



LADYBUZZ

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Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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Ronél Henning

Our Patrons

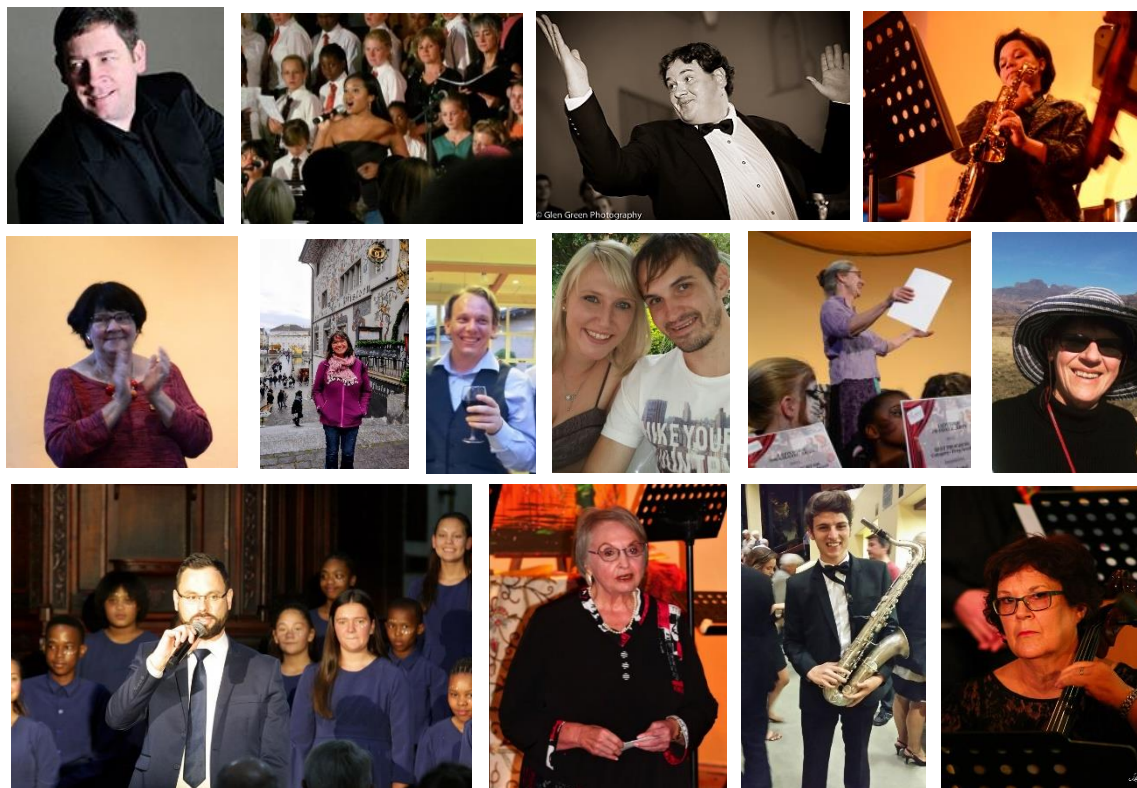
Inspiring arts leaders

The concept, ethos and business development of Ladybird Arts is academically supported by its Patrons. Over the past nineteen years these esteemed individuals, have been pillars of strength in many ways. It is indeed a privilege and honour to have their intellectual guidance as performing artists, educators, academia and managers.

Over the past months our Patrons' guidance in some matters were profound. We are grateful for this backing and leadership. Sincere thanks in to Sanet Koekemoer who was the main adjudicator for our Quick Study Art Workshop competition 2022. Thanks to Wilna Leech for coming from Hobhouse every week to play cello with us in the senior ensemble.

Bravissimo to Caleb Cindano (CamelEye Productions), Werner Stander (Director, Bloemfontein Children's Choir) and Vaughan van Zyl (Drakensberg Boys) with their inspiring achievements and remarkable endeavours in May.

