



LADYBUZZ

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Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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Ronél Henning

Thankfulness

21 Seasons of Grace

This year we celebrate and recognize our ‘coming of age’ through Grace-on-High and are thankful to be able to have achieved our vision set twenty-one years ago. With many alumni studying, working, and achieving in their various chosen arts fields - and some using skills achieved in other industries - we are grateful for staying the course through our mission.

We are thankful for the sheer hard work of the tutoring consultants over the past twenty-one years. We are thankful for the support of our ‘archangels’ - our esteemed patrons. We are thankful to the many parents - local and international - who gave their children the opportunity to explore the arts through us. We are thankful to the host of students who have journeyed with us - we accolade particularly those who understood the dedication and sheer hard work for achieving success and excellent outcomes. We are thankful to our partners the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Rockscool and Trinity College London, who - through their various national representatives - deliver an ongoing service of international stature. We are thankful to Maluti Media who was there from the beginning and understands telling the stories of what we do. We are thankful to Ladybrand Heritage House and Cranberry Cottage for their hospitality to our examiners and special guests over the many years.

The vision of the Arts Academy is to be a provider of arts learning for students who wish to excel in a highly competitive and rapidly changing arts industry.



Emily Dangwa (soprano) and Thandi Sliepen (poetry) graced the Autumn Canticles production this year with their performances as our guest artists.

Daniël Bezuidenhout

Autumn Canticles

Music, poetry and song

This year’s production of the Autumn Canticles on 2 March featured the soprano Emily Dangwa and poet Thandi Sliepen.



Soloists and ensembles out on stage enjoying performing at Autumn Canticles on 2 March.

Perc’ it up! Little Drummer Boys

Katleho Mothae

Featuring some of our youngest drummers learning the fun of playing percussion. More about these boys on...

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Guitars

Such a versatile instrument

Rudi Viljoen

Rudi Viljoen shares with us why the guitar is a good choice of instrument to learn to play for leisure or otherwise. Read more on...

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Concert Crew

On oiled wheels

Ronél Henning

Do you know about the Ladybird Concert Crew? Read more about what these young artistic leaders do on...

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Canticles

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Emily is a Ladybird alumnus and as such, it was a privilege to receive her back on stage with us after many years. She studied opera at UCT's South African College of Music and worked in the Cape Town opera milieu of Arts Cape and the Baxter Theatre, before moving to Namibia, where she started her ED music school. She has performed as a soloist with the symphony orchestras of Cape Town, Namibia and Free State. Her performance circuit has encompassed many corporate and high-profile events in South Africa and various events in the African continent.

Award-winning poet, Thandi shared with the audience works from her oeuvre that painted impressions of 'life as a concert', with glimpses of scenes from our region and her life. Her poems evoke elemental things in life and wonderment - about the body, earth, ocean and sky - spanning past to present in a mystic manner.

Ladybird young soloists on flute, violin, trumpet, clarinet and cello featured along with performances by strings and orchestral ensembles, as well as the Encore Maluti chamber choir. The Saturday morning concert was a collaboration of art, poems, drama and music and enjoyed by all. Other guest performers were Wilna Leech (cello) and Michael Quadrado (flute). The conductor for the event was Katleho Mothae.



Katleho Mothae

Perc' it up! Little Drummer Boys

There is something truly captivating about very young boy drummers. At Ladybird International Arts learning to play the drum-kit forms part of the percussion genre of instruments offered by Katleho Mothae.

When it comes to introducing children to the world of music, percussion instruments – such as drums – offer an exciting and accessible entry point. It fosters creativity and coordination, enhances cognitive abilities, cultivates listening skills and musical awareness, promotes social interaction and collaboration, boosting confidence and self-esteem.

Let the beats of learning begin as your child embraces the rhythm, joy and countless benefits of learning to play drums.



Katleho Mothae inspiring his Little Drummer Boys to the pure exuberance of performance.



Ilona Knot

Strings

What are violin strings made of and which type is best?



When you're playing the violin, you may notice that the quality and type of strings you have can make a big difference in your tone and overall performance. But with so many types available, which is best for you? What are the best violin strings made of, and how do you select the right kind?

