



KwaZulu Natal Regional Vice President's Report 2018

The KZN region consists of the Pietermaritzburg and Durban Centres and UKZN, Eden College and St Mary's DSG Kloof institutions. Mrs Carol Solomon leads the Pietermaritzburg Centre, Ms Tania Borman leads Durban, Mrs Marijke de Bruin is the representative for St Mary's DSG, Mrs Amina Carini is the representative for Eden College and Dr Andrew Warburton is the representative for UKZN. The latter three represent their institutions on the Durban Centre Committee.

The highlight of 2018 for SASMT in KZN was organising and hosting the national conference that was held from 5 – 7 April. Exco was ably led by Dr Ros Conrad, President of SASMT in 2017-2018. Exco consisted of Sandra Breschi, Amina Carini, Ronel Perks, Carol Solomon, Jenny Bonsignore, Andrew Warburton, Marijke de Bruin, Sareen Young and Tania Borman. Each person contributed their unique skill sets and network to bring together a conference entitled "The Passion of Music – Celebrating Diversity". The conference started with a Gala Concert organised by Andrew Warburton who performed with colleagues Violeta and Sorin Osorhean, Vanessa Tait-Jones and Christopher Cockburn. The centenary year of the SASMT was celebrated with a Dinner at a local restaurant.

Speakers were sourced from our diverse Durban music community and talks included:

- ♪ Appreciating the Diversity of African Music by Dr Patricia Opondo
- ♪ The Alchemy of Song by Ronel Perks
- ♪ A New Passion: The Joy of Writing by Priscilla Crundwell
- ♪ Music Healing and Multiculturalism: Music-Making in a troubled and Complex Environment by Dr Andrew-John Bethke
- ♪ Business Ethics for the Music Teacher by Sue van Blerk
- ♪ 21st Century Music Education in Contemporary South Africa by Prof Chats Devroop
- ♪ South African Composers' Piano Music by Dr Liezl-Maret Jacobs
- ♪ The Indian Connection by Iqbal Naroth
- ♪ The Joy of Chamber Music With Piano: An Investigation Into a Relatively Unknown Repertoire by Andrew Warburton
- ♪ Developing Emotional Intelligence and The Creative Arts: Finding the Balance by Marijke de Bruin
- ♪ Vocal Care and Hygiene for the Professional Voice User by Vanessa Tait-Jones
- ♪ Bottle Necks, Pocket Knives and Railroad Bolts: The Development of the Slide and Steel Guitar Playing by Richard Haslop

The Durban Centre hosted their annual Achievers' Concert in March. This concert acknowledges the outstanding results from the practical exams held the previous year for all the examining boards. 35 top achievers were invited to perform in the concert and prize winners were announced in the prize giving at the end of the concert.

Another highlight on the KZN SASMT calendar is The Young Performers' Concert which saw a bumper set of around 54 applications being received with 17 entrants being selected from the audition process. This annual concert is a collaborative event with the SASMT in KZN and the KZNPO who generously offer their resources to give young emerging musicians the opportunity to perform with a world-class orchestra. Maestro Naum Rousine conducted the KZNPO on 12th May in the Playhouse Drama.

The Durban Centre held their regular concerts, Young Music Makers' and Senior Students', in August where promising performers are given the opportunity to learn the craft of performance. The year

culminated with the Rising Stars' concert held in collaboration with Friends of The Music who give our most promising young performers an opportunity to showcase up-and-coming talent. The Durban Centre is affiliated to the Ethekekwini Eisteddfod which takes place in the September holidays. A highly successful prize winners concert was held where a high standard of performance was evident. Not many workshops or other events were held due to resources being focused on conference.

A North Coast Satellite "branch" had been established the previous year to help encourage music teachers further afield to join the society. A very highly successful "Manic Marimba" competition was held in early May at Ashton International College in Ballito. Several schools from around KZN entered and a day of music-making and much fun was enjoyed by all who participated. The day culminated in a 'world premier' in KZN of a mass marimba item with all the participants from the entire day performing on stage to end the day.

Pietermaritzburg held their annual SASMT Eisteddfod in August with just under 1400 entries being received. Various local schools offered their premises as venues. Adjudicators were locally sourced with the exception of one, Olga Korvink who came from Johannesburg. The Best of Eisteddfod concerts were held showcasing the top achievers. A "Pupils and Prize Winners Concert" was held in October to honour those who had achieved distinctions in the year's practical exams.

Eden College offers Subject Music for high school learners with private music lessons offered across the whole school by a small complement of music teachers that include some musicians from the KZNPO. The annual Soiree showcases the many talented music students at the school. One student was invited as a Prelude Performer at a Friends of Music concert at the beginning of 2018, a huge honour.

St Mary's Soundscapes had another productive and busy year in 2018. There is a complement of 32 music teachers and about 500 students participating in group and individual lessons each week. Lindy van der Meulen has continued on in the role of Head of Music, and David Langley is now in the position of High School Music teacher. As in previous years, each Grade 2 girl does violin and each Grade 3 girl does recorder. In Grades 4 and 5, the girls have the opportunity to study orchestral instruments, guitar, drum kit and keyboard in small groups during allocated school time. It is hoped that this will encourage them to continue with these instruments as they move up the school. The programme is working well and both school orchestras have a healthy complement of girls. A new programme introduced in 2018 is that each Grade 8 girl learns an instrument during their weekly class lesson. The girls choose between piano, ukulele, percussion (drum kit and marimba), vocal coaching and music technology. This has proved very popular and is working very well.

Choir is a very popular activity at St Mary's. These choirs perform at the various concerts throughout the year and in 2018, the high school choir were crowned Champions of the World Choir Games in the Scenic Folklore category. In 2017, the choir won both their categories in the International Brahms Choir Competition in Wernigerode, Germany, and were voted the most popular choir at the competition.

Marimba bands were started in the High school 5 years ago, and in the Primary school in 2017. They have proved immensely popular and are going from strength to strength. In 2017 and 2018 our Senior band won categories at the International Marimba Competition in Gauteng. Termly music recitals are held each term to give students the opportunity to perform. The annual Musical Showcase was held in May 2018 which gave each extramural group in the school an opportunity to perform. The St Mary's music Matrics performed their final programmes in a recital in September

The school continues to provide a venue for external practical examinations – Trinity Practical and Theory Examinations, and UNISA Theory Papers. The Queensburgh Festival of the Arts and the Ethekekwini

Eistedfod were both held at St Mary's in 2018 and will be again in 2019 , and the SASMT continue to use the school as a venue for meetings, workshops and concerts.

UKZN was host to the SASRIM conference held in August. SASRIM is the South African Society For Research in Music. The conference particularly invited submissions that reflected on Todd Matshikiza's life and work with it being the 50-year commemoration of his passing. The key-note speakers were Professor Louise Meintjes (Associate Professor of Music and Cultural Anthropology at Duke University and author) and Dr Lindelwa Dalamba (University of the Witwatersrand School of Arts' Department of Music). The conference was run in conjunction with the 2nd Bow Music Conference whose key-note address by Prof. Gerhard Kubik (Austrian cultural anthropologist and music ethnologist) was delivered by Prof Andrew Tracey.

Music is alive and well in KZN and we continually strive to find ways to encourage and grow the music teaching profession locally in order to be raising the next generation of musicians, both those who excel in performance and wish to pursue music as a career and those who wish to use their skill for their own enjoyment.

Tania Borman
KZN Regional Vice President
SASMT