



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

Annual report for 2017

AGM 7 – 9 April 2018

Vice-president Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West

Another year has gone by, and even though there are no active centres in Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West, the number of musical activities in Gauteng has grown, with teachers from the mentioned provinces attending these events. It would be positive if new centres would be established, but at this stage nobody seems willing to start something new.

2018 was a busy year with the centres and institutions incorporating events for the further education of our teachers and learners. The number of learners at the institutions are growing, as are the number of teachers.

The following centres and institutional centres are situated in Gauteng:

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| 1.Pretoria | 2.Johannesburg |
| 3.University of Pretoria | 4.University of the Witwatersrand |
| 5.North West University | 6.South African Suzuki Association |
| 7.Hoërskool Waterkloof | 8.Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool |
| 9.Brescia House | 10.Pro Arte Alphenpark |
| 11. Jan Celliers Laerskool Musieksentrum | 12.Mamelodi Magnet School |
| 13.Laerskool Skuilkrans Musieksentrum | |
| 14.Pro Arte Alphenpark Academy for the Arts | |

Unfortunately Kingsmead College terminated their membership, but other schools have shown interest but have not yet committed.

Here follow the consolidated reports as received from the representatives.

CENTRES:

1.Pretoria

This centre has nearly 100 members and an active committee which organises not only workshops, but also social get-togethers for the members. Quarterly newsletters are sent out to members. Regular committee meetings are supplemented by whatsapp and email correspondence. The finances are in good order, and although it is still problematic to get all membership fees in timeously, the centre has been able to enlarge prizes at the annual eisteddfod, donate small sums to worthy causes, pay the head office fees early, and even treat the eisteddfod organisers to a breakfast.

The annual Pretoria Eisteddfod was again successfully organised by the programme manager and her team. It is positive to see the talent and commitment in our learners and teachers. In 2017 there were 16 organisers who organised 18 different sections. Adjudication took place for 675 hours to accommodate 7346 entries and R17,400 in prize money was awarded.

A new initiative, the SASMT Pretoria Ensemble competition was hosted from 8 - 10 September 2017 at Eduplex. Financial backing came from an ABRSM International sponsorship, sponsorships by several music dealers and also individual donations. 32 entries were received and impressed the judges with the high standard of musicianship. Due to the success, it will now become an annual event.

The regional conference was hosted in collaboration with the Afrikaanse Höer Seunskool aangebied. Several teachers from our region listened to presentations about advanced harmony, blues-improvisation, composition in the school syllabus, management of muscle pain and music therapy for the teacher.

2.Johannesburg

The committee met regularly and organised several events. Three student concerts were held, and parents and teachers appreciated the opportunity to have their students perform and enjoy music together.

The annual Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music was a great success. In previous years the festival was hosted at the Wits education campus, but in 2017 only the choir and orchestra items took place there. The rest of the festival was held at Jan Celliers Laerskool.

The centre recommends that they find ways to attract younger members to the SASMT and to join the committee. They are also investigating the possibility of regular smaller house concerts as parents and teachers are willing to open their homes.

INSTITUTIONAL CENTRES

A.UNIVERSITIES:

3.University of Pretoria

2017 started with the Gauteng Chamber Music Festival where many young string players had the opportunity to take part in group classes and aural training, had master classes and participated in a final concert.

Throughout the year concerts by students, South African and international musicians took place in the Musaion. The award-winning Camerata and UP Symphonic Winds also performed. The SAMRO SA Music Concert took place in May, the Mimi Coertse Singing competition was hosted in August and the UP Jazz Symposium took place in October. 12 MMUS performing arts concerts also took [place throughout the year.

The annual Enrichment Festival was held in August with many learners benefitting from the master classes and presentations by the lecturers. The Gauteng Music Festival also gave many of the lecturers and students the opportunity to perform.

4.University of the Witwatersrand

The Music Department has a permanent staff of 13 and 30 on their sessional Staff (music instrument and vocal teachers). During 2017 the following student numbers were registered:

PhD: 8

MMus: 12

MA (Research): 7

MA (Course Work and Research Report): 1

BMus 92

Foundation: 18

The courses entail the following:

Foundation Phase: In this phase students study music literacy, general musicianship and performance in three year-long courses

Bachelor of Music: The BMus at Wits is a four year professional degree. Three streams of teaching (academic, Performance and Composition) are on offer throughout the

degree and students select a major in fourth year. They have the option to minor in or drop one of the music professional studies (Performance or Composition) in their third year. An additional major is offered at fourth year, Community Music. It is also available as a minor study.