Violin strings can stretch and break for various reasons. Sometimes they snap when you're tuning your instrument, while other times, they may fly off while you're in the middle of playing a piece. Aside from replacing old strings, you may find that you want to re-string your violin with a different kind of string. It also depends on how much you play on your violin. But with an average practicing of 30-60 minutes a day, you need to replace your strings every year to get the best quality out of your strings and keep a good and bright tone!

No matter where you are in your journey of playing the violin, you're eventually going to need to get new strings. Whether you're asking yourself, "What type of violin strings should I buy?" or wondering what different violin strings are made of, I will try and give you some information on that.

First things first, what are violin strings made of? Typically, violin strings are made of three types of material: metal, gut, and synthetic materials. When it comes to determining the best violin strings, it is a matter of **preference** and **price range**, as one kind of string isn't exactly better than the other but can be better for your instrument.

Are you going for a certain style or sound of music? Do you want a dark and warm sound or a bright and brilliant sound? And what kind of price range are you working with? You'll come across several brands that specialize in each of these string types. What's more, during your musical journey, you may find that you like experimenting with different styles of strings, or you prefer to stick with a tried-and-true kind of material that you know you like. It is a good idea to learn about the different types of violin strings and then make your decision accordingly.

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Strings

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Metal strings – also called steel core strings – are a very common choice for violinists, as they produce a bright, full sound when played with proper technique. When compared to gut strings, metal strings produce a more stable pitch, and they last longer. Folk and jazz musicians in particular, as well as electric violin players, usually give preference to metal strings because of their volume capacity and durability. Fiddlers, along with beginner and intermediate violinists, most often go this route when choosing the best violin strings for their instruments.

Historically, violin strings were created by using sheep intestines, sometimes wrapped with silver or copper wire. Although gut strings are not as prevalent today, some classical violinists still prefer this type because of their warm, complex tone. You will come across **gut strings** with different gauges, which can greatly affect the sound. (Gauge is a historical designation showing the thickness of a gut string) For example, the thicker gut gauges will often sound more powerful and gritty than those with thinner gauges. However, gut strings are very susceptible to changes in humidity, and weather in general, and therefore require more regular tuning, as well as time to settle and stretch out once they're in place. They are also more expensive and don't last as long as the other string types.

Synthetic strings made from high-tech nylon and other composite materials were introduced in the 1970s. Because of their quick response time to pressure, they are a great option for beginners. Synthetic strings offer the same warm tone found with gut strings, but don't require as much upkeep, making them a great option for beginners. And like metal strings, synthetic strings maintain a more stable pitch than that of gut alternatives.

Conclusion

The best type of violin strings will depend on your playing level and needs, as well as the tonal qualities you prefer. Moreover, different violins may respond better to different string types. That makes it a matter of just trying out suitable types of strings.





Artworks featured by FLAVIA ▪ BONGO SIXISHE ▪ PIPPA HOBSON ▪ SIBONGILE MANYOKOLE ▪ ELSA YEN ▪ ELISA LO ▪ KABO KOLOBE

Thandi Sliepen

Art making

A new year ahead

A new Art year! New students to get to know and enjoy, seeing their unique styles emerge.

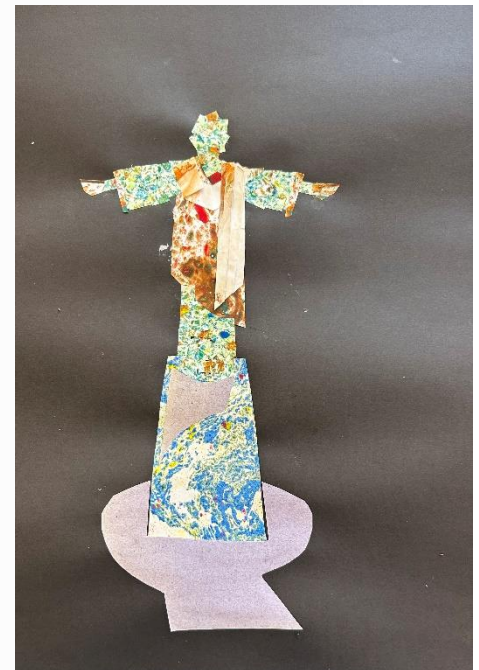
Young students from last year who have subtly changed and matured over the holiday. Picking up the thread with them in Art and seeing how their journey carries on with the images that they create. We are all unique. Like our fingerprints our Art making is an opportunity to explore that uniqueness through the things we make.

