



# LADYBUZZ

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## Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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Ronél Henning

### Perform for joy

Music making opportunities

The examinations of the international boards of Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Rockscool, Trinity College London, along with our weekly Wednesday Soirées can be a very useful part of learning for students. It is a vital component for growth and provides a roadmap for development. Ladybird International Arts offers invaluable opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills and showcase performance abilities. External exams and regular performances at concerts help maintain motivation, whilst providing a sense of accomplishment and boosting confidence when successfully achieved.

Whether students decide to take exams and participate in the Wednesday Soirées or not, it is important that students discuss regularly their aims with their tutor and set goals for their academic year ahead, so that both are clear about what should be achieved.

Working toward compiling a personal performance programme and researching the backgrounds of the pieces and composers, are standard practices for Ladybird instrument students from the grade 2 level. This methodology develops their insight into the real world of stage performance and gives impetus to their progress, as well as the joy of playing. Especially for those who understand how to harness the Wednesday weekly concerts by putting out their programmes to audiences.

However, learning to perform is not simply a matter of moving from one examination grade to the next. Exams are certainly indicators that students are making progress, however, should not be a main aim, as there are vital performance skills that examinations do not test and develop.

One of the most important parts of being a stage performer is to play with others. For musicians learning to watch and follow the conductor, being able to perform different styles and in front of an audience - these are all essential skills, and none of them are tested by exams. Ladybird offers golden opportunities to all our arts students for group performances. Whether through singing or playing together in an orchestra. A further opportunity to seize and experience the joy of music making or acting as well as test performance skills in front of an audience, is the weekly Wednesday Soirées.

Carpe Occasio!



Seizing joyful opportunities! Hannah Hamilton and Sarah van der Linde in a choir rehearsal and Xinhang Huang recording the video for her ABRSM Piano Grade 5 exam with Katleho Mothae.

Ilona Knot

### Ensemble participation

Why do it? What are the benefits?

Music learning at Ladybird is based on at least three pillars: solid music tuition (practical in one-on-one lessons and theoretical in group lessons); ensemble participation with expert directors; and classroom education as part of the soirées on Wednesday afternoons. Combined, these make sensible musical foundations for learning music and good musicianship. All three pillars interrelate to produce a holistic music learning experience for all our students.

Ensemble participation is aimed at educating the music student in orchestral performance and has great benefits for all participating players. I am writing down some benefits of playing in an ensemble, with the hope that it will encourage you to join one of the Ladybird ensembles. Ask your teacher what ensemble-playing possibilities there are for the level that you are on with your instrument.

#### Social and emotional well-being

While we may spend some hours practicing and mastering our instrument, the best memories of making music are doing this with others. The best way to be engaged in any activity is to share it with others. By joining an ensemble, you are joining a community of musicians. You make friends, share the joy of making music together, and peer-teach each other. Within an ensemble, students make friends with like-minded musicians and forge deep, long-lasting relationships.

#### Teamwork

Ensemble playing is more than the sum of its

individual parts. Playing in an ensemble allows students to develop team skills, sacrificing one's ego to benefit the team.

Whether players have the melody or harmony, they learn to listen and non-verbally communicate with each other to create music as a team. Skills learned, include, learning to balance melody against harmony, intonation, and rhythm, as well as performance etiquette in a group setting.

Reuben Morkel and Wilna Leech (cellos)



#### Guitar tempi Exam term snippet

Rudi Viljoen

The guitar students were busy with the preparations for their internal and external Rockscool exams over the past term. More about this on...

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#### Digital Design From Bongo's lab

Pinkie Thulo

Read all about Bongo's busy design lab over the past term.

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#### Art studio news Perspective on sculpturing

Thandi Sliepen

Exciting happenings in the art studio this term encompassed a journey into sculpture as a medium.

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Reuben Morkel (cello),  
Hannah Hamilton (flute),  
Xinghan Huang (piano),  
Gideon Knot (trumpet) and  
Andrew van der Linde  
(clarinet) in an ensemble  
rehearsal.



