

LADYBUZZ

Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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rockschool®
International Rock Music Exam Board

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

Ronél Henning

Into Spring

Change of seasons

We stepped into Spring at Ladybird this term, where the changing seasons breathed fresh life into our music studios and art classes. As nature awakens with vibrant new colours, our musicians, actors and visual artists channelled this seasonal renewal into bold, imaginative expressions of movement, sound, and form.

We greet art teacher Chantelle Fraenckel at the end of this term with a heartfelt thank you for the art tuition to our students. We will remember all the lovely outcomes – particularly the Kuwait collaboration project of 2025 comes to mind. Wishing you wonderful new creative scopes and wellness for the future.

Welcome back to Thandi Sliepen, who will be taking over the Visual Art Department. We are looking forward to receiving you again.

We were fortunate to receive Michael Quadrado, alumnus flautist and visual artist, for a workshop-visit and as locum art teacher over the past term. Sincere thanks for opening-up the importance of form and structure in art for our students.



Pinkie Thulo

From sketch to story

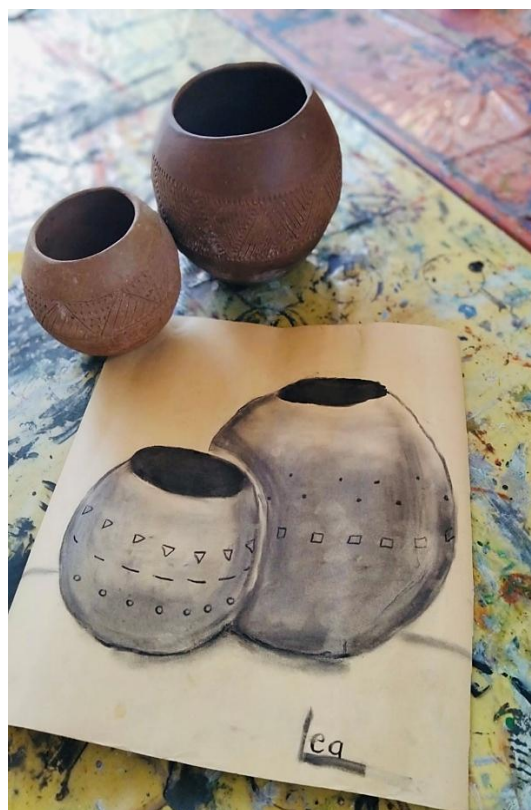
A drawing does not always have to remain a drawing.

Sometimes, a few lines on a page can be the beginning of something much bigger. A quick sketch can become a character, a poster, a story, or an illustration. This is one of the exciting things about design. An idea can continue to grow and change as we work with it. Drawing is often where the creative process begins. It gives us a place to put our ideas down, even before we know exactly what they will become. It does not have to be perfect; a simple sketch can hold the potential for something much more developed.

Illustration takes that idea a step further. It can be used to tell a story, communicate an idea, create a mood or simply make something more visually engaging.

Through colour, shape, line and composition, a drawing can be transformed while keeping the character of the original idea. Technology can also become part of this process. A hand-drawn sketch can be brought into a digital programme and developed into a finished illustration.

But the most important part remains the idea that started it all. Whether it begins with a pencil, a paintbrush or a computer, every illustration starts somewhere. Sometimes, all it takes is one drawing to discover where an idea can go next.





Ilona Knot

Why & when to start with music

Never too old or too young to start

Music can have a profound impact on a baby's development, influencing everything from brain structure to emotional regulation. Here are some of the key effects:

Brain Development and Cognitive Skills

Neural connections: Listening to and making music stimulates multiple areas of the brain simultaneously, strengthening neural pathways.

Language acquisition: Babies exposed to music often show enhanced abilities in distinguishing sounds and rhythms, which are foundational skills for learning language. The rhythmic patterns in music can help babies anticipate and process speech patterns.

Memory: Music engages memory centres in the brain, helping babies recognize and remember sounds, melodies, and patterns.

Emotional and Social Development

Bonding: Singing or playing music for a baby creates a strong emotional connection. The shared experience of music releases oxytocin (the "bonding hormone") in both the parent and the baby.

Emotional regulation: Music can soothe distressed babies, help them fall asleep, or lift their mood. Lullabies are effective at calming babies due to their slow tempo and predictable structure.

Social awareness: Participating in musical activities (like clapping along or taking turns singing) teaches early social interaction.

