



*South African Society of Music Teachers*  
Port Elizabeth Centre  
Annual Report 2015

The main focal point of the SASMT Port Elizabeth Chapter during 2015 could, perhaps, best be summarised as follows: The musical development of young Eastern Cape musician through the creation of stimulating, pleasurable performance opportunities.

This year's committee consisted of: Lestie Hughes (Chairman), Alethea de Villiers (Treasurer), Nicky Bosman (Secretary), Pierre Malan (SASMT Life Member), Hanlie Young, Lilian Zeelie (Promotion), René Zietsman, Timothy O'Reilly and Devandré Boonzaaier.

Our annual Cocktail Party for music teachers was held in the Club House of Summerwood Primary on Thursday, 19 February, with Prof. Aletta Delpont as guest speaker. Having worked extensively in the field of Arts Education, Prof. Delpont's most recent academic endeavours focused on the role of the Arts in the context of schools within a lower socio-economic bracket. Prof. Delpont's presentation, entitled 'The contribution of arts in the holistic development of the child', proved both thought-provoking and inspirational, and served to underline the indispensable role of the Arts in social reform. It was, indeed, re-affirming to be reminded of the non-negotiable status of the Arts, in this case more specifically Music, as a crucial role player in social growth and development. I trust that music teachers, who are often victim to mindsets perceiving their subject as a non-essential luxury, left this event with a renewed sense of relevance and purpose. Hanlie Young is to be thanked for the use of the venue. Thank you as well to Hanlie Young and Nicky Bosman for organising the lovely refreshments.

The next event on our calendar was a 'Meet and Greet' with the acclaimed pianist Spencer Myer, at the home of Dawid and Marie du Plooy in Summerstrand. This event served as a precursor to Myer's concert on 11 March, which formed part of the PE Music Society's programme for 2015. It afforded music teachers of Port Elizabeth the opportunity to chat to this gifted but unassuming musician about life as a classical performer of international stature.

From 9 to 11 April Lestie Hughes, SASMT Vice-President of the Eastern Cape (2013-2014), served as the regional representative at the National SASMT Conference, held at Kingsmead College in Rosebank, Johannesburg. Another Eastern Cape representative was Mieke Struwig, pupil of Gareth Williams (saxophone lecturer at NMMU), who performed at the conference as bursary winner. The presentation by the key note speaker and renowned composer, Prof Jeanne Zaidel Rudolph (University of Witwatersrand), proved a highlight at this conference, focused on 'Excellence in Music Education'. Outstanding presentations highlighting various aspects and perspectives on the educational pursuit of excellence in music performance included those by the vocal lecturer Conroy Cupido (North-West University), Kutlwane Masote of the Soweto Strings and the well-known pianist and entrepreneur Christopher Duigan. Congratulations to René Zietsman, who was elected as the new SASMT Vice-President for the Eastern Cape (2015-2016) at the AGM of this conference.

The next exciting musical endeavour demanding our attention was the brand new 'Mini Maestros' Competition, kindly sponsored by Musikland and Tempo Music.

Saturday morning 23 May saw the launch of this competition, held at Strelitzia High School in Uitenhage. This competition was initiated to encourage instrumental musical developing in the

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Cacadu region. Built around the Beginner, Initial and Grade 1 phases of primary school musical development, Mini Maestros aims to foster young talent by providing a non-threatening performance platform for 'fledgling' musicians.

The first Mini Maestros competition proved to be a feast of colour and sound, as 120 young instrumentalists took to the stage in their multi-coloured Mini Maestro T-shirts, to share their music with a highly appreciative audience. Constructive feedback was given throughout by Anne Catt and Winnie Grundling, two stalwarts in music education within the Eastern Cape.

In line with the competition's philosophy to encourage music making instead of rivalry, the criteria for the medals awarded were premised on the acknowledgement of particular distinguishing qualities, rather than the determination of 'winners'. The following pupils were the recipients of Mini Maestro medals: Most Enjoyable Performance: Ruan le Roux (Beginner), Jesse de Kock (Initial), Kelsey-Rose Massart-Burns (Grade 1); Most Promising Performance: Maxwell Collett (Beginner), Zalitha Knoetze (Initial), Anke Scheffer (Grade 1); Best Stage Presence: Phoebe Goliath (Beginner), Angelica van den Berg (initial), Lize Muller (Grade 1).