## Ensemble...

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### Watching the conductor

The conductor is the leader who brings all parts of an ensemble together as a whole. For the conductor to do this, players need to learn how to interpret and respond to the conductor's gestures and other means of communication. For example, players learn the importance of following the conductor's beat patterns and the indicated tempo.

### Reinforcing what is learnt in private lessons

Players can better understand the reasons why they learn certain techniques in their one-on-one instrument lessons, allowing them to be more engaged and motivated to further develop their technique and musicianship.

### Experiential learning

Rudiments of music - like structure, dynamics, expressive techniques, tone colour, pitch, rhythm - taught in music classrooms or during individual lessons, get a practical application in the ensemble setting, where students can really start to understand the concepts and apply their learning.

### Organisation

Attending a regular rehearsal on time each week with parts learnt, as well as contributing positively to any performance involves good organisation on the part of the individual. Players learn how the logistics of setting up for their ensemble rehearsals and how to manage time to practice their individual parts so that they are contributing positively to the team.

The benefits of playing and performing in an ensemble or group is huge, with the most important being that it is fun!



Sarah van  
der Linde  
(keyboard)  
and  
Hannah  
Hamilton  
(flute)



Jean-Evan  
Morkel &  
Kristell  
Gault  
(violins)





Ronél Henning

## Alumni news

### Making a difference

Sharing inspiring news from some of our alumni...

**Simon Vander Plaetse** achieved his second MMus in Music Performance (Cum Laude) at the Basel University, Switzerland, in Theorbo and Lute. His first MMus achieved was in Guitar. Congratulations to Simon on this inspiring achievement.

**Joreth Bartsch** is an Old Ladybird student who did her ABRSM Piano and Violin on both instruments on the Grade 7 level, along with Music Theory Grade 5 and went on to study in the missionary field. However, she is using her passion and knowledge of music. She and her husband – who is a guitarist and singer – travel with their chamber singing group for outreach programmes to the far corners of southern Africa to spread the Gospel.



Albert & Joreth Bartsch with their children Armin and Reina – a happy testimony to music ministry.

Alumni JD & Madelaine Naudé, Joreth Bartsch and husband, Albert sharing time after an AEB outreach in Aliwal North.

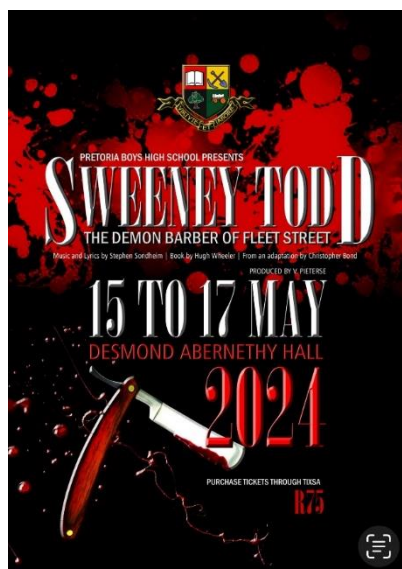


Bravo to **Joané Beukes** who achieved her Honours BMus at the University of Stellenbosch with a distinction.

**Werner Stander** of the Bloemfontein Childrens, University of the Free State and Oranje Girls' Schools Choirs was the national adjudicator for the Pretoria Eisteddfod in Gauteng. His two choirs at Oranje Girls School both achieved gold medals at the national ATKV Applous competition Free State regionals in May.



Accolade to **Rikus Coetsee** who pulled out all the stops for the production of his first musical, Sweeney Todd, at Pretoria Boys High in May.



Daniël Bezuidenhout

## Timeless classics

Dust off those old books and see them wearing a new jacket!

