WEST COAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Newsletter Nr.2
1st Term 2015

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The WCYO has started this year in top gear, and a promising and accelerating year is lying ahead for us, with exciting upcoming performances!

New members

The WCYO welcomes all new members in the various orchestras. Many new beginner String students qualified for the Junior Strings Orchestra (a hearty welcome to you all!), with progressed Junior String players advancing to the Senior Strings- & Symphony Orchestras. The Symphony Orchestra has lost many senior players at the end of 2014 due to relocations, resulting in a very young Symphony Orchestra for 2015. New players have really stepped up to the plate, and the Symphony Orchestra is hard at work with brand new repertoire.

The Wind- and Percussion Orchestras are also rehearsing on the regular hourly rehearsals on Fridays. The **Development Orchestra** has been implemented from last year, and consists of primary school brass players from the local Diazville Primary School. **Mr Darryn Prinsloo**, new brass tutor at the West Coast Music Academy, and also brass player in the WCYO Symphony Orchestra, will take over the reins for the Development Orchestra. The Development tuition will be extended to Noordhoek Primary School and selected children from Hopefield. Tuition in Strings, Recorder and Percussion will also be implemented.

WCYO Director receives Cultural Award!

We are extremely proud of our Executive Director, **Carina Brown**, who was invited to the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) Awards, on 9 February in the Baxter Theatre. To her surprise, she was awarded **The Minister's Special Award for Outstanding Achievement for Women in the Arts and Culture**. Actress Sandra Prinsloo and poet and rieldans advocate Elias Nel, also received awards at this year's event.

Development Orchestra Performance - 12 Feb.

On Thursday 12 February, the WCYO was privileged to receive a brand new **Concert Glockenspiel** from a German Orchestra. A meeting was arranged and the Development Orchestra and other WCYO players performed at this wonderful occasion. Our sincere gratitude to the **Kell am See City Orchestra** for giving us this high quality Glockenspiel.

West Coast Festival for Musicians - 6 & 7 March

WCYO has actively been applying for funding at various instances, and was fortunate to receive funding from the **National Department of Arts & Culture**. With these funds, the first successfull **West Coast Festival for Musicians** was held on 6 & 7 March at Curro Langebaan Private School. With a wide variety of workshops, from **Ukelele, Guitar, Brass, Strings, Drum-kit, Bands, Songwriting, Djembe, Boomwackers, Body Percussions**, and Arts & Culture and Orff training for teachers, to various Band and ensemble performances, the weekend greatly contributed to excitement in the West Coast community! Many students from disadvantaged areas also had a chance to participate in these workshops and had the opportunity to learn and try out various musical instruments.

The Festival ended with a Gala Concert on the Saturday, with various ensembles, bands and instrumental- and vocal groups performing.

We hope to develop more players from the instrumental teaching workshops that took place, as the need for music tuition in the West Coast is immense. By attracting these children to become involved with instrumental tuition and development programs, we hope to boost the music culture in the West Coast. Our aim is to keep these children off the streets, away from drugs, and to present them a possible future career.

A warm welcome also to our newly appointed tutors **Keagen Gertse** (strings & vocals), **Marlon van Rooyen** (piano & accompaniment) and **Darryn Prinsloo** (brass & recorder) who has been appointed to continue with the instrumental teaching development program at selected schools.

WCYO Fundraising Concert & Auction - 20 March

On 20 March, WCYO held a Fundraising Concert and Auction to generate funds for an upcoming tour to Bloemfontein later in the year. The **Junior Strings-; Senior Strings-; Wind-; Percussion-; and Symphony Orchestras** performed, as well as guest saxophonist Mario Arnolds. Various items were auctioned such as musical instruments, wine and art. We would like to thank all who attended and generously contributed from their hearts and wallets.

Upcoming Events

The second school term starts off with the annual **Practice Camp** for the Symphony Orchestra on **17-19 April** at Club Elani, Misverstand Dam (Moorreesburg). Many hours will be spent to work on more repertoire for the year.

The Symphony Orchestra will also accompany the **Revue** of Curro Langebaan Private School. Performances take place from **6-8 May.**

The event that everyone is anticipating is the upcoming concert with **Manuel Escorcio** and **Belia Lourens on 15 May**, with the WCYO Symphony Orchestra and various school choirs from Topolino Private School; Longacres Private School; Curro Private School; and Vredenburg High School. More information will soon be available on the WCYO website and facebook page.

On **16 May**, the Symphony Orchestra will perform at the **Stellenbosch Eisteddfod Orchestra Festival**, defending their trophy of 2014 for the Best Youth Orchestra.

Various other performances lies ahead for the year, and we might be performing with a well-known singer….. You will have to keep checking Facebook, Twitter, and the next Newsletter for more info…!

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