In the upcoming issues we will share some brief snippets from their biographies with our readers.



Here they are - some of our Patrons. Our "archangels". The "wind beneath our wings" for the past 19 years! Thank you!

Daniël Bezuidenhout

Zinging into the weekly soirées

Free performance development opportunities for young artists

The Dramatic Arts department presented two soirées this term - Little Show of Creativity and Little Show of Winter. What is the value of these weekly concerts? Our weekly soirées provide performance development opportunities in a safe, comfortable, and familiar environment to all our students who wish to excel.

When performers start to enjoy their works, a magical communication between the work, the performer and the audience takes place. Everyone engaging in this process, experience a work on a deeper and meaningful level.

So, take that work and punt it out on stage! Unleash your musicality and/or acting skills and perform what is in your heart.

The joy of performing in front of a live audience is something that needs to be cultivated, and it is with our weekly concerts that we aim to instill this love of performance in our students. In addition, performance anxiety and fear are dealt with in these concerts.

During a performance, especially when a work is 'fresh', a few 'gremlins' tend to make an unexpected and unwanted appearance. Usually, it is these that hinders performers from reaching their full potential. If a work is performed regularly in front of an audience, these 'little sneaky guests' stop visiting, and consequently the performance of a work(s) can be enjoyed whilst on stage.



Neo Mosimine Sala performing Winter by Barbara Vance on a drama soirée. (Photo: Jacolene Marais)



Filmmaker Caleb Cindano of CamelEye Productions' cover page feature in the Namibian media.

Jazz-in-my-heart Interpreting jazz pieces

Katleho Mothae

Katleho Mothae shares his insights into 'on the spot' music-making. Read more on Page 3

Guitar with R Transcending borders

Rudi Viljoen

A short story about the fact that musicians can enjoy their passion at any time and in any place. Page 5

Rock exams ahoy! Tips to enjoy the prep-process

Milene Morkel

A balanced practice routine with academic work and preparation for Rockschooll exams is important, says Milene Morkel. More on the exam prep-process Page 6

Ilona Knot

Quick Study Soirées

Performances of art, music and drama delivered on-the-pronto



Have you ever read a book, but first practiced before you start reading the book? From the start of your school career, you have been gradually learning how to read. Starting with letters, then learning to read words, and then sentences. You learn that a full stop means the end of a sentence and that that's a place to take a breath. You learn that there are many different languages. Four or five years down the line you will be able to read stories and eventually a whole book. Maybe even in different languages!



Our Junior and Senior Quick Study Soirées were a big success this year. These events are an opportunity for all our students to challenge their sight-reading skills. Bravo to all the students that took up the chance offered and participated. The art students received their assignments and had only one hour to finish their artwork. The drama students even had to memorize their words! (Maybe something for the music students for next year?)

Amazing! Isn't it? Music is another language. You first learn to read the notes and note names and how to play them on your instrument. You learn that notes have different lengths and that music also has sentences and places where the music, or you, can take a breath. You learn that the notes differ when the clef is different. When you get a piece of music, and you play it without practicing, that's called SIGHT-READING. The more you practice reading, the better you get.

If you missed this year's opportunity, make sure you will be there next year!



Mette Healy, Megan Hamilton and Sarah van der Linde enjoying a pose with examiner Gillian McCabe and Mr Bez.



Tumi Sekonyana, Trinity ATCL, performing on the Little Show of Winter. (Photo: Jacolene Marais)

Sylvia Maree

Sewing with Sylvia

A life-skill with forever value

The best reason for learning to sew is the sense of accomplishment that comes from creating something handmade. This reward outweighs the fear that causes people to shy away from sewing. Sewing is an art that enables you to create beautiful and unique masterpieces!



Star-striped cosy Winter 'jammies' made by sewing bee Merian. Knot.

Daniël Bezuidenhout

Hoorah drama results r'out!

