

SASMT Pretoria
Annual Chairperson's Report
AGM Saturday 16 February 2019
14h30
Eduplex Music Centre

SASMT Pretoria is an active center with 85 members. Music is well and alive in our city and the music teachers are essential role players in keeping it like this. The centre had a busy year, both happy and sad. In early 2019 John Roos sadly passed away. He was still editor of the SAMT and is sorely missed on all levels of the music landscape.

On 20 January 2018 the AGM took place at Eduplex. Our guest speaker was Cordelia Odendaal who spoke about the voice in opera and the Lied. The afternoon ended with a cheese and wine function.

The elected committee met on 24 February, 21 April, 16 June and 8 December for meetings. In between, necessary decisions were taken via whatsapp and email, as it is not always possible to get everybody together during the eisteddfod or examination times.

The Annual National Conference took place in Durban from 5 to 7 April 2018. Marie Gaerdes and Marietjie Hesse were our delegates. We thank Werner Stolze for his financial contribution towards their travel costs.

The annual regional Conference took place on 22 September 2018 in collaboration with the music department of the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool. The theme was "The South African Music Industry" where topics such as copyright, registration of compositions, young composers, inclusive teaching, etc. were discussed. Thank you to all the exhibitors and helpers!

At the beginning of the year we had 93 members, of which 15 had been unpaying members for more than two years. After contacting them about their membership, some cancelled their membership and others paid their due fees, ending 2018 with 81 paying members, and today we have 87 members, after new members were recruited.

Due to busy schedules only two social events took place during the year. At a breakfast on 9 November we honored Hubert van der Spuy for his life-long and outstanding work towards music. Our year-end function on 8 December took place at Jam and Daisies Coffee Shop where Gisela Scriba received recognition for her initiative in starting the ensemble competition. Marie Gaerdes was awarded a certificate to acknowledge her never-ending support of the Pretoria Eisteddfod and the SASMT. Unfortunately she fell ill shortly afterwards, and sadly passed away on 30 January 2019. She will be sorely missed! The committee helped with the catering at the memorial service and the centre contributed R500 for the flower arrangements at the service.

Our centre hosts two major projects, the Pretoria Eisteddfod and the National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition.

The Pretoria Eisteddfod is administered by the capable team of Louise Labuschagne and Riaan Steyn. Together with the SASMT representatives and organizers of the different categories, the 95th eisteddfod ran smoothly from May till August 2018. This is a huge event, with R724 584 paid into the eisteddfod account and R717 976 spent on various expenditures. 7595 entries were received in the 17 categories. Our centre sponsored R6600 towards the overall winner prizes. The 22 organisers were thanked at the annual breakfast which took place at Blos Café.

The 2nd Ensemble Competition was hosted from 7-9 September 2018. The main sponsors are the Ear Institute and Eduplex, where the event takes place.

Donations from WStolze Pianos, ABRSM, Trinity College, Lovemore, Edumusic, Queenswood Spur, and individuals kept the competition financially viable. The nearly 180 participants in 36 ensembles impressed the adjudicators and we are looking forward to the 3rd competition planned for this year. We are thankful to the continuing support of the sponsors.

I want to thank to every committee and society member who has supported me and our events. Let music stand strong in the future.