Physical Development

Motor skills: Moving to music encourages gross motor skills like kicking, bouncing, and eventually dancing. Fine motor skills are developed when babies shake rattles or tap instruments.

Coordination: Rhythmic activities help babies develop a sense of timing and coordination between what they hear and how they move.

Sensory Stimulation

Music provides rich auditory stimulation that helps babies learn to focus and filter sounds. Different genres, instruments, and tempos can broaden their auditory palette and keep them engaged.

Tips for Parents

Sing! Don't just play recordings: Your voice is the most powerful and comforting instrument for your baby.

Be interactive: Clap, dance, or play together.

Watch their signals: Some babies love energetic music, while others get overstimulated. Observe how your baby responds and adjust accordingly.

Repetition is good: Babies love repetition. Repeating songs helps them learn and feel secure.

In short, music isn't just entertainment for children and babies; it's a powerful tool for holistic development that supports cognitive, emotional, and physical growth in a fun and engaging way. If you haven't had the chance to do music when you were young, you can start when you want to have children yourself.





VERY BEST TIMES

Year-end concert

7 Nov 2026
11am

Ladybird Auditorium
Ladybrand
South Africa

Entrance R100 pp
Booking WhatsApp
+27 (0)82 561 8842

The Ladybird International Arts Academy



Chantelle Fraenckel

A creative term of artmaking

A term of creativity & discovery

This has been a wonderful and inspiring term in the Ladybird Arts Studio! Our students have embraced new ideas, explored different mediums and techniques, and grown in confidence as young artists. From experimenting with colour and texture to learning about artists and art movements, every project has been an opportunity to discover something new.

One of the highlights of the term was our portrait workshops with Michael Quadrado. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning new portrait techniques and exploring the challenges of capturing personality and expression. Michael’s enthusiasm and expertise made the workshops both educational and enjoyable, and they were a favourite with everyone who took part.

It has been a pleasure watching our students develop their own unique artistic styles and creative voices. Their enthusiasm, imagination and willingness to experiment have made this a truly memorable term in art!



The Ladybird International Arts Academy

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

11 Nov 2026

11am – 5pm

Ladybird Auditorium
Ladybrand
South Africa

FREE ENTRANCE



KATLEHO
MOTHAÉ

L R S M
PIANO RECITAL

Domenico Scarlatti
Piano Sonata K115 & K116

Franz Schubert
Sonata in A Minor, Op. 143, D.784

Joseph Makhholm
Trois Impressions

WEDNESDAY
16 SEPT
15:30

LADYBIRD INTERNATIONAL
ARTS ACADEMY
Ladybird Auditorium • Ladybrand •
South Africa

— FREE ADMISSION —

Ronél Henning

Katleho Mothae

LRSM Piano Recital

Katleho Mothae recently performed a public concert of his Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM) Piano Performance recital programme on 16 September. He is the first student from Ladybird Music to study at this advanced level of instrumental performance.

We wish him the very best as he prepares to present this exam programme to achieve his licentiate later in the year.

Katleho Mothae

Scales & arpeggios

All about dexterity, fitness & technical control

A scale is a set of notes played or sung in pitch order up or down within an octave. It provides the foundational pool of notes and key signature for a melody or harmony. An arpeggio, on the other hand, is playing individual notes of a chord one after the other or rolling them up or down. It outlines the underlying harmony and adds a flowing, melodic quality to chord progressions.

So, why are they important in playing music? They are the foundational building blocks of music, acting like the alphabet and grammar for your instrument.

Technical Skills

Dexterity in the fingers: They build muscle memory, finger strength, and independence.

Evenness and speed: Practicing slowly and increasing speed helps you play rapid passages smoothly and evenly.

Physical Warm-up: They stretch the hands and fingers, serving as a safe physical warm-up before playing complex pieces

Music Theory and Reading

Recognising patterns: Most melodies and harmonies are built from scales and arpeggios (broken chords). Knowing them makes sight-reading and learning new pieces much faster because you spot familiar shapes instead of individual notes.

Understanding keys: They teach you key signatures, accidental notes, and how different tonalities feel under your hands/fingers.

Creativity and Expression

Improvisation: Scales and arpeggios give you a reliable “map” of notes to use when you want to solo, compose, arrange, or improvise.

Ear training: They improve your pitch awareness so you can hear intervals clearly and play in tune.

Don’t just practice pieces. Include practicing scales and arpeggios as part of your daily instrumental workout.

