

Activities of the PE SASMT Branch 2010

Despite the rather disruptive effect that the World Cup had on the school year, the SASMT-committee of the Port Elizabeth branch managed to organise some relaxation, enrichment and healthy competition for the music teachers of our city. The committee for 2010 consisted of Lestie Hughes (Chairperson), Joni Stickells (Treasurer), Nicky Bosman (Secretary), Pierre Malan, Elbeth Melville, Wendy Matthews and Hanli Young.

It has become customary to open the year with a cocktail function for the music teachers of Port Elizabeth. This year our get-together took place on the 11th of February. It was held on the beautiful, sloping grounds of the St Dominic's Priory Roman Catholic School and offered music colleagues the opportunity to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. John Edwards, the new jazz lecturer at NMMU, was introduced at this event, and Erika Bothma discussed the PE Music Society's concerts for 2010 and music teachers were encouraged to exchange ideas about possible workshops.

The improvisation section of the departmental music syllabus was identified as a potentially problematic part of the teaching curriculum and John Edwards accepted the challenge to present an improvisation workshop for both teachers and pupils. This enlightening, vibrant workshop took place on Friday 30 July in the NMMU Music Department and was attended by no less than 43 people.

Another area of uncertainty seems to be the teaching and implementation of Sibelius and a workshop on this topic is in the pipeline for next year.

Our annual Music Competition took place on the 20th and 21st of August in the NMMU South-Campus Auditorium. This competition yet again had Musikland as main sponsor and prize money and medallions were also sponsored by the PE Music Society. The adjudicators were the well-known composer Pieter- Louis van Dyk and Dr Jeff Brukman, music lecturer at Rhodes University and Vice-President of the SASMT.

The competition is thriving, with a record number of 48 entries for the high school individual category. For the first time ever our ensemble category was also split into an ethnic and western section for both junior and high schools.

The prize-winners in the various categories were as follows:

Junior School Ensemble Category-Western Section: Ilze Fourie and Lara Havenga (French Horn and Trumpet)

Junior School Ensemble Category-Ethnic Section: Grade 7 Group from St Dominic's Priory Junior School

Junior School Individual Category: **First Prize** – Juan Blom (Trumpet)
Second Prize – Ilze Fourie (French horn)
Third Prize – Lara Potgieter (Recorder)

High School Ensemble Category – Western Section: Grant Snyman, Liam Carver, Christof Goosen (Clarinet and Piano)

High School Ensemble Category – Ethnic Section: Grade 11 Group from St Dominic's Priory High School

High School Individual Category: First Prize – Dylan Barker (French horn)

Second Prize – Thabiso Beau (Violin)

Third Prize – John-Drew Boshoff (Alto saxophone)

These budding young performers were also showcased in a Prize Winners' Concert on the 29th of August, organized by Erika Bothma, president of the Music Society. We are very pleased about the ties that are being forged between our SASMT branch and the PE Music Society and trust that this collaboration will continue to assist the development of young musical talent.