This term we started looking at the very small and amazing forms of insects. We started drawing them, using feather quills with black ink and played with the ink on wet paper and saw how it explodes into different tones!

We also did rubbings to explore texture and natural shapes. We rubbed shells, leaves, grasses, woven objects and even a starfish. They make such fine impressions when you rub them with crayons on thin paper.

We used some of these rubbings to make a collage with other coloured paper, on the theme of travel. We also painted and drew vision quests, imagining the road ahead in our lives. Many different approaches were seen to these themes.

I look forward to seeing what next term holds, on our 2024 Art journey!



Artworks featured by FLAVIA ▪ BONGO SIXISHE ▪ PIPPA HOBSON ▪ SIBONGILE MANYOKOLE ▪ ELSA YEN ▪ ELISA LO ▪ KABO KOLOBE



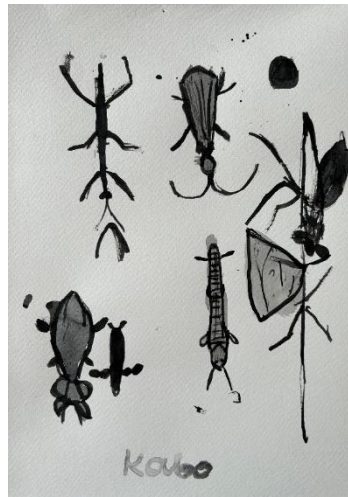
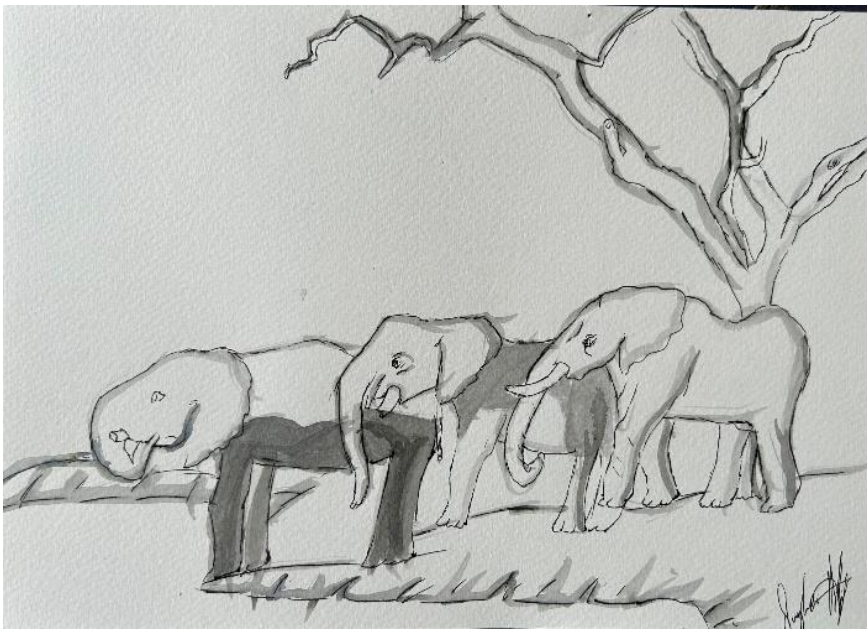
Artworks featured HOBSON ▪ SIBC ELISA LO ▪ KABO KOLOBE





