



Classical Music in South Africa is alive and well!

The 29th year of the SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition proved that “Classical music in South Africa is alive and well” – Hilda Boonzaaier: chairperson of SASMT (South African Society for Music Teachers) Tygerberg branch – host of the competition.

The prestigious SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition took place at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre from 25 – 29 September. This classical music competition caters for learners to the age of 13. The host of the competition is the Tygerberg Branch of SASMT (South African Society of Music Teachers). SAMRO Foundation is the main sponsor. National auditions centres include: Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Cape Town. The competition includes four categories: Piano, Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Other Instruments (Classical Guitar, Recorder and Percussion). Prizes are awarded to winning students and their teachers.

The SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition has undoubtedly proved its intrinsic value and status. The majority of the winners consistently achieve nationally and internationally. All the participants are afforded opportunities to hone their skills and to develop their emotional intelligence. Prof Hubert van der Spuy’s visionary role in the music life of South Africa was confirmed with the establishment of this competition and with SAMRO Foundation as sponsor, a formidable partnership came into being.

SASMT Tygerberg is privileged to be a part of a golden partnership which encourages and nurtures our country’s finest young talent. We also salute our teachers and parents for their tireless input, skill and encouragement which has helped shape our youngsters to become better musicians who can take their place internationally. We are also proud of all our alumni and we follow their development on the national and international scene very keenly. It is evident, once again, that monumental results and success start with baby steps.

The opening ceremony treated the audience of contestants, parents, teachers and lovers of classical music to an inspiring performance by 13 year old pianist, Qden Blaauw: 2016 co-winner of the SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition, with the Hugo Lambrechts Symphony Orchestra. Chairperson, Hilda Boonzaaier, led us into the week’s proceedings with: “Everyone has a bit of magic inside themselves. I hope you share that magic with us this week!”

51 contestants reached the competition week with all having to perform a Baroque, a Classical, and a South African work in the first two rounds. 23 students progressed to Round 3.

The 8 deserving finalists and winners were appointed based on their accumulated marks during the week of performances. They rose the occasion to deliver magnificent performances at the Gala Event. The Gala Event was broadcasted live by Fine Music Radio.

The finalists were:

MADISON LE ROUX

10 years old

Piano

Franschhoek – Western Cape

Teacher: Mario Nell

“I am Christian and I love God. I enjoy playing hockey, swimming and cycling. My aspiration is to be a concert pianist one day.”

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DANÉ VAN GRAAN

13 years old

Piano

Harrismith – Free State

Teacher: Jenny Reed

“I love playing my piano and my flute. I also love horse riding, swimming and visiting my friends. My favourite food is chocolate.”

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TEBOHO MOTSATSE

11 years old

Piano

Pretoria – Gauteng

Teacher: Mario Nell

“I want to thank music for making me appreciate the beautiful things around me. I think that music should be spread around the world for all children to learn. I do not like bullying; I started my own anti-bullying club called “Friends Against Bullying” to beat bullying with kindness.”

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MIKE WANG

10 years old

Piano

Strand – Western Cape

Teacher: Mario Nell

“I am 10 years old and a Gr 5 learner at Hendrik Louw Primary School. My favourite subject at school is Maths, and I love playing chess and watching movies. My dream is to become a concert pianist when I grow up.”

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JULIETTE ROUX

13 years old

Violin

Rondebosch – Western Cape

Teacher: Annamarie Gelderblom

Accompanist: Margaret Foxcroft

“I love music and my violin. Some of my favourite hobbies are doing maths, reading and going shopping. I really love animals, especially my three crazy pets at home.”

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KEON MÜLLER

13 years old

Clarinet

Blaauwberg – Western Cape

Teacher: Charlene Saayman

Accompanist: Linda Claassen

“I am a student of the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre and I play in their Senior Wind Band and Symphony Orchestra. In my spare time I do Dragon boat paddling and I am also an avid gamer. My dream is to become a professional musician.”

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NADIA FOKKENS

13 years

Cello

Plumbstead – Western Cape

Teacher: Cheryl de Havilland

Accompanist: Margaret Foxcroft

“I attend Westerford High School in Cape Town. When I am not practising, I enjoy baking, water polo and musical theatre. With the earnings from musical theatre productions over the last few years, I was able to buy the cello I am currently playing on.”

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GA-YOUNG MOON

12 years old

Piano

Stellenbosch – Western Cape

Teacher: Nina Schumann & Luis Magalhães

“I love playing netball and I was playing in the Western Province Team. I really enjoy playing here and I wish all of tonight’s participants the best of luck.”

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Tshiamo Pudumo plays the cello, she is 11 years old and from Bloemfontein's Mangaung String Programme. She won the Category prize for the best Development Candidate: Strings. Her teacher is Tilla Henkins. As part of the outreach initiative of the competition her entry fee, as well as travel, accommodation and food for her and her family during the competition week were sponsored. Here is an official photo of Hilda Boonzaier, Tshiamo and Tilla Henkins.

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The Western Cape took top honours!

Our Third prize Winner: **NADIA FOKKENS**

Our Second Place Winner: **KEON MÜLLER**

Our first prize winner: **MIKE WANG**

Mike Wang: (in reaction to his win) "I feel wonderful. When everybody clap for me I feel the honour. It's just so great."

Mike Wang is a humble young man, warm expression in his eyes. Voted audience favourite, he kept the audience on the edge of their seats throughout his performance. He played with such flair, such conviction...soft and subtle ... then powerful and commanding. At age 10, he is a consummate performer with a very bright future ahead of him.

The complete results are attached. High res photographs are available. Some photo suggestions throughout. Please do not publish the low res versions in print media – we will supply high res images upon your request.

Our top 3:

Nadia Fokkens -3rd place

Mike Wang in the middle – winner

Keon Muller – 2nd place

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Mike with his teacher: Mario Nell

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Mike with his proud parents

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Mike with Prof Hubert van der Spuy

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Our top three with (from left to right):

Hilda Boonzaaier (chairperson of SASMT, Tygerberg Branch)

Madelein van Rooyen - adjudicator

Arno Jones - adjudicator

Prof Wessel van Wyk - adjudicator

Prof Hubert van der Spuy – founder of the competition

Liam Burden (SAMRO Foundation)

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