



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

The National Youth Orchestra is an achievement we should all be very proud of. Its origin took place at an SASMT AGM at a conference held in the early 60s. At the time there were several promising string players whose orchestral experience was limited to the very excellent work being done by the famous Betty Pack and her outstanding string orchestra. The addition of woodwind, brass and percussion players followed quickly and the SA. National Youth Orchestra gave its first concert at Hartbeespoort Dam conducted by Leo Quayle. Since then concerts have taken place regularly all over this country and overseas and we can look back with pride, knowing that although the well-being and organisation of the orchestra has passed out of our hands, it was originally founded by the SASMT.

The NYO has, for many years been sponsored by SASOL but this year that sponsorship ended. However, the Managing Director, Sophia Welz, is finding ways to deal with what could have been a disaster. A Fund Raising breakfast was held with the right people being invited and many of them have agreed to finance the continuation of the orchestra.

One of the present activities of the NYO closest to our hearts as music teachers has been the holding of intensive study sessions for various groups of players under the direction of an authority on the particular instrument. Amongst them has been one for Oboe players, one for players of the Viola and one for brass players, all to great effect.

We can look forward to many more great performances of the NYO knowing that the idea originally came from us, the SASMT.

Diane Heller (Board Member representing the SASMT)