Artworks featured by FLAVIA ▪
BONGO SIXISHE ▪ PIPPA
HOBSON ▪ SIBONGILE
MANYOKOLE ▪ ELSA YEN ▪
ELISA LO ▪ KABO KOLOBE





Artworks featured by
FLAVIA • BONGO
SIXISHE • PIPPA
HOBSON • SIBONGILE
MANYOKOLE • ELSA
YEN • ELISA LO •
KABO KOLOBE



Rudi Viljoen

Adagio

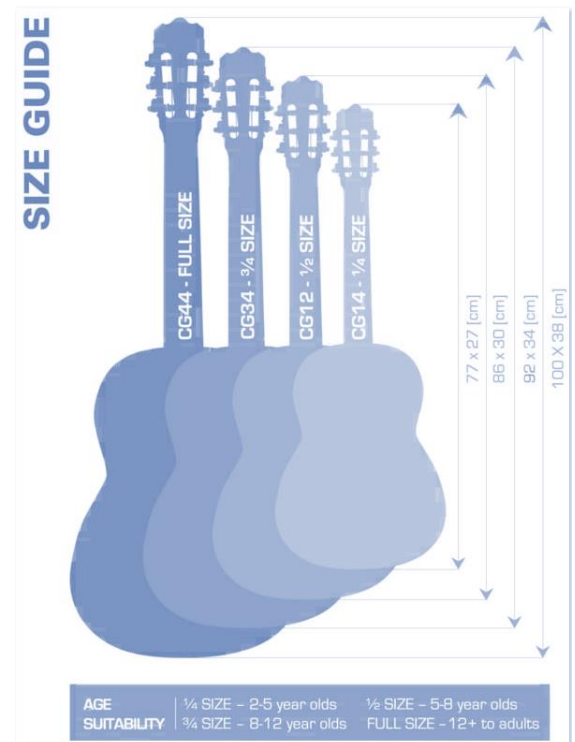
A slow and leisurely tempo. Often used to indicate that a piece of music should be played slowly and with a gentle, flowing quality.

It is generally acknowledged by academics that learning to play an instrument helps children with their mathematical skills and reading development. Learning how to play an instrument - such as a guitar - can provide a lifetime of fun and enjoyment. The guitar can be played at family socials or around a campfire and this is why kids love the guitar as it is easy to carry and transport. And, of course, playing the guitar is cool if they can claim at school that they know how to play this instrument. It builds self-esteem and confidence.

Signs that a child is ready to start learning an instrument are when they show an interest in a particular instrument, can focus for at least thirty minutes, are motivated to practice on their own, have basic finger dexterity, and are mature enough to take lessons.



A handy guide when searching for the right size of guitar to buy.



Chantelle Sousa

Little Chefs @ Yummy

Culinary delights from our young brigade of chefs

The Little Chefs learnt the following impressive culinary menu over the past term!

- Chocolate, Peanut and Oats Granola Bars
- Easter Chocolate and Coconut Tart
- Beef Cheeseburgers with Sweet Balsamic Onions
- Sugar Cookies with Royal Icing
- Chicken Bacon Mushroom Bake with Buttery Spaghetti
- Mango Float Desert
- Homemade Napolitana with Fresh Basil loaded with Veggies
- Oreo Cheesecake
- Spaghetti Bolognaise
- Easter Surprise Cookies



Chef Chantelle Sousa and her brigade of little chefs-in-training Mark Su, Bronwyn du Preez, Matsepo and Maphunye Thulo, Liam du Plessis, Myles and Livia de Bruyn.



Pinkie Thulo

Design

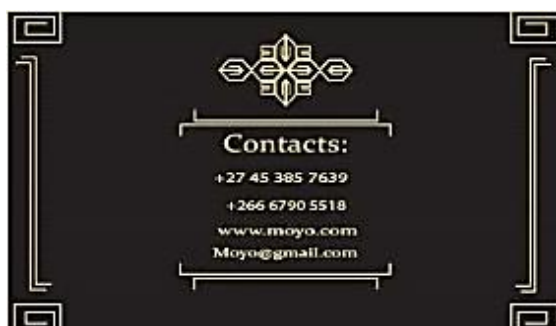
From Bongo's lab

It is an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to design the school's billboard with a student.

Designing a billboard is the art of selecting and arranging visual elements to please the eyes of the audience, client and designer, a feat to not be taken lightly. However, Bongo Sixishe has taken it like a pro.

The design process has been an exciting journey for both the student and the teacher. The billboard has been designed as a means of visual communication to tell the nations who Ladybird International Arts Academy is. We cannot wait for the billboard to meet the eyes of the people!