MA Music: a dissertation supervised in the Music Division of the Wits School of Arts.

MMus: a dissertation and examination performance or compositional portfolio supervised in the Music Division.

During 2018 some of the concert highlights included performances by Addison Frei (South African tour as UNISA Competition Winner for Jazz Piano), the Andre Petersen Quartet, the Wits Trio, the Ibuyambo Ensemble for African Indigenous Music and of *New York Round Midnight* (Karendra Devroop) and *From Sea to Shining Sea* (Christian Bester).

5. North West University

Unfortunately no report was received after numerous requests. No information was available who the new contact person was, as the previous representative only informed me that she was not responsible anymore, and all other attempts to communicate were unanswered.

ASSOCIATIONS:

6. South African Suzuki Association

Unfortunately no report was received after numerous requests.

HIGH SCHOOLS:

7. Hoërskool Waterkloof

Music as a subject is taught by permanent as well as part-time staff. Instruments taught include piano, clarinet, violin, flute and voice. The school caters for instrumentalists as well as singers in their extra-mural activities with two choirs, a capella group string ensemble, jazz ensemble and a concert orchestra to choose from. These groups perform regularly and also partake in combined concerts with other schools, for example the *Tres Scholarum* with Hoërskool Garsfontein and Hoërskool Menlopark, and the *Affie Cultural Derby* with the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool. The Concert Orchestra competed at the South African Championships in September and was awarded the first prize for the 14th year in a row. A few of the instrumental players were also chosen for the regional *Simfonia Juventi* regional youth orchestra.

The Brooklyn Theatre offers schools the possibility to participate in so called *Kolligkonserte*. Music pupils of Waterkloof performed at such concerts in March and September. The Melodrie Piano trio won the 19 & under category at the first SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition. Learners are entered for the Pretoria Eisteddfod and Afrikaanse Kunswedstryd, as well as Unisa and ABRSM examinations all with good results. An internal *Klofiefees* is also organised for the different arts. The matriculants organise a concert in preparation for their final practical exams, and two parent evenings are hosted where parents can listen to the pupils.

8. Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool

In 2017 the music department had 243 learners in Grade 8 – 9 and 60 choosing music as a Matric subject in Grades 10 – 12. After the final matric exams two pupils were invited to the “Joy of Music” concert hosted by the Gauteng Education department. Annually a *Winter Concert* and *Summer concert* take place where pupils have to

audition for participation. All grades organise performances as part of the CAPS document. A Music Open Day is held for potential music learners where they can test different instruments.

The GCMF (Gauteng Chamber Music Festival) was hosted between 4 and 7 January at the school in collaboration with the University of Pretoria. The SASMT regional Conference also took place at AHS in September. Pupils are regularly entered for the *Affie Artes* (an internal competition), Pretoria Eisteddfod, Afrikaanse Kunswedstryd, and UNISA and ABRSM examinations.

The national *Vento* competition took place from 27 – 30 September. This was initially just for wind instruments, but now also includes string players.

The school has a symphony orchestra, a wind band, jazz band, several ensembles and a choir. These ensembles perform on a regular basis and are cultural ambassadors. The orchestras and the choir were overall winners in their categories at the Pretoria Eisteddfod. The choir was awarded the prize for best boys choir at the national Applous competition.

9. Brescia House

The number of pupils in the music centre continues to grow and the fruits of years of tuition and practice are heard in the developing skills and growing maturity of many pupils' performances. The proficiency of the staff is evident in the pleasing progress and high standard of performance of their pupils.

A record number of 67 music centre pupils wrote or played music examinations in 2017, 20 of whom played at a grade 5 or higher level. 39 candidates achieved a merit or distinction for the examinations, of which 12 were in the higher grades. Kate Watson is to be congratulated on her superb achievements. She has passed ABRSM grade 8 examinations in three instruments, namely piano, flute and singing, and also passed the Trinity College Advanced Certificate (beyond grade 8) in performance in piano and flute. In all five of these examinations, she gained distinctions.

