



Ladybird International Arts Academy • Newsletter • 2020: 2

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From Basel with love

Simon Vander Plaetse is a Ladybird alumnus who had just finished his B. Mus in guitar at the *Hochschule für Musik* in Basel, Switzerland. He has chosen to participate in a music education programme which supports the Music School Rwanda, Kigali. This programme is formed in partnership with *Crescendo*, the European, Basel-based organisation for professional Christian artists and *Best Future from Today* (BFT), a subsidiary of the Rwandan Presbyterian Church. This is his inspiring story on how he guides and supports this music school from Basel.



The Music School Rwanda is now a little older than a year with no-one building and supporting the teachers. Classes take place at the BFT headquarters, as well as two other Presbyterian parishes in Kigali. There are currently about nine local teachers and around two-hundred students. The Music School is intended as an outreach project, and as such the lessons are free for the learners. The teachers are paid according to how many hours they teach, through donations by *Crescendo*.

All the lessons are group lessons, with around ten to fifteen students per group. Simon has been, so far, doing three training trips as part of the *Crescendo* teaching corps for the Music School. The first in January 2019, then July 2019, and the third was in January 2020. The purpose of the trips is to train the teachers in how to teach music (the local teachers have not had any formal music training but are talented and have mostly learnt autodidactically) and manage their school. Simon, further shares, that 'We also disciple the teachers, pray with them and talk about how our faith ideally permeates the teaching and the atmosphere of the music school. There is usually, someone from *Crescendo* who comes along to do this part of the training.'



Simon's was assigned to teach Coucou Olivier, the local guitar teacher. 'I had been doing some skype lessons with him, so it was great to finally meet him in person to give him lessons. In the afternoon, I would come along to observe his lessons and guide him afterwards in terms of methodology. Sometimes, I also helped some of the teachers with theory. The goal is that all the local teachers pass at least the ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory level.'



There are many positive things already in place in just one year, 'We have motivated, talented teachers who are willing to learn and are very nice people. There are lots and lots of eager students, and a good support from the Presbyterian Church. However, there are also some problems, of which many are organizational aspects. Students do not attend the classes regularly, but almost every week there are new students, so the level of the group does advance. There aren't enough instruments (especially for piano and guitar) so the guitar gets passed around when learning something, which makes progress even slower.'

Fortunately, during this trip, some solutions have been put into place to counter some of these problems. 'I was not involved in the organisational aspects of the training, so I don't really know the details, but I have good faith in the leader of the school! The goal is that eventually, after a few years, we do not need to come anymore on regular training, and the Music School is fully functional without the outside help and training.'

The next trip the *Crescendo* teachers plan to make is in June or July 2020. In the meantime, Simon is doing Skype lessons with Coucou to support and guide him to higher performance levels. We wish Simon the best with the supporting role he plays in this exciting and worthy project, his future post-graduate music studies in Europe and are motivated by his zest.



Thebe 'The Top' for Rockscool in SA



Thebe Moshabesha is a talented rock and jazz drummer who has just heard that he has been awarded Highest Achiever acclaim in South Africa by Rockscool International for his Drums Grade 3 exam's 98% average achieved in November 2019. An exceptional achievement, which stands to be accoladed. Congratulations, Thebe!

Little Show of Wonderland

The very active seniors of the Dramatic Arts department produced another of their remarkable, 'little shows', this time based on the *Alice in Wonderland* fable. Little Show of Wonderland was staged as the Wednesday Soirée of 26 February. Their next self-directed production to look forward to is, Little Show for Earth Day on 22 April.

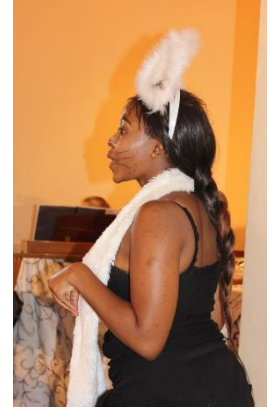
Ladybird International Arts Academy
The little show for earth day
 Wed 22 april 2020 - 17h00
 join us for a lovely concert
 in celebration of
 earth day!
 Ladybird Auditorium
 Ladybrand, South Africa
Free Admission
 +27(0)51 924 5076
 infoladybird@telkomsa.net
 designed by tiva green



Serving 'Me-Wows'

Sheba U Mamelo, Look and Listen, Kyk en Luister is an enrichment outreach programme to pre-school learners in and around Ladybrand. The aim of these concerts is twofold: Firstly (in giving), to enrich the lives of the learners who will be attending, by creating an awareness of the importance of the arts. Secondly (in receiving), for our Ladybird learners to develop their artistic citizenship by actively contribute toward uplifting peers in their own community through the arts. Overall, it's about instilling a sense of flourishing for all involved.

