



*The South African Society of Music Teachers/  
Die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging van Musiekonderwysers*

## Eastern Cape Report 2014

The Port Elizabeth branch of the SASMT may, this year, look back at memorable, enriching presentations, a particularly well-supported music competition, a highly enjoyable evening with a music legend of South African descent and representation at both national and international conferences.

This year's committee consisted of: Lestie Hughes (Chairman), Alethea de Villiers (Treasurer), Nicky Bosman (Secretary), Pierre Malan (SASMT Life Member), Hanli Young, Wendy Mathews, René Zietsman and Lilian Zeelie (Promotion).

The 2014 activities of the branch commenced on 6 February, when the music teachers of Port Elizabeth had the opportunity to meet and enjoy refreshments with the internationally acclaimed Anton Nel, at a Sundowner event hosted by the SASMT in the Summerwood Primary Clubhouse. Hanli Young deserves special mention for arranging both the venue and refreshments for the event. During this very enjoyable, informal evening Nel, the Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the University of Texas in Austin, shared fascinating insights regarding his philosophies on music tuition and music performance on an international level with a spell-bound group of music teachers

Our annual Cocktail Party for music teachers was subsequently held in the Clarendon Park Primary School Clubhouse on Thursday, 13 February. Megan Judd and Nicky Bosman are, respectively, to be thanked for securing this venue for the SASMT and for arranging the refreshments. At this event Dr Alethea de Villiers, a commissioner for the ISME Conference, explained the benefits of being connected to ISME while Mark Brand delivered a thought-provoking presentation in which the audience was challenged to reassess their views on the concept 'music technology' quite dramatically.

At the beginning of April Lestie Hughes and Dr Jeffrey Brukman represented the Eastern Cape at the National SASMT Conference, held at Unisa in Pretoria. At the SASMT Conference a highly successful investigation of the logistics surrounding the formation of sustainable outreach programmes was well-supported by Okkie Vermeulen's invitation to brave the crossing of conventional barriers between classical and contemporary music genres. In line with the 'Outreach' theme Lestie Hughes contributed articles on two of New Brighton's largely unsung township jazz legends, Dudley Tito and Patrick Pasha, to the SASMT Magazine.

In July Dr Alethea de Villiers attended both the ISME Commission on Music Policy: Culture, Education and Media as well as the ISME International Conference. The Commission was held in Natal, Brazil and the conference in Porto Alegre in the south of Brazil and Dr de Villiers was struck by the diversity of the country. She presented two papers, which have both been published in the peer reviewed conference proceeding. Dr de Villiers had the opportunity to meet academics from all over the world and left the conference with the impression that, although contexts differ, music educators are faced with very similar problems internationally.

Back in Port Elizabeth an unprecedented number of Eisteddfods on the 2014 Eastern Cape music calendar necessitated the re-scheduling of the SASMT's annual regional Music Competition from August to May. Initial fears surrounding insufficient participation proved unfounded, as a staggering number of entries were received, especially in the high school categories. The excellent support, notably also from East London schools and schools from formerly disadvantaged communities, resulted in an extension of the competition by half a day. It was particularly pleasing to note the number and diversity of ensemble entries. However, boosting entries for our new tertiary category might serve as an aim for the future, with a revision of stipulations regarding age groups and the allowed length of pieces being possible points to consider. Our competition adjudicators were Jeffrey Brukman, 2013 National SASMT Past-President, and Mareli Stolp, both from Rhodes University, and sponsorship was, yet again, supplied by Lee Gold Music, the Port Elizabeth Music Society and the NMMU School of Music. The prize winners in our competition were as follows:

ENSEMBLE CATEGORY – PRIMARY SCHOOLS – CLASSICAL

Name	Instrument	School
Kara Scheffer, Lara Strauss	Piano Duet	Sunridge

ENSEMBLE CATEGORY – PRIMARY SCHOOLS – ETHNIC

Name	Instrument	School
Woodridge Preparatory School	Marimba	Woodridge

PRIMARY SCHOOLS CATEGORY

Name	Instrument	School
Nikita Tsiotsiopoulos	Piano	St Dominic's
Matthew Perry	Saxophone	Summerwood
Damian de Abreu	Recorder	Summerwood

ENSEMBLE CATEGORY – HIGH SCHOOLS – CLASSICAL

Name	Instrument	School
Emma Bell, Joy Sparg	Piano Duet	Clarendon High School for Girls

ENSEMBLE CATEGORY – HIGH SCHOOLS – ETHNIC

Name	Instrument	School
Loyisa High School	<b>Marimba</b>	Loyisa High School

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY (Gr 4-6)

Name	Instrument	School
Mbali Mahlangeni	Recorder	Clarendon High School for Girls
Nqobile Ngoyi	Recorder	Clarendon High School for Girls
Kelly le Roux	Voice	Summerwood Primary

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY (Gr 7 and higher)

Name	Instrument	School
Babitha Babu	Recorder	Clarendon High school for Girls
Shubhosree Mitra	Recorder	Clarendon High School for Girls
Achish Sam	Saxophone	Westering High School

TERTIARY CATEGORY

Name	Instrument	School
Grant Snyman	Clarinet	NMMU
Christiaan Uys	Clarinet	NMMU
Bradley Martin	Violin	NMMU

The SASMT-branch of Port Elizabeth may, once again, be proud of a successful and productive year. Projects for next year include the recruitment of new SASMT members, especially among younger music teachers, the development of a more effective process for the collection of membership fees and the initiation of a music competition for beginner instrumentalists in the Cacadu region.