

Annual report for 2018
AGM 14 March 2019
Vice-president Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo & North West

2018 was a busy year with the centres and institutions incorporating events for the further education of our teachers and learners. Not only are these events educational, but also socially enriching. It seems that there is never enough time for music teachers to network and talk about new ideas. It is worrisome though, that certain topics are requested but then the organised events are not attended. Continued support is necessary if the centres want to carry on organising events.

A new centre was established in Ekurhuleni by Mariana Schoonderwoerd, and I wish them all the best. The music centre of Afrikaanse Hoër Meiskool is in the process of becoming an institutional centre. Three major events are hosted by the SASMT in Gauteng: the Pretoria Eisteddfod, the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Arts, and the National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition. The organisation of these events takes huge amounts of time, and therefore I want to thank everybody involved. Events like these are incredibly important for our young musicians and artists, as they create a performance platform.

Although not a SASMT event, the 10th World Choir Games which were hosted by Interkultur in Tshwane during July 2018 have to be mentioned. It was the first time that this event was hosted in the southern hemisphere and it was a huge success with about 16 000 singers competing and performing during the two weeks. South African choirs did extremely well in the competition and most events had capacity audiences.

I wish to congratulate one of the SASMT's oldest members, Diane Heller from the Johannesburg centre, on her 90th birthday. Unfortunately she suffered a stroke shortly after and is currently in the Rosebank Clinic.

It is the second year that my annual report includes notice of the passing of a well-loved member. In 2018 John Roos passed away in January, and now the Pretoria centre lost Marié Gaerdes on 30 January 2019. She will be sorely missed. Her support of music and especially the Pretoria Eisteddfod (in which she had been involved for more than 50 years) will never be forgotten, as will the work done on the SASMT constitution by her and Marinus Wiechers, who also sadly passed away in August 2018.

The condensed reports of activities during 2018 at the following centres and institutional centres situated in Gauteng are included. The full reports can be obtained from Gisela Scriba for perusal:

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| 1.Johannesburg | 2.Pretoria |
| 3.Ekurhuleni | 4.North West University |
| 5.Hoërskool Waterkloof | 6.Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool |
| 7.Brescia House | 8.Pro Arte Alphenpark |
| 9.Mamelodi Magnet School | 10.Laerskool Skuilkrans Musieksentrum |

1.Johannesburg

The Johannesburg centre is run by a small, but dedicated group of teachers who have committed themselves to the Johannesburg music teachers. Meetings are held regularly, about once a month at members' homes. The main purpose is to promote music teaching and provide a public platform where

teachers can let their pupils perform to a non-critical and encouraging audience. To this end, two student concerts were hosted during 2018 at Roedean School. Both concerts accommodated Junior and Senior students.

Thank you to the vice chairperson, secretary and all members of the committee who are always happy to help when needed. Although small, the centre provides a valuable service to their members.

The *Festival for the Advancement of Music* continues to be the main event of the Johannesburg Centre.

The 2018 Festival was held at Jan Celliers School in Parkview and ran from the 28th May until 9th June.

This was the second time the Festival was run at the school, which has proved to be an excellent venue for this important event in our musical calendar. The easy availability of suitable venues for the various sections made for much smoother running of the Festival and provided an excellent environment for the event. The 2018 Festival had a total of 875 entries in a wide variety of instruments and ran for about two weeks. Piano was the largest section with 355 entries. Diane Coutts, Camelia Onea, Tim Roberts, Veronika Meyer, Deirdre Blignaut and Sue Cock were the various adjudicators. The highlight of the Festival is always the South African Composers section. For this section, all instruments participate against each other and a panel of adjudicators selects the winners of the trophies in each age segment. The Gala Concert was held two weeks after the end of the Festival. It was an excellent and most enjoyable concert and the Festival Committee was once again reminded of the value of holding an annual festival. The committee feels it is important to make it possible for young people to have this opportunity to show off their talent and for them to get meaningful feedback from experts in their chosen instrument. SAMRO was thanked for its continued financial support for this important event.

2. Pretoria

SASMT Pretoria is an active centre with 85 members. Music is well and alive in our city and the music teachers are essential role players in keeping it like this. On 20 January the AGM took place at Eduplex with guest speaker Cordelia Odendaal who talked about the voice in opera and the Lied. The afternoon ended with a cheese and wine function. The committee met regularly for meetings, with necessary decisions taken in between via whatsapp and email.