Bongo has also created a marvelous design for his business card as seen below.



Hope you're curious to see Bongo's completed Ladybird highway billboard project featured in the next issue of the Ladybuzz!



Ronél Henning

Sitar special

Jean-Pierre Luong-Si

The Academy's audience was entertained by the mystical and mesmerizing sounds of the sitar during the weekly Wednesday Soirée on Valentine's Day 14 February. Jean-Pierre Luong-Si is of French-Vietnamese origins, and this was his second visit to Ladybird over the past years. His informative and inspiring demonstration lecture performance as a guest artist was appreciated and enjoyed by all.



Ronél Henning

Concert Crew

On oiled wheels

The Concert Crew are a team of voluntary leaders supporting the staff, performers and audience for all our concerts' management. Andrew van der Linde, the Junior Concert Manager, along with Gideon Knot, Reuben and Jean-Evan Morkel, are a team of young leaders 'on oiled wheels' who are developing their skills as artistic citizens under the careful nurturing of Katleho Mothae.

They take responsibility for a variety of tasks, such as setting up rehearsals and concerts, striking the set, operating the lights and sound equipment, organizing the ringing of the concert bell, moving equipment, props and scenery, and ensuring that concerts start on time. They are there before everyone and leave after everyone, to ensure the events run professionally and smoothly.

This team of voluntary leaders takes active action dedicated to the well-being of all involved. Their proactiveness and care for others empowers them to transform our concerts into flourishing experiences for all.

Over the past 21 years in the history of Ladybird, these individuals have become adults who are top leaders in their fields.

We thank you and accolade you! You are the wind beneath our wings at every concert.



Our fabulous Concert Crew here with Katleho Mothae: Andrew van der Linde (Junior Concerts Manager), Gideon Knot, Reuben and Jean-Evan Morkel.

Bravo Ladybird Candidates! Results 2023

Congratulations to all the candidates who participated successfully.

Xinghan Huang (12yrs) is the Top Scorer for 2023. She achieved 100% for the ABRSM Gr2 Music Theory and 95% for her ABRSM Grade 4 Piano exams. She is also the pianist and keyboard player of the Ladybird Senior Ensemble. She is regularly out on stage at the weekly Wednesday Soirées and has performed as soloist in the Autumn Canticles and Very Best Times productions over the past three years.

Wishing all the candidates the best for their next levels.



	NAME	ARTS	GRADE	Presented by	%	LEVEL	BOARD PLATFORM
1.	Xinghan Huang	Music Theory	2	Ronél Henning	100	Distinction	ABRSM
2.	Michael Quadrado	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	98	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
3.	Michael Quadrado	Visual Art	Work 2	Ladybird Visual Arts	96	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
4.	Sarah van der Linde	Music Theory	3	Ronél Henning	96	Distinction	ABRSM
5.	Xinghan Huang	Piano	4	Ronél Henning	95	Distinction	ABRSM
6.	Grace Adams	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	95	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
7.	Elisa Lo	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	95	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
8.	Hailé Hobson	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	95	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
9.	Mieke van der Merwe	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	95	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
10.	Sarah Pereira	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	92	Distinction	ATKV Digikuns
11.	Reuben Morkel	Cello	1	Ilona Knot	91	Distinction	ABRSM
12.	Kristell Gault	Music Theory	4	Ronél Henning	90	Distinction	ABRSM
13.	Hannah Hamilton	Flute	3	Ilona Knot	90	Distinction	ABRSM
14.	Neo Mosimane Sala	Musical Theatre	5	Daniël Bezuidenhout	89	Distinction	Trinity College London
15.	Neo Mosimane Sala	Piano	2	Katleho Mothae	89	Distinction	ABRSM
16.	Kaitlyn Gault	Performance Arts	6	Daniël Bezuidenhout	87	Distinction	Trinity College London
17.	Michael Quadrado	Flute	6	Ronél Henning	87	Distinction	ABRSM
18.	Tehilla Sello	Musical Theatre	5	Daniël Bezuidenhout	87	Distinction	Trinity College London
19.	Jean-Evan Morkel	Violin	3	Ilona Knot	87	Distinction	ABRSM
20.	Mia Bak	Performance Arts	1	Daniël Bezuidenhout	87	Distinction	Trinity College London
21.	Hailé Hobson	Performance Arts	Initial	Daniël Bezuidenhout	87	Distinction	Trinity College London
22.	Kaitlyn Gault	Piano	7	Katleho Mothae	86	Distinction	ABRSM
23.	Pulane Ramasike	Performance Arts	5	Daniël Bezuidenhout	86	Distinction	Trinity College London
24.	Timothy Sello	Drums	6	Katleho Mothae	88	Merit	Rockschooll RSLAwards
25.	Pau Mosimane Sala	Piano	1	Katleho Mothae	86	Merit	Rockschooll RSLAwards
26.	Kristell Gault	Violin	6	Ilona Knot	85	Merit	ABRSM
27.	Andrew van der Linde	Clarinet	4	Ronél Henning	85	Merit	ABRSM