From the Ancient Greek plays, e.g. The Lysistrata, Oedipus Rex, to Medieval plays, e.g. Everyman, to Shakespeare's plays, e.g. Romeo and Juliet, Anthony & Cleopatra and Othello, we all have encountered these – or similar – works in our lives. The common question when reading or studying these works is, "Why do I need to read or study this?" (Modern literary works also fall victim to this question.) The answer is quite simple.

Each of these timeless works offers us insight into an aspect of our daily lives; for their themes are still as relevant today as were, say, in Ancient Greece, Medieval Times, or Elizabethan England.

The basic premise for these works is either love; jealousy; appearance versus reality, survival, or any other common theme we find today. Although set in different times and settings, these (im)mortal characters typically face something we can relate to.

So, if we look further than the surface – and usually a version of English foreign to us – we will see that these authors and playwrights touched on universal topics and attempted to teach mankind a lesson.



Lerato Moletsane, Karabo Moepi and Tehilla Sello Musical Theatre students out on stage.





Rudi Viljoen

## Tempo giusto

At a consistent speed, at the 'right' speed, in strict tempo

“One-and-Two-and-Three-and-Four-and!”

The count, the timing, the pulse, the heartbeat, the speed, the tempo of music.

Studying and performing with an ensemble or back-track should secure a student’s development of timing. This in turn helps the student to perform their music perfectly synchronized to the required tempo.

Often a composition requires the musician to play only at specific speeds or tempos, thus keeping the count and feeling the pulse, to act as a guide for the musician to synchronize seamlessly with the accompaniment.

This past exam season has certainly put students to the time-keeping test.

Diligent preparation seems to have contributed to the success of each student’s achievement and as we await the scores, we prepare to enter the next grades ...” never a dull moment” ... 😊

We take it our Tempo Giusto-stride.

Reuben Morkel is a grade 4 guitar student.



## Did you know?

The cores of guitar strings are typically made from steel. Some strings may use a nylon core, which produces a softer and warmer sound, often preferred for classical and flamenco music.

The total force of tension on the guitar's neck and body is rather significant and is determined by the combined tension of all the strings when tuned; on average approximately 115 lbs.



Chantelle Sousa

## Little Chefs-a-Cooking

A hive of culinary activity

The Little Chefs impressed with learning to cook the following menu over the past term!

- Chicken & Broccoli Bake
- Chicken Wrap with Roasted Peppers
- Cottage Pie
- Coconut & Date Balls
- Rainbow Tagliatelle with Bacon
- Banana Cream Pie
- Chocolate Mousse
- Egg-fried Rice
- Fruit Skewers with Chocolate Bar One Sauce





Katleho Mothae

## Group singing

### A healthy activity to do

Choral singing improves health and happiness and is the perfect social icebreaker.

According to Dr. Jacques Launay of the University of Oxford, there has been a revolution in attitudes towards joining a choir. He states that singing in a choir is beneficial in various ways.



Group singing not only forges social bonds, it's also an excellent social icebreaker and creates a strong sense of well-being. Music-making exercises the brain as well as the body, but singing, particularly, is beneficial for improving breathing, posture, and muscle tension.

There is also some evidence that music can play a role in sustaining health. Music has been used in different cultures throughout history in many healing rituals and is used today in therapy.

Everyone can sing - however much we might protest - meaning it is one of the most accessible forms of music making. Singing is a powerful therapy indeed!



Encore Maluti choristers working out on their songs during a rehearsal.



Katleho Mothae in a video recording session with Xinghan Huang for the ABRSM Piano Grade 5 online exam.



Ronél Henning

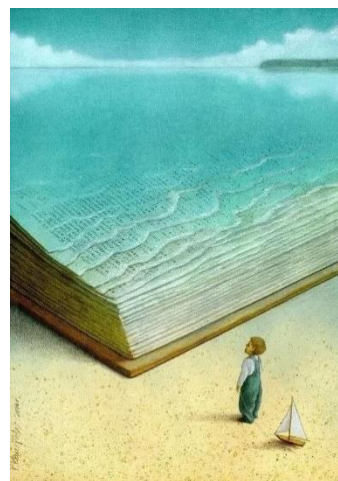
## Goodbye

### Best wishes

We are greeting Daniël Bezuidenhout at the end of this term. We thank him for his input in the learning of our drama students.