National Performance Arts exams 2022

Eleven candidates of the Ladybird Dramatic Arts department participated in the Speech and Drama College of South Africa's Performance Arts exams on 6 and 7 May. A few weeks later the envelope with the following happy results arrived:

Neo Mosimane Sala is the High Scorer for this year's examinations. He received a 93% for the Performance Arts Grade 4 with his programme, titled Ancient Rome. Congratulations with your excellent and high marks! Mette Healy, Performance Arts Silver, 86% honours. Yusra Ganie,

Performance Arts Gold; Megan Hamilton, Performance Arts Silver; and Sarah van der Linde, Performance Arts Grade 4: 85% - all honours. Seabi Kolobe 83% and Pulane Ramasike 81% - both Performance Arts Grade 4. Lubna Ganie and Pippa Hobson, Performance Arts Grade 1: 78%. Kabo Kolobe and Leseli Moeletsi, Creative R, achieved their foundation level with distinction.

Congratulations to you all with your high marks achieved. Your hard work and dedication were rewarded accordingly!

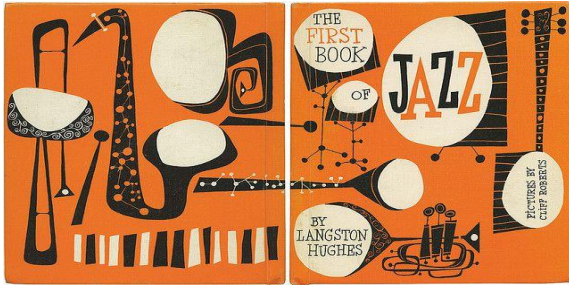


Merian in a sunshine yellow wrap-around skirt she designed and made over the past term.

Katleho Mothae

Jazz-in-my-heart

Fresh ideas on the spot

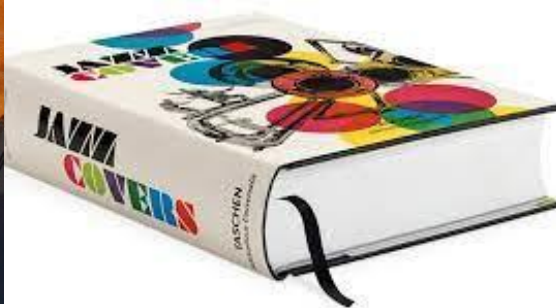


Jazz is a genre where musicians improvise. In most performances, almost all the band members will play solos, making up melodic and rhythmic ideas on the spot. This requires confidence and skills to be able to set your musical ideas free.

There is a lot of syncopation and swinging rhythms that drive jazz music forward. The music must swing and lilt with the use of ‘bent’ or ‘blue’ notes giving the piece of music many different emotions from pain to joy.

Individual performers should strive to value their ideas and find their own style. The uniqueness of the performer is what makes each version of interpretation – by different musicians – sound different though presenting the same song.

Jazz is about taking something familiar and freshening it up, thus adding a personal touch it. Each interpretation oozing everyone’s personal qualities and character – ‘jazz’n’ to one’s heart’s desire.



Ladybird Music Staff

Happy results

Bravo to all

The results for the junior grade candidates who performed the ABRSM syllabus-based exams on 13 May are out. Congratulations to one and all with the marks achieved.

DISTINCTION

- Xinghan Huang Piano Grade 3 - 93%
- Kristell Gault Violin Grade 5 - 91%
- Jean-Evan Morkel Violin Grade 2 - 91%
- Hannah Hamilton Recorder Grade 3 - 90%
- Neo Mosimane Sala Piano PreGrade 1 - 86%
- Leseli Selikane Recorder PreGrade 1 - 86%

MERIT

- Maletsatsi Selepe Violin Grade 3 - 85%
- Andrew van der Linde Clarinet Grade 3 -85%
- Megan Hamilton Piano Grade 3 - 81%
- Hayléne Crous Violin Grade 2 - 80%

PASS

- Sarah van der Linde Piano Grade 3 - 79%
- Reneiloe Talane Recorder Grade 1 - 73%
- Gideon Knot Trumpet Grade 2 - 67%



High scorers, Xinghan Huang (piano), Kristell Gault (violin) and Hannah Hamilton (recorder).



