WEST COAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Newsletter Nr.1 / 2014

Welcome!

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the West Coast Youth Orchestra! May the news become more and more exciting with time! The WCYO had a phenomenal year. Continue reading to find out..!

Concerts & Performances

The year kicked off with a performance at the West Coast Mall in Vredenburg for their 5th Birthday Celebration, on 29 March. Everyone in the mall were surprised and enjoyed the performance.

On 26 June, WCYO performed with local singer and songwriter, Jo Folscher, in Hopefield. The orchestral accompaniment complimented his voice and entertained the audience with energetic performances of several of his songs. It was a wonderful evening and a privilege to have performed with Jo! Click here to view the list of all contributors and sponsors for this event.

Guest Artist, Tobi Jooste, caused many encores on Saturday 2 August at Curro Langebaan. The WCYO performed with Tobi and complimented Tobi's rich baritone voice with a variety of Classical and Jazz Repertoire, such as Quando Quando Quando; Starry Starry Night, *Skipskop* and *Aan die Einde van die Reënboog*. The Longacres Private School and Vredenburg High School Choirs also sang with Orchestral accompaniment, The evening ended with a spectacular finale of *Genade Onbeskryflik groot,* with Tobi, the VHS Choir, and WCYO.

On Friday 12 September, the WCYO had the privilege to perform with guest artist - one of South Africa's most sought after artists - Steve Hofmeyr. With a packed hall, the orchestra accompanied hits such as Sweet Caroline; I am I said; Pampoen; Liefling etc. It was a phenomenal night that will never be forgotten by the players and audience!

WCYO was once again invited to play at the Hugo Lambrechts Orchestra Festival in Parow, on 21 September. The Orchestra gave an outstanding performance of In the Hall of the Mountain King, Radetzky March and Billy Jean.

In August, WCYO also took part at the Wes-Boland Eisteddfod and won the Trophy for Orchestras. In May, WCYO won the *Alet de Vos Trophy for Best Youth Orchestra*, at the Stellenbosch Eisteddfod. This is an excellent achievement, and hopefully many more trophies will follow in the future!

WCYO ended the year by performing at the Christmas Carols service of the Dutch Reformed Church in Vredenburg, on 23 November. It was lovely to hear the orchestra perform all our well-known carols!

Funding received

For those that are not aware, the WCYO is a non-profit organisation, registered in August 2013. We are therefore dependent on funds and sponsorships for all expenses.

WCYO want to thank the HCI Foundation and the Western Cape Government; Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, for their contributions towards WCYO's Outreach and the Development Orchestra program for 2014/2015. We would also like to thank the National Department of Arts and Culture for their contribution towards the upcoming West Coast Festival for Musicians, 5 – 7 March 2015. More info will be available on the WCYO website soon.

To read more about the needs of WCYO, or funding, click here.

Orchestra Braai & Sound Course

WCYO held their first Orchestra Braai on 25 October at the WCYO Centre in Langebaan. Players and parents enjoyed the socializing and jamming!

Some Orchestra players attended the Sounds Amazing Sound Course, presented by Cara Dowling and Emily Adams, at Curro Langebaan on 31 Oct. and 1 Nov. It was very informative and players are now much more equipped to work with sound equipment!

Prize-Giving & SANYO

The first WCYO Prize-Giving was held on 21 November at Curro Langebaan. All players were awarded for participation in performances. Congratulations to the seven Floating Trophy Winners for their Leadership in the Symphony Orchestra for 2014: Lanz Ebersöhn (Concert Master), Anika Keuck, Darius Becker, Nicole de Wet, Cheryl-Lee Cupido, Marlon van Rooyen, Tanielle Meyer.
A special thanks to Oscar van Antwerpen from Minrom for sponsoring the event, and also to photographer Lisa Pereira (Pereira Photos).

We are proud of 3 WCYO players that were chosen for the South African National Youth Orchestra (SANYO) for the second consecutive year: Darius Becker (Double Bass), Pieter Strydom (Double Bass) and Anika Keuck (Viola). This is an excellent achievement! WCYO player Lize Brown is part of the organizing committee of SANYO.

Farewell to players

We are sad to say goodbye to eight Symphony Orchestra members. Cheryl-Lee Cupido (principal flute), Nicole de Wet (principal cello), Carike Anker (Flute) and Dominique Brand (Percussion) have just finished their final matric examinations and are headed off to university. Lanz & Arnoux Ebersöhn are moving to Gauteng and Chloe James and Frederik Louw will be in Stellenbosch from next year. These players have made a huge impact on the orchestra and will be dearly missed!

Outreach Project Launch

WCYO successfully launched a new Outreach project on Saturday 8 November at the WCYO Centre in Langebaan. 60 Children from surrounding schools attended the launch and were tested for String, Percussion and Brass instruments. The Diazville Primary School Brass Band, tutored by Anthea Boks, performed two pieces. They only received tuition for less than two months and were the hit of the day.

Tuition for the Strings, Percussion and more Brass students will start in January 2015 depending on sufficient funding for more instruments. Thank You to HCI Foundation, Blue Shield Security, Saldanha Bay Municipality, Club Mykonos, Old Mutual Vredenburg, Department of Arts and Culture, Dr. Riaan Swart, Noordhoek Primary School, Diazville community and WCMA Staff for contributing towards this event.

WCYO Upcoming Events 2015
(details of events will be updated on the website as finalised)

16 January: First WCYO rehearsal for 2015
14 / 21 February: Concert and Auction (Athene Hall, Club Mykonos, Langebaan)
6 - 7 March: West Coast Festival for Musicians (Langebaan)
15 March: Fundraising Concert with Mr Morrison & Musicians (Weston High School)
17 - 19 April: Annual WCYO Practice Camp (Club Elani, Misverstand Dam)

6 - 8 May: Curro Revue (Curro Langebaan School Hall)
9 May: Stellenbosch Orchestra Festival
15 May: Concert with Manuel Escorcio & Belia Lourens (Curro Langebaan Hall)

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