



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

2020 Standing Committee Report

The Standing Committee Members for 2019-2020 were:

1. Lestie Hughes (Chairperson)
2. Elma Britz (EO)
3. Alethea de Villiers
4. Nicky Bosman (Secretary)
5. Liska du Preez
6. Lilian Zeelie
7. Paul Richard
8. Curtleigh Koopman
9. Terry-Ann Julies
10. Robert Gilmer

Although the Standing Committee only met once, namely on 10 January 2020 at 10 am. in the staffroom of the Nelson Mandela University Music department in Port Elizabeth, the committee was in continual electronic contact.

The issues discussed at the meeting on 10 January and during subsequent electronic interactions may be summarised as follows:

Personalia

- The passing of Rose Matier and of Pierre Malan's father were noted.
- The engagements of Terry-Anne Jullies and Curtleigh Koopman and of Liska du Preez and Michael Mey were noted.

Planning for 2020-2021

- It was decided that no changes would be made to the membership of the committee.

- The main purposes of the committee were reaffirmed as (i) the approving of new members; (ii) the overseeing the SASMT Bursaries and (iii) the overseeing of Finance.
- The electronic process of membership approval, on a round-robin basis, was reviewed and considered highly effective. It was decided that Elma Britz will continue sending new applications to Nicky Bosman, who will be forwarding these to the rest of the committee. Although an acceptable music qualification or 3 years' music teaching experience will continue to serve as the benchmark for approval, a spirit of inclusivity should serve as a guiding principle.

General Finances

- At the 10 January meeting Elma Britz indicated that the balance in the national account was approximately R 41 000 and stated that money was saved by opting for a mainly electronic route regarding the SAMT. The magazine was distributed digitally to most of the members. Only 150 hard copies were printed, and these members had to forward a paid, self-addressed envelope to receive their magazine.
- Re-investment of the Benevolent Fund, overseen by Elma Britz, Riaan Steyn, Nico Dekker and Ross Conrad (with Diane Heller convalescing after an illness) was also discussed and approved at this meeting.
- An increase in capitation fees of 6-8% was approved.
- A catering budget of R 22 300 for the anticipated Annual Conference in Potchefsroom was also approved. The subsequent cancellation of the conference due to the Covid pandemic regrettably resulted in flight tickets booked for Council members not being reimbursed.

Bursaries

- At the 10 January meeting Elma Britz stated that, due to good interest rates, the bursaries for 2020 would increase.
- She also announced the 2019 bursary recipients to the committee members. They are:

Amber de Decker (University of Stellenbosch)	Ellie Marx Bursary (Strings)
Yolisa Ngwexana (University of North West)	Gladwell Scholarship (Voice)

Caron Tremble (University of Stellenbosch) - Piano	Kathleen Irish Scholarship - 50%
Gerhard Joubert (University of Cape Town) - Piano	Kathleen Irish Scholarship - 50%
Caron Tremble (University of Stellenbosch) - Piano	David Reunert Bursary

- The decision was made that the adjudicators of the 2020 bursary panel would be Tinus Botha, Hanli Stapela and David Bester.

Other Issues

The SASMT Award for Excellence in Music Education, which was proposed and accepted as a new SASMT ‘project’, received extensive attention. After discussion at the meeting of 10 January, Elma Britz sent out a national request for nominations and Lestie Hughes developed criteria for assessment of the contributions of the nominees within two categories: Whereas Category 1 caters for individuals operating from a position outside the structures of formal music education, Category 2 focusses on those whose community work has been integrated within such formal structures.

The 2020 recipients of the Excellence in Music Education within Category One are Michael Alley, for his violin programmes in the Gqeberha region, Nadia Smith, for music therapy focused on disabled children at the Lettie Fouché School, the Brandwag Primary School and through the Heidedal Marimba Project and Tyrone Hitzeroth, for his brass programme at the Moravian Christian Gregor School in Schauderville, Gqeberha.

In turn, the recipients in Category Two are Carina Brown, driving force behind the Music Youth Development Teaching Programmes on the West Coast, Joan Lithgow, founding member of the Marimba Education Foundation and Fest Director for the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festivals, Prof. Nina Schumann, the initiator of bursary networks for underprivileged students through the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival, Stefné van Dyk, project manager manager of the Handevat Music Project, focussed on underprivileged communities of the Overberg, and Vaughan Pietersen, principal of the Frank Pieterse Music Centre in Paarl.

Many thanks to the members of the Standing Committee for their commitment and positive contributions, rooted in a concern for the structured yet dynamic functioning of the SASMT.

Lestie Hughes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lestie Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "H".

(Chairman)