Winning artwork by Hilde-Mari Jonker titled Die Avontuur / The Adventure.



Hilde Mari receiving her certificate from Patron Wilna Leech.



Patron Sanet Koekemoer from Johannesburg was the adjudicator for the 2022 Quick Study Art Workshop competition.

Belinda Pike

Late-autumn art workshop competition

A time of the year where creativity flourishes

The successful Quick Study Art Workshop competition held on Saturday, 14 May, was a great fun. Participants ranged from ages two to forty-four, and each-and-every one of them delivered beautiful artworks at the end of the one-hour duration of the workshop.

During the workshop participants created a mixed media artwork. The participants explored the wonderful world of paint washes and charcoal - an interesting combination of wet and dry media. They started off by creating an abstract background using paint washes. Then, on top of the wash background, they created a charcoal drawing. There was no specific theme, however, each participant received a little ‘surprise packet’, containing a variety of objects which they could use as a reference or as inspiration for their theme. Finally, the artworks were rounded off with oil pastel and wax crayon. Delivering fascinating outcomes and such a pleasure to look at and discuss afterwards. It was heartwarming

to see them leave afterwards with happy faces and full of inspiration.

Patron Sanet Koekemoer of Johannesburg was the adjudicator of the competition. The criteria for the judging of the artworks were based on imaginative use and interpretation of the theme, as well as technique according to age and skill level.

The overall winner of the Ladybird Quick Study Art competition was Hilde-Mari Jonker (7-years old) from Ladybrand, with her artwork titled ‘Die Groot Avontuur’, ‘The Great Adventure’. Colourful skies, crashing waves and a wise old owl passing by... were part of her storyboard. As part of her prize, Hilde-Mari will receive one month of free art classes at Ladybird, the opportunity to exhibit her artworks at the Annual Ladybird Art Exhibition held in October, and her artwork will be entered into the ATKV DigiKuns national art competition, free of charge. We look forward to receiving her for art classes at Ladybird later in the year!



Signs of highly motivated arts students are enthusiasm, efficient practicing, class preparation and a receptive, positive disposition culminating in excellent outcomes.



The magic of staying motivated

How to stay on-top-of your arts passion

It is always a pleasure when students enter a lesson or stage performance motivated - smiling broadly, alert, responsive and prepared. The main components involved in bringing academic achievement are equal measures of intelligence, personality, social variables and **motivation**. Motivation is an important part of successful learning and therefore, considerably important to know how to maintain a good level of motivation.

What is motivation?

The dictionary definition of motivation is 'that which causes a person to act in a certain way'. Therefore, the different 'layers' identified - none or some of which may be experienced when less-motivated - are the following:

Layer 1: The nature of the activity itself - wanting to do a piece, instrument, drama, paint, act, cook, sew, etc.

I want to learn to ... play the piano.

Layer 2: The intensity of the interest by the student.

*I want to learn to ... play the piano **very much**.*

Layer 3: A recognition by the student of the consequences and advantages of undertaking the activity.

*I want to learn to ... play the piano **very much because of the great pleasure it will bring me/my parents/friends. I want to show the world what I can do; I would like to accompany a friend; I would like to play beautiful jazz and so on.***

Motivation in practice

Learning to do an art form is normally the result of a choice. If it was the choice of the student, there will already be a fundamental desire and motivation to learn and work hard. If learning was the choice of the parent(s), it is a mutual responsibility to see that their child stays motivated. Signs of

highly motivated students are enthusiasm, efficient practicing, class preparation and a receptive, positive disposition throughout classes.