This year's annual SASMT Music Competition, ranging in performance grade from Grade 2 to Licentiate level, took place on 28 and 29 August, in the NMMU South Campus Auditorium. The sponsors were Lee Gold Music, contributing R 10 000 in vouchers, the NMMU Music Department, supplying two R 5 000 bursaries for Matric participants in the 'Advanced' Section, wishing to study Music at NMMU, and the PE Music Society, contributing R 5 000 towards prizes for the 'Advanced' High School and Tertiary Sections. The PE Music Society also supplied us with exquisite medallions for the prize-winners. Simeon Goldblum of Lee Gold and Erika Bothma (President) of the PE Music Society should, in particular, be thanked for their generosity and interest in the activities of our branch. Special thanks should also be reserved for Erika Bothma, Howard Nock, Rudi Bower and Kobus Buys, our four adjudicators. These special people allowed the competition to run seamlessly and professionally.

The seamless running of this competition proved no mean feat, considering the unprecedented growth in the number of entries. Attention may, in this regard, be drawn to the 66 entries in our Primary School Individual Section, and the 53 and 51 entries in the 'Gr 4-6' and 'Advanced' High School Individual Sections respectively.

It was, furthermore, most affirming to witness continued, pleasing growth in our ensemble entries. The fact that both individual and ensemble entries were received from East-London and Grahamstown proved most heartening.

Our prize-winners were as follows:

**Ensemble Category – Primary Schools: Classical**

Greenwood Primary

**Ensemble Category – Primary Schools: Ethnic**

Summerwood Concert Marimba Band

**Ensemble Category – High Schools: Classical**

Clarendon High School Recorder Ensemble

**Ensemble Category – High Schools: Ethnic**

St Dominic's Priory Marimba and Percussion Ensemble

**Primary School Category**

**First Prize:** Jedidiah Botes (Piano) – Woodridge Preparatory

**Second Prize:** Anél Young (French Horn) – Summerwood primary

**Third Prize:** Cara Venter (Piano) – Charlo Primary

**High School Category (Gr 4-6)**

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**First Prize:** Kelly le Roux (Voice) – Pearson  
**Second Prize:** Shannon Hubbard (Soprano Saxophone) - Collegiate  
**Third Prize:** Avuya Gqoba (Clarinet) - Collegiate

**High School Category (Gr 7 and higher)**

**First Prize:** Emily Morgan (Piano) – Tim Radloff (Private)  
**Second Prize:** Angus Teeton (Flute) – Woodridge College  
**Third Prize:** Lara Potgieter (Piano) – Victoria Park High

**Tertiary Category**

**First Prize:** Luxolo Jule (Voice) - NMMU  
**Second Prize:** Mieke Struwig (Clarinet) - NMMU  
**Third Prize:** Richard Gauld (Saxophone) - NMMU

A ‘post-mortem’ of the competition reveals the following:

- ✓ An incredible standard, displaying true excellence in performance, was yet again maintained in all categories.
- ✓ Due to the astounding increase in entries, the Primary School Individual Section needed to start at 9:00 on Friday, 28 August. This was followed by the Ensemble Categories and the High School ‘Gr 4-6’ Individual Section in the afternoon, with the Tertiary Section commencing at 19:15. The entire Saturday morning was devoted to the ‘Advanced’ High School Section. The tight schedule, of course, also necessitated the use of 4 adjudicators. A similar ‘Competition Structure’ should be anticipated if next year’s entry numbers prove similar.
- ✓ In order to allow easier, and perhaps also ‘fairer’ adjudication, it has been decided to split the Primary School Section into ‘Gr 2-3’ and ‘Gr 4-6’ in 2016. The misleading and rather stereotypical ‘Ethnic / Western Ensemble’ labels will also be laid to rest, as many marimba and steel pan bands participating in this section were, in fact, playing popular contemporary material. The ensemble sections will, in future, be divided into ‘Marimba and Steel Pan’ and ‘Other’.
- ✓ Due to the growth in our competition in recent years, the duties of each committee member were, in 2015, more clearly defined. Efficiency was furthermore ensured by the invaluable assistance of Carina du Preez and Wayne Bosman. Nicky Bosman was, as always, the glue that kept us all together, and cannot be thanked enough for this.

In closing the SASMT-committee of the Port Elizabeth Centre as a whole is certainly to be thanked for their hard work and congratulated on a highly productive and ground-breaking year.

Lestie Hughes  
(Chairperson)