Concerts throughout the year gave all pupils the opportunity to share their music with others, while enjoying the thrill of playing for an audience. The teatime concerts remain regular and enjoyable events, with a wide range of performances supported by music-lovers throughout the school. The more formal evening concerts and the annual Spring and Gala Concerts were equally enjoyed by performers and the appreciative audiences. The Concerto Festival remains a highlight of the year, with a very high standard of performance on a variety of instruments (cello, piano, flute, saxophone and voice in 2017). Places are sought after, and the festival encourages students to aspire to the demanding standard required.

Ensemble Concerts were a new addition to the concert schedule for 2017. These gave the opportunity for musicians other than soloists to perform in groups ranging from duets and trios, to marimba groups, and Brescia Junior and Senior Orchestras. Audiences enjoyed a wide variety of musical styles, ranging from a fifteenth-century cello duet to the high school choir, guitar group and staff rock band performing more contemporary styles.

The high school choirs comprise committed and enthusiastic girls who are willing to dedicate much of their time to practising and to performing at every opportunity. The high school and Bel Canto choirs participated in a number of concerts and events during the year. Both choirs performed in the *Singing Sistas* festival at St Mary's School, and the St Stithians Girls' College festival, in addition to two Brescia House

choir concerts and at one of the newly-established Ensemble Concerts. The choirs continued to play a leading role in sacred music at Mass, as well as at the annual Carol Service, which is always a highlight of the choral year. The choir is to be commended on their spirit of dedication and commitment, which pervades so much of life at Brescia House School.

10. Pro Arte Alphenpark

The music department at Pro Arte Alphenpark had 10 matriculants in 2017. These learners started in Grade 8 only, therefore intense and hard work and commitment is required from the teachers to achieve good work at matric level. The pupils achieved 1 A, 2B's 6 C's and a D. Two of the matriculants were invited to perform at the NSA with other talented matriculants.

A musical was performed with learners directing, acting and singing. A small ensemble accompanied the music.

Learners were entered for the Pretoria Eisteddfod, with two pupils named category winners in the percussion section. A violinist obtained excellent results with 5 A++'s. Unisa examinations were also on the cards for some of the pupils. Two learners were included in the Simfonia Juventi Youth Orchestra.

The Tutti Concert, where all learners except the Grade 8's perform, was successful. All aspects of the production were handled by the learners. The annual teacher's Concert was again an enjoyable evening

MUSIC CENTRES:

11. Jan Celliers Laerskool Musiekdepartement

At this private primary school 248 of the 400 learners obtain individual music lessons from the 5 permanent and 8 part-time teachers. Instruments presented are piano, keyboard, recorder, violin, cello, flute, fife, clarinet, guitar and drums. Group activities include the school orchestra, four recorder ensembles, a flute and fife ensemble, a 'Rock band', an Orff and Marimba-orchestra, and a Junior and Senior choir.

Pupils can enter Unisa-, ABRSM or Trinity examinations. Several pupils also enter the Hubert van der Spuy, Philip Moore and Atterbury Music Competitions deurdring. 15 pupils were placed on the Unisa Roll of Honor in 2017.

A music bursary is awarded annually to a Grade 3 to 6 pupil in the "Zanta Hofmeyr Beurskompetisie".

Several performance opportunities are created by hosting six afternoon concerts. Here pupils can perform in a relaxed environment. One of these concerts is specifically planned for the ensembles. There is also a Teachers Concert. An Interschool Concert with neighbouring schools is a highlight on the calendar. The income created by this evening goes to the Hillbrow Community Music Centre where underprivileged children receive music tuition.

Several symposiums are hosted during the year. The main purpose is to inspire teachers and learners alike through lectures and master classes. During 2017 the sixth Piano symposium, with Dr Dr Liezl-Marét Jacobs as main speaker took place and at the Recorder Symposium Carin van Heerden, professor in recorder at the Mozarteum, shared her knowledge. The Choir Workshop presented by Renette Bouwer from UJ attracted 50 choir conductors from as far as the Northern Cape. The first Violin Symposium with Johanna Roos had such positive reaction that it will become an

annual event. International Tasmanian music pedagogue Gerard van de Geer offered his insights to 32 music educators at the Marimba - and Orff Symposium.