The Annual Regional Conference took place on 22 September 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.

At a breakfast on 9 November Hubert van der Spuy was honoured 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. The committee helped with the catering at the memorial service and the centre also contributed R500 for the flower arrangements at the service.

The Pretoria Eisteddfod ran smoothly from May till August 2018, with 7595 entries received in the 17 categories. The 22 organisers were thanked at a breakfast.

The 2nd Ensemble Competition took place from 7-9 September. The main sponsors were the Ear Institute and Eduplex, where the event took place. Donations from Werner Stolze 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 30 August till 1 September. We are thankful to the continuing support of the sponsors.

3.Ekhuruleni

This centre was established on 2 June 2018. It opened with 16 members, and now has 17 members. Events hosted were a learner concert and an inspirational talk by Prof Hubert van der Spuy on the ABC of Music Tuition. The centre operated on cash-only basis up till now, and the next step is to open a bank account.

4.NWU Skool vir Musiek

The music department of the North West University consists of 25 lecturers, 105 graduate students and 39 post-graduate students. Seven of the lecturers were awarded the *Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Creative Outputs*. Students can enrol for a 3-year Diploma, BAMus, BMus, BMUS(Hons), various Masters degrees, PhD and DMus.

A wide variety of events, including research symposiums, piano master classes, song writing workshops and Dalcroze workshop, were hosted. Various concerts were staged, including the choir from the Stockholm Music Academy, Concerto Festival, Opera Choruses, piano recitals, the spring Ensemble Concert, NWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, North West SAPS Band and the Bursary Winners Concert. Seven post-graduate performance exams were also played during the year.

5.Hoërskool Waterkloof Musiekdepartement

The music department has 36 Grade 8 and 9, and 34 Grade 10-11 subject music learners, as well as 237 creative arts /music pupils. Three full-time and 13 part-time teachers are employed. The school endeavours to give learners many performance possibilities. During 2018 these possibilities included amongst others, a *Kollig* concert at the Brooklyn theatre, the *Tres Scholarum Concert* in collaboration with Hoërskool Garsfontein and Hoërskool Menlopark, and the *Affiederby* which is a cultural exchange with die Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool.

Pupils entered for the Pretoria Eisteddfodd and Afrikaanse Kuswedstryd and six learners were selected for the regional *Simfonia Juventi* Youth Orchestra. The Waterkloof Concert Orchestra, under the baton of Eddie Clayton, obtained a third place in the South African Championships. The internal music festival, the *Klofje Kunstefees*, took place during the third term, ending with the *Promenade Concert*. The mixed and girls' choirs also regularly performed at various concerts and choir festivals.

Parent evenings, where subject music learners perform for the parents, were hosted during September. The *Arco Musicum* string ensemble also participated in the *National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition*.

6.Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool

The staff of 12 full-time and four part-time teach the 267 learners, of which 70 are in grades 10 to 12. The Education Department congratulated the school with the high standard presented by the matriculants

The *Herfskonsert* and *Somerkonsert*, for which pupils have to audition to partake, were held. As part of the CAPS requirements all senior pupils performed at *Voordragkonserte* during March. These concerts were organised, and programme notes supplied, by the learners.

Seven learners were chosen for the *Simfonia Juventi* Youth Orchestra, and learners participated in the music categories of the *Pretoria Eisteddfod* and the *Affie Artes*. In September prospective Grade 8 learners were invited to *Music Open Days* where they could try out different instruments. Two learners were selected to partake in the *National Atterbury Piano Competition*. Pupils also entered practical and theory examinations of the various examination boards.

The brass band, concert orchestra and jazz band of the school participated at various concerts as did the choir. These included Lunch Hour Concerts at the University of Pretoria, a cultural exchange concert with Grey College from Bloemfontein, and the *Affiederby* with Hoërskool Waterkloof. The choir was awarded a gold medal at the *World Choir Games* during July in Tshwane, and the Affies String Ensemble won the 19&under Category of the *National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition*.

The facilities of the music department were used for the *Gauteng Chamber Music Festival* in January, and in September a workshop was held in collaboration with the Pretoria branch of the SASMT.