Magic questions to monitor your motivation

Am I practicing regularly, efficiently and effectively?

Am I behaving cordially and positively during classes?

Am I making prepared, thoughtful and intelligent responses to my teacher's comments?

Am I taking care with a correct posture?

Are my books, materials, etc. always brought to classes?

Are my instruments, materials, utensils, etc. looked after?

Am I enthusiastic for taking part in associated arts activities offered? (Ensembles, choir, workshops, Wednesday Soirées, concerts, exhibitions and arts productions.)

Do I undertake extra work not set by my teacher - just for fun and because I want to find out for myself?

If your answer to the majority (or at least some) of these questions is 'yes', then you are reasonably well-motivated!

The benefit of seizing extra opportunities

Most students will benefit from taking part in regular extra arts activities offered. These are ideal ways of focusing and directing your work and will in most cases, act as powerful sources of motivation. In addition, seizing extra opportunities will allow young performers and artists to mix with others who have similar interests. This is highly motivating!

And finally... always have a clear goal in sight!

You will work best and stay motivated if you have a clear goal to achieve. What are the expectations you set for yourself to let your artistic potential flourish according to your unique talent?

- The Music Teacher's Companion, ABRSM -

Rudolph Viljoen

Guitar with R

Transcending borders



Music is always ready to go anywhere you go... Take it along!

A young couple was waiting in a busy, bustling train station, when a young lady pointed out a stranger in the crowd to her friend, “I want that!”, she said. Upon the confused look on her friend’s face, she explained that because the stranger was carrying a guitar bag over his shoulder, he was immediately identified as a musician, and that she wanted such ‘distinction’ in her life.

This incident also touches on the mobility of music. Whether or not you are carrying an instrument around, you are branded as a musician and artist.

Your carry, you display, you supplant, you share, you impart music across borders. Most of all you could transcend emotional borders. It needs no passport or visa or vaccine certificate.

Let us carry this distinction and branding proudly and let our music travel beyond all borders.

Ilona Knot

HA-HA-HA



1. What type of music are balloons scared of?
2. What is the difference between fish and a piano?
3. When does tortilla chips start dancing?

Patient: Doctor, will I be able to play the piano after my operation?

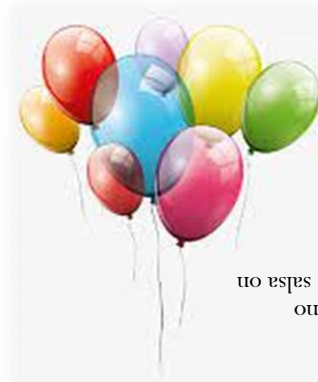
Doctor: Yes, of course!!

Patient: Great! I never could before.

A piano tuner comes to Mr. West. “Good afternoon, sir, I am here to tune your piano”.

“But I didn’t make an appointment with you to tune my piano”.

“I know, but the neighbours did”!



1. Pop Music
2. You can't tune piano
3. When you put the salsa on



Ronél Henning

Reminiscences from the past term...

Bursts of arts activities abounded in full colour

Another busy term filled with bursts of arts learning activities - exams, classes, workshops, recording, competitions and concerts. Congratulations to the Dramatic Arts department’s candidates, who choose to enter for the College of Speech and Drama of South Africa’s Performance Arts exams, with their exceptional results. Well done to the junior instrumental grades who passed their ABRSM internal exams. Bravo and brava, to the junior, senior and diploma-level music, drama performers and visual artists who choose to participate in this year’s quick study soirées to test their sight-reading skills.

The Visual Arts department strutted out this term with entering artworks for the Global Canvas School Manga Children’s Art

Wildlife Contest and ATKVs Digikuns art competitions. The department also offered an inspiring Quick Study Art Workshop competition in May.

The ensembles and chamber choir, along with our regular weekly Wednesday Soirées engaged in a flourishing term. The Dramatic Arts department staged two remarkable Little Shows over the last term.