For this year, the event was on 26 February with two short morning presentations, titled *Strings* and *Such Things*, depicted as a musical drama. With the ensemble players as the cats and two very persistent mice, played by drama students, Tumi Sekonyana and Tiva Green. Emily van der Linde was the odd bunny-playing trumpet and later found to be the trumpet playing 'wabbit', being the crux that orchestras does not exist of only the strings section. The Little Chefs of the Stitch & Cook department served 'Me-Wows' to all the little visitors afterwards.



Ladybird International Arts Academy

Little Ladybugs



An innovative arts programme
for children between the
ages 4 and 6 years old.



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Ladybrand • South Africa



Fun workshop with photo perspectives

Ladybird Visual Arts presented PERSPECTIVES, a photography workshop under the direction of Nika Meintjies, on Saturday, 14 March. Topics for the workshop included, understanding the controls of the camera, learning about what makes a successful photograph, looking at the works of other artists, discussing the different perspectives of the different photographers and exploring diverse perspectives in practice. The workshop was enjoyed and a learning experience for both the children and adults who attended.

Nika presents a full-time photography certificate course at Ladybird and runs her own private photo studio. She can be contracted for weddings, family portraits and other topics or events on +27 (0)79 883 8194.

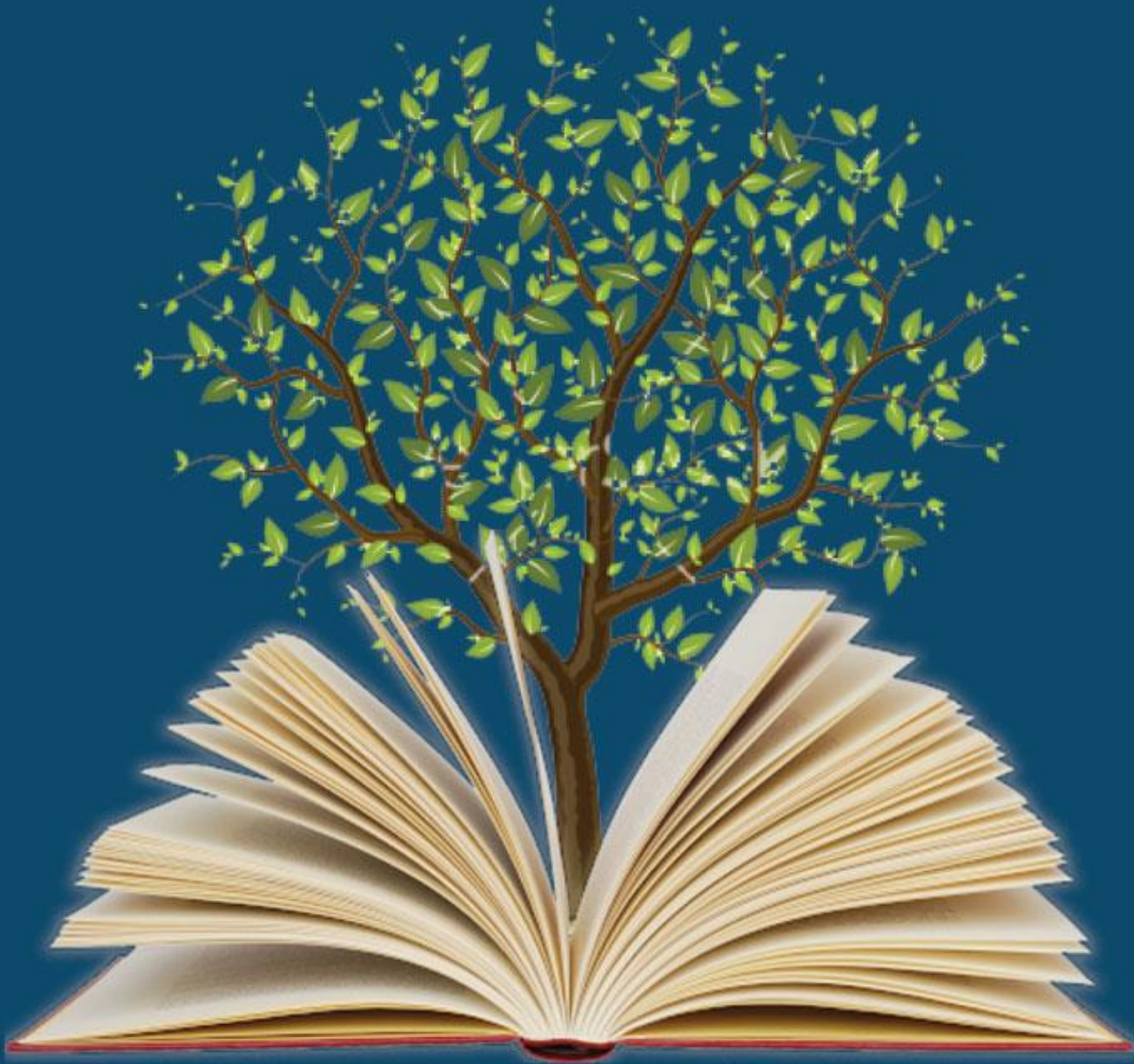


Young artists at work over the past term...