Unfortunately the *Il Vento Competition* had to be postponed to 2019. We hope that this competition can again prosper.

7. Brescia House

Solo and ensemble concerts throughout the year gave all pupils the opportunity to share their music with others. Ensemble Concerts included group performances by orchestras, chamber groups and marimba bands. The solo concerts showed how the music students have progressed, through the Beginner, Winter, Spring and Gala concerts. The concerto festival continues to be a highlight on the calendar and offers the opportunity to play more challenging works with a professional string quartet. The high school choir and staff band presented a concert of protest music from the 1970s until present times, and was supported by parents and pupils alike.

The teachers' concert has become a highlight on the Music Centre calendar and has a two-fold purpose: to raise funds to assist with music tuition for promising students and to showcase the wonderful talents of our music teachers.

The high school choirs performed at a variety of performances: the St Mary's *Singing Sistas*, a festival for girls' schools, two choir concerts at school which included all four school choirs, and the Protest Music concert and Ensemble Concert appearances with the staff rock band, which showed a contrast to the more traditional repertoire. In addition, the choir sang at Masses throughout the year and prepared a beautiful carol service to end the choral year.

48 learners entered theory and practical examinations from ABRSM and Trinity.

8. Pro Arte Alphenpark

This year presented two of the Grade 11 music learners with an opportunity to visit Italy by invitation and to display their unique music talents with a group of high school learners. The *Tutti Concert* was held in May with very positive feedback on our learner performances. They showed more confidence with every public performance they participated in. At the *Absolute Dance* production in the State

Theatre the voice learners provided the audience (before the show) with light entertainment in the foyer. Our talented voice learners were the overall winners of the *Aristiculta Eisteddfod* and also category winners in a few of the solo and ensemble sections.

A few of our learners (strings and percussion) were members of the *Simfonia Juventi* Youth Orchestra which annually uses the facilities at Pro Arte for their week of practise during the March/April school holidays. Our learners achieved very good results at the *Pretoria Eisteddfod*. Ditibogo Ledwaba (voice) was chosen to perform at the N S A in Johannesburg, rendering one of the top performances in Gauteng during the final practical music exams. She also managed to get a significant role in a Hollywood film that will be shown during 2019/20. This year the popular music production consisted of Gospel songs sending out a very positive message to all who attended. Our instrumentalists provided live accompaniment to some of the songs which gave them valuable experience.

The music department has 57 learners, four full-time and seven part-time teachers.

9.Mamelodi Magnet School

The Mamelodi Magnet School is based at Mamelodi High School in Mamelodi West and lends the opportunity for its learners to take instrumental lessons and music theory on a daily basis. Learners across the Mamelodi region outside the school also benefit from taking lessons at the centre. Dr Lynette Pruneau initially started the Magnet School in 2003 and since then the school has changed many children's lives in Mamelodi. Many of its alumni today enjoy careers in the music industry, of which some started their own music initiatives in the community itself. The learners of the Magnet School achieved high pass rates at UNISA examinations, participated in the *Simfonia Juventi* Youth Orchestra, the *Gauteng Chamber Music Festival* and performed at music festivals and community events. Learners participate in the *Tshwane Youth Music Competition* hosted by the Unisa Music Foundation and won 14 prizes, including the Grand Prize.

The Mamelodi Magnet School currently has six full time qualified music teachers, who are accredited by UNISA. There are approximately 110 learners registered at the Magnet School receiving music tuition.

10.Laerskool Skuilkrans Musieksentrum

This music centre employs six teachers who teach piano, recorder, violin, keyboard, and voice. The guitar teacher teaches in private capacity but takes part in all the activities. One concert per term is hosted, and learners have to perform at least at one concert annually. They are also asked to play during school assemblies, the Open Day and at other events. Pupils were entered for the *Pretoria Eisteddfod*, *Afrikaanse Kunswedstryd*, the *Magaliesberg Kunsfees* and Unisa, ABRSM and Trinity examinations. The centre bid farewell to their head of department, Marié Gaerdes, who passed away at the end of January. She will be missed!

Unfortunately no reports were received from the following centre:

- 1.University of Pretoria
- 2.South African Suzuki Association
- 3.Pro Arte Alphenpark Academy for the Arts
4. Jan Celliers Laerskool Musieksentrum

Gisela Scriba

Vice President Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo & North West