Thanks to all the Ladybird staff for their hard work and dedication. We are privileged to serve all our students in the ongoing process of arts learning. Blessings for the upcoming holiday - whether you choose a winter or summer destination. Safe travels!

Milene Morkel

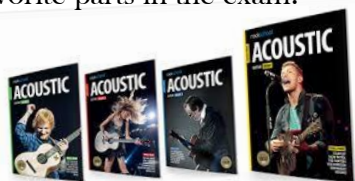
Unleashed rock exams ahoy!

Waking up and ready after the winter-hibernation

Every year the Ladybird rock and jazz students are encouraged to do a graded exam that affords them a qualification that is internationally recognized. The Rockschool or RSLA graded syllabi encompass all the relevant technical, musical and theory-based practice required to become accomplished performers in this genre.

With this year's exam date fast approaching, it is important to set your focus on specific goals for your practicing routine. Setting goals is a fantastic way to motivate yourself, to make sure you reach your targets, and to stay on top of your practice routine at home.

Here are some pointers: It is always easy and fun to play the parts that you are good at, and very tempting to start every practice with these. Unfortunately, you cannot only play your favorite parts in the exam!



Before every practice session, set yourself a goal to work on a difficult and challenging section of a performance piece and strive to master that.

Everyone has a busy schedule, and it is easy to get distracted and forget about your practice routine at home. On the other hand, with an exam date looming, you can be tempted to cancel everything else and only focus on practicing your music. However, by creating a practice schedule that fits well and balance with the rest of your responsibilities and activities, you can make sure that you put in enough hours while avoiding burn-out.

It is critical to understand the era in which your pieces were composed to be able to perform with understanding. You should set a goal to figure out how each piece you chose fit into the wider context of the genre and its history. One way to do this, is to listen to one song from a similar era and style after each practice.

Exams can be daunting, and it is a good idea to often do a practice-run through at home, maybe even in front of family and friends.

Lastly, what good is all the hard work, if you cannot have a little celebration? Plan some kind of reward for yourself after achieving your exam, and make sure to enjoy the journey towards it as well!



Chef Chantelle Sousa

Arts experience of a different kind

A most rewarding passion to carry through life

One of my fondest memories is baking a sponge cake with my Gran and the lingering scent of fresh lemon it left in the house. The dedication put into creating the tiny bubbles into the batter, was for me the most exciting, happy and rewarding moments we spent together. A time I will forever treasure in my heart. Cooking is an act of patience, mindfulness and - most of all - an act of creative expression. It helps develop self-esteem as one can feel good about doing something positive for one's family. There is also a feeling of accomplishment



and exercising your mental capacity.

In our cooking classes we focus on cooking with fresh local ingredients that is readily available and in any parent's home. Taking a basic recipe and playing around with the methods. Each chef may then choose add-ins or take away certain spices or ingredients. This ensures the foundation of making a quick and delicious meal which can be shared by the whole family. Learning to cook with passion, is truly the greatest gift a child can receive.

Ronél Henning

Go for it, Mr. Mothae!

Western Cape mini-concert tour

Katleho Mothae has been invited to perform in a series of concerts in the Western Cape during September. He is one of the ABRSM's top three Associates of the Royal Schools of Music in South Africa for 2021 and the only pianist selected for the concert tour. He will be joined by Matthew Perry (saxophone) a third-year BMus student from the Nelson Mandela University and Tiaan Uys (clarinet) a free-lance music teacher and performer in Port Elizabeth.

The mini-concert tour will kick-off in Knysna and will be received by the community's Music Society. The three performers will also offer masterclasses and chamber concerts during their weeklong tour to various schools in the region. The mini-concert tour is organized by Bridget Harrison, the representative of the ABRSM and director of Bridging Events in South Africa.



Katleho Mothae performing in the 2021 ABRSM High Scorer's Concert in Bloemfontein.