the knowledge and experience of notable musicians. Marie Gaerdes, Elma Britz, Marietjie Hesse, Gisela Scriba and Ewald Hesse represented the Pretoria centre at the conference, held in Durban where piano teaching was discussed extensively. Various workshops dealing with the business aspects and problems of piano teaching and teachers contributed to the success of the conference.

The Pretoria Centre held its annual convention on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2011 and was a source of inspiration for young and old. We are grateful to the Laerskool Skuilkrans who make available to us on a regular basis the use of their facilities. Thanks to Marietjie Hesse it was a well organised day with knowledgeable speakers who made it worthwhile. Marina Mentz held a workshop on conducting of choirs and Dr Berta le Roux addressed problems of music teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr Pat Michels discussed the importance of early auditive development and Elma Britz concluded on a positive note with reference to Ben Zander's "Art of possibility".

Our major project for the year remains the Eisteddfod that consist of 14 sections and is organised by Louise Labuschagne and Marie Gaerdes supported by 15 section organisers. Louise has despite difficult circumstances acquitted her well for which we are very grateful. We would like to appoint an assistant for her during the upcoming Eisteddfod from middle February to end May.

The Eisteddfod provides an excellent opportunity for pupils and teachers. We have been fortunate to have excellent adjudicators e.g. Prof Joseph Stanford acted as adjudicator at the piano section where every pupil received a mini master class with each performance. It was a pity that so few teachers were present to make use of the opportunity

The ATKV has committed to become involved in the next Eisteddfod and will assist amongst others with promotion of the event. Additional sponsors will have to be found and fund raising events held to combat overhead costs. Depending on the costs, a concert with Charl du Plessis with accompanying artists is planned for next year.

The centre is excited to welcome the following new members today:

Valerie Hohls

Daniel Verster

Deirdre Blignaut

Tessa Rhoodie

Sue Rorke

Hanlie Stapela

Karin Groenewald

Hannalie Claassen

Johanna Roos

Hentus van Rooyen (apologies)

Gerhard Rademeyer

Tessa Olivier

Joan Sonnekus (apologies)

A healthy growth in membership numbers is critical for the preservation and promotion of music standards. May you have a long and happy association with the SASMT and let us all attempt to produce bright eyed pupils filled with enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards music.

Sanet Botha