...results continued

NAME	ARTS	GRADE	Presented by	%	LEVEL	BOARD PLATFORM
28. Shengye Huang	Guitar	Debut	Rudi Viljoen	85	Merit	Rockschool RSLAwards
29. Elisa Lo	Visual Art	Work 2	Ladybird Visual Arts	85	Merit	ATKV Digikuns
30. Kian Verster	Performance Arts	4	Daniël Bezuidenhout	84	Merit	Trinity College London
31. Pippa Hobson	Performance Arts	2	Daniël Bezuidenhout	84	Merit	Trinity College London
32. Elsa Yen	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	84	Merit	ATKV Digikuns
33. Pippa Hobson	Visual Art	Work 2	Ladybird Visual Arts	84	Merit	ATKV Digikuns
34. Gideon Knot	Trumpet	3	Ronél Henning	83	Merit	ABRSM
35. Mieke van der Merwe	Visual Art	Work 2	Ladybird Visual Arts	83	Merit	ATKV Digikuns
36. Hayléne Crous	Violin	3	Ilona Knot	81	Merit	ABRSM
37. Joshua Knibbs	Violin	7	Ilona Knot	80	Merit	ABRSM
38. Andrew van der Linde	Music Theory	5	Ronél Henning	80	Merit	ABRSM
39. Pau Mosimane Sala	Music Theory	1	Katleho Mothae	80	Merit	ABRSM
40. Caleb Gault	Guitar	Pre-1	Ilona Knot	80	Merit	ABRSM
41. Dylan Su	Guitar	2	Rudi Viljoen	79	Merit	Rockschool RSLAwards
42. Kabo Kolobe	Performance Arts	1	Daniël Bezuidenhout	78	Merit	Trinity College London
43. Tehilla Sello	Music Theory	2	Katleho Mothae	76	Pass	ABRSM
44. Timothy Sello	Music Theory	1	Katleho Mothae	76	Pass	ABRSM
45. Gideon Knot	Music Theory	2	Ronél Henning	73	Pass	ABRSM
46. Jean-Evan Morkel	Music Theory	2	Katleho Motahe	72	Pass	ABRSM
47. Pippa Hobson	Visual Art	Work 1	Ladybird Visual Arts	72	Pass	ATKV Digikuns
48. Pippa Hobson	Visual Art	Work 2	Ladybird Visual Arts	71	Pass	ATKV Digikuns
49. Maletsatsi Selepe	Violin	4	Ilona Knot	71	Pass	ABRSM
50. Sarah van der Linde	Piano	4	Katleho Mothae	70	Pass	ABRSM
51. Cooper Lo	Guitar	2	Rudi Viljoen	69	Pass	ABRSM
52. Leseli Moeletsi	Performance Arts	1	Daniël Bezuidenhout	69	Pass	Trinity College London
53. Hannah Hamilton	Music Theory	3	Katleho Mothae	68	Pass	ABRSM
54. Neo Mosimane Sala	Music Theory	2	Katleho Mothae	68	Pass	ABRSM
55. Jordan Hesketh	Guitar	1	Rudi Viljoen	68	Pass	ABRSM

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music UK (ABRSM)
Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuurvereniging (ATKV)



Ronél Henning

Wednesday Soirées

A weekly collage of fun – on and off the stage