We wish him well on his way.

Katleho Mothae has been appointed as the new Head of Dramatic Arts.



Reading kindles nurtures the imagination creativity unlocks knowledge

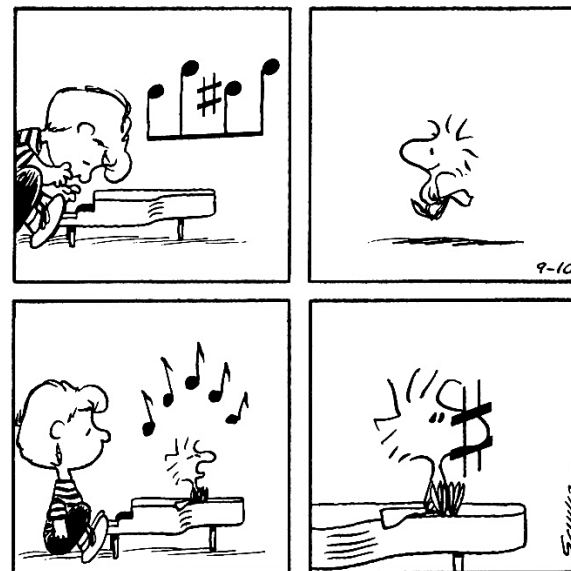
Ronél Henning

## Online exam recording

"All about how many times you put your exam programme out on stage before your exam to ensure a relaxed recording session," says Katleho Mothae. So, get your concert programme out on stage before your exam session as an important part of exam preparations.



Cooper Lo (left) and Dylan Su (below) recording their Rockschooll Guitar Grade 3 exam videos.







Thandi Sliepen

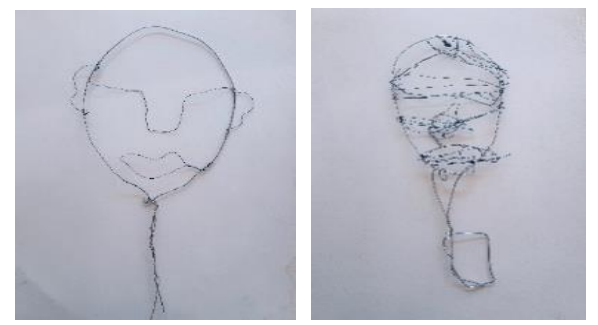
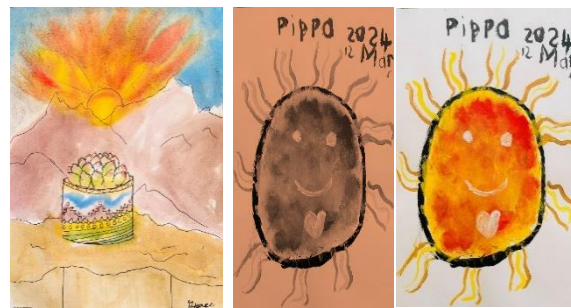
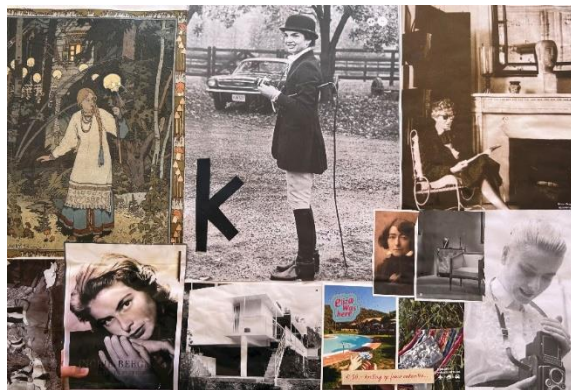
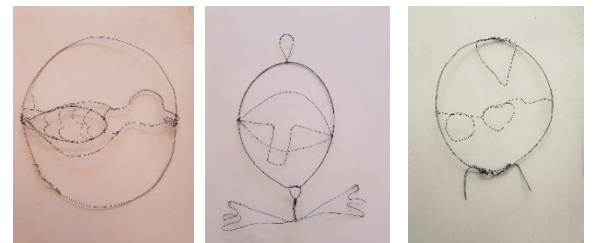
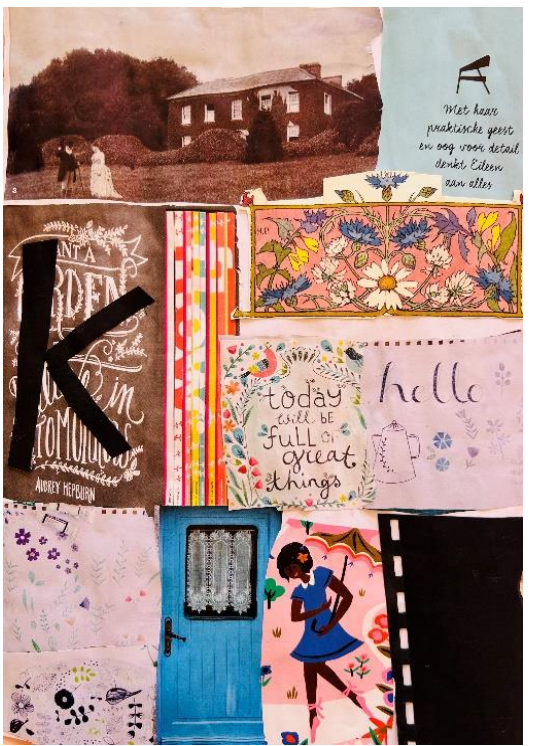
## Art focus

