



NEWSLETTER

Term 1

2024

STARTING ON A HIGH NOTE

Could there be a more exhilarating start to the year than gracing the stage of the Cape Town Jazzathon? We certainly don't think so! In January, our Jazz Band dazzled audiences at this esteemed event.

Our orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Marimba Band, and Jazz Band are already in full swing, diligently preparing for upcoming performances and Eisteddfods. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Additionally, we're delighted to welcome numerous new players into these groups, enriching our musical community.

With anticipation brimming, we eagerly await the countless highlights that 2024 has in store for us.

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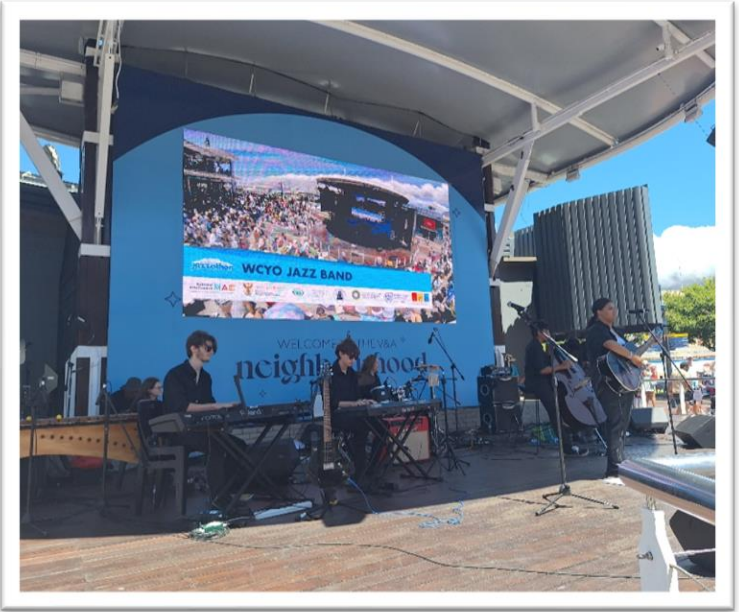
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CAPE TOWN JAZZATHON

The **Cape Town Jazzathon**, which recently celebrated its 26th Anniversary, is the longest running music festival in South Africa. The festival is supported by The National Arts Council, The City of Cape Town and The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Our Jazz Band was invited to perform at this prestigious event in January. What an amazing opportunity it was for our musicians! We want to thank Craig Parks for putting his faith in this young band from the West Coast and to Martin Meyers who is one of our staunchest supporters.



Our band truly shone, captivating the audience with their exceptional performance, even amidst seasoned and renowned jazz musicians. Kudos to Teachers Marna Smit and Damon de Foglio, as well as all our talented players, for delivering a remarkable show that left the crowd spellbound. Your consistent excellence fills us with pride, wherever your musical endeavours take you!



The Jazz Band has received the prestigious honour of being selected to perform at the annual **Youth Jazz Festival at the