A recorder Concerto Festival took place in October where participants performed one movement from a concerto

The annual Musiekkunswedstryd also attracts participants from neighbouring schools and all instruments are adjudicated. The festival ends with a Prestige Prize giving evening

12.Mamelodi Magnet School

The Mamelodi Magnet School is based at Mamelodi High School 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 center. Dr Lynette Pruneau initially started the Magnet School in 2003 and since 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 annually achieves high pass rates at UNISA examinations, participates at Sinfonia Juventi, and perform at music festivals and community events.

The Mamelodi Magnet School currently has six full time qualified music teachers, of which Jaco van Staden is the head of the department. The music teachers are also accredited by UNISA and the department of education remunerates their salaries. Music lessons are offered on the following instruments: violin, voice, classical and jazz guitar, recorder, saxophone, all brass instruments and drum kit. There are currently approximately 70 learners registered at the Magnet School receiving music tuition.

13.Laerskool Skuilkrans Musieksentrum

This centre has been in existence for 35 years. Since it was privatised, learners from other schools are allowed to receive tuition at this centre. Before this change only learners from Laerskool Skuilkrans were accepted as pupils. Now 10 different schools are represented, and even university students receive tuition.

A minimum of four concerts are held every year, and the year is ended with an Honors Evening. Learners are entered for Unisa, ABRSM and Trinity examinations as well as several eisteddfods, with several of the learners receiving trophies. A large percentage of learners entered for Unisa theory exams were placed on the Roll of Honor.

There are also some learners who have music as a subject at their respective school, but who stay on at the centre for their practical lessons.

Six staff members teach piano, violin, recorder, keyboard, guitar and voice. The centre is very thankful for the continuing support of the head master of the school who understands and appreciates the value of music education.

14.Pro Arte Alphenpark Academy for the Arts

The year 2017 will be remembered as a very auspicious year in the calendar of the Arts Academy. In the beginning of the year we were inundated with new applications for music tuition. In February we already had 108 more learners than the same period of the previous year. We realised that the new generation of young parents are well informed about the educational value of music. They are very much involved with the extramural activities of their children and extremely enthusiastic about the instrumental training of their young ones. We also saw a growth in applications for very young children – as young as 4 years old! A new tendency is also that parents

encourage their children more and more to attend music theory classes and that they must participate in written exams.

The Arts Academy is in the fortunate position that it operates as a Magnet School and draws children from 30 different schools in Pretoria and as far as neighbouring towns in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. The music centre has a sufficient amount of instruments that can be hired by learners – especially in the scarcer type of instruments like oboes, clarinets, trombones, horns, double basses etc.

In 2017 The Arts Academy had its annual Arts Festival which took place in August at the beautiful Encore Theatre Complex in Pretoria. This Festival is presented in the form of a music competition but with emphasis on the important fact that young musicians should play together in groups and perform in public. The year's activities came to completion with our Prize Winning Concert where hundreds of certificates and trophies were awarded.

An orchestra comprising strings, wind and percussion was also started in 2017. They performed for the first time at our Arts Festival.

We have a staff of 17 full time and part time teachers responsible for most of the orchestral instruments. We are also fortunate that we have specialist teachers in some of our instruments. Our Dux Learner for 2017 was Menieke Steenkamp, a recorder learner of Dr Marie McLachlan. She was not only the Overall Winner of the recorder section of the Pretoria Eisteddfod, but was also invited to partake in the Unisa Grade 8 Music Scholarship.

CONCLUSION

From the above it can be seen that role players put in great effort to keep music alive. There are many opportunities for learners to participate in a healthy environment through the various festivals, eisteddfods and competitions, and to glean knowledge through master classes and workshops. It is amazing to see the amount of orchestras and choirs which give learners a chance to enjoy music with fellow students. It is also evident that educators support their pupils as much as possible.

There are many opportunities for music teachers to enrich themselves through various workshops and symposiums. These events are also of great value for networking and getting to know other like-minded teachers. It is therefore sad to hear that some members decide to cancel their membership because “the society does not do anything for them”.

The Pretoria centre conducted a survey to find out which subjects are important to them and which speakers they would like to hear. Unfortunately, even though the requests were incorporated, the trend that workshops are attended by a larger percentage of non-members than members has not changed.

Another issue is how to get members involved in assisting with planned activities. The situation is challenging and I have personally wondered about the future of a society where members demand many things, but only a few are willing to help with organising and running the activities, attend these events, not to say go the extra mile for this valuable cause, namely music teaching. I do hope that a solution can be found.

Gisela Scriba

2017 Vice president Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West