### Exploring sculpturing

This term's buzzword in art has been sculpture! We have devoted the whole term to exploring this age-old visual art medium. What is sculpture? None of the students were too clear about that before we started, but I think everyone has a good grasp now, of what the concept means: It's an art piece that is three-dimensional. It's a form that has stepped off a two-dimensional plane like a piece of paper and now stands before you all on its own. You can walk around it and look at it from different angles. If it's a relief sculpture, like a carving into a wall, the back will not be so interesting, but we still call it a sculpture, because the forms are still stepping out into space, though they just haven't stepped out that far, and are still attached to the wood, stone, metal, clay or cement panel they were made from.

This past term we have used clay, wire, pebbles, cement and paper mâché to construct sculptures. Paper mâché is a combination of glue made from flour, water and paper. Did you know that furniture has even been made from paper mâché? I once saw a photo of a double-story house made entirely from paper mâché. It looked like a normal, wooden house!

It's been my observation this term that sculpture has a particularly fun side of art making. Next term - sorry guys - we are back to doing two-dimensional art. I'm sure we will transfer some of our experience gained in sculpturing back into the flat planes of paper - and have fun!





Pinkie Thulo

## Digital design From Bongo's lab

As the Digital Design course unfolds, Bongo Sixishe has continued to refine his skills and expand his portfolio.

The course has been an enriching and inspiring experience for him thus far. From working on a billboard design with his teacher and getting more insight into what it is like working with a client to getting creative with illustration designs, it has been nothing short of an exhilaration.

In design, it is important to be as creative and innovative as possible, though all the time keeping in mind design principles. Students should not forget this vital piece of information when they have a project to complete.

Some impressive projects have now been added to his portfolio, among them being a brochure design for a fictional company and a captivating illustration of a poem.

Here's a sneak peek at what Bongo has been working on over the past term:



Illustration design on a poem titled, A Red, Red Rose by Robert Burns



Brochure design of fictional company, MGH Construction (Pty) Ltd

Billboard design for Ladybird International Arts Academy.