Ladybird International Arts Academy

CREATIVE



WRITING

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Some serious cooking fun... 



L'amour and 'lovemellows'

Ladybird L'Amour was an informal concert offered for free to the public on Wednesday, 12 February. The content of the programme depicted all the aspects of love in celebration of this global week of love via drama, visual art and music performances. From the sinking theme of The Titanic, My Sweet Valentine, Lovesickness, Wedding Jitters, I love my Job to serious themes, such as Moya oa Pabala was enjoyed by an ample-sized audience.

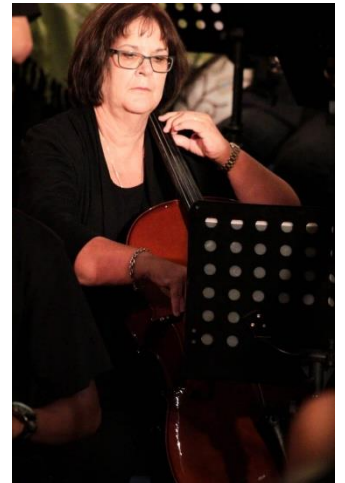
L'AMOUR...
 Ladybird Wednesday
 Soirée
 12 Feb 2020
 5pm
 see you there!
 Let's celebrate 'the love'!





Bravo to The Three Brovas

Ladybird ABRSM Diploma level performers – also referred to as ‘The Three Brovas’ – Katleho Mothae and Daniël Bezuidenhout (pianos) and Robert Crowther (tenor) offered their BRAVO classical concert on 21 February to a full house. Joané Beukes (flute), Wilna Leech (cello) and Rorisang Ntsasa (tenor) were the guest artists for the evening. The music programme was supported by the Ladybird Ensemble. Works from the Baroque through to Modern style period were heard and enhanced by physical theatre from the Ladybird senior drama corps, Emily van der Linde, Tumi Sekonyana, Ntere Matekane, Tiva Green and Fatima Bukhari.





Ladybird International Arts Academy presents

STITCH & COOK

for children

Enrolment open now
+27 (0)51 924 5076
infoladybird@telkomsa.net

Design by Belinda Pike 076 729 5326 • belindajoannepike@gmail.com



Ladybird International Arts Academy



MUSICAL THEATRE

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Our Patrons

The concept, ethos and business development of the Academy is mainly due to the intellectual support of its Patrons. Their support regarding all aspects of the Academy is of incalculable value.

Johan & Hessie van der Merwe ● Letitia Henning ● Hugo Roodt (Director of Music St Peters Prep School)
Caleb Cindano (CamelEye Productions; Promenade Pictures) ● Mohlalefi Moteane ● Pieter van der Linde
Vaughan van Zyl ● Betty Ashley-Botha (Retired Drakensberg Boys Choir) ● Sandile Mabaso
Werner Stander (Lecturer UFS, Head of Music C&N Girls School Oranje) ● Lieve Vander Plaetse
André & Sanet Koekemoer (Amakoekoe Guest Lodge & Conference Venue)
Johan Esterhuizen (ATKV Applous) ● Emily Dangwa ● Lesley Jennings ● Petra Venter ● Johan van Heerden
Rikus Coetsee ● JD & Madelaine Naudé ● Wilna Leech

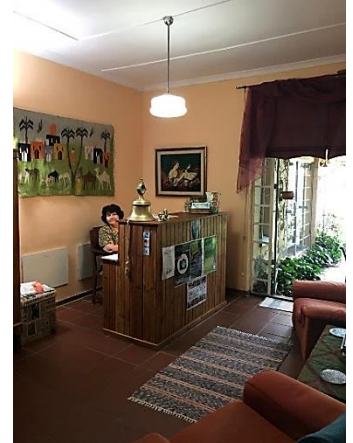
The **VISION** of the Ladybird International Arts Academy is to be a provider of tuition in music, visual art and dramatic arts for students who wish to excel in a highly competitive and rapidly changing arts industry.

The **MISSION** of the Ladybird International Arts Academy is to provide tuition through excellence in the fine arts (music, visual art and dramatic arts) in a Christian environment.



Thanks Concert Crew

Sincere thanks to the Concert Crew, under the direction of Galen Green (Junior Concerts Manager), for their unsurpassed contribution to all the Ladybird public concerts, especially the weekly Wednesday Soirées over the last term. They are, Rorisang Ntsasa, Peter van der Linde, Christiaan van der Walt, Andrew van der Linde, Nathan Soares. Thanks for your efficient stage duties, including coordination of the *Exuberant Concert Bell*, foyer, entrance gate, sound and lighting, during the past term.



'Praying...' Artwork by
Lubna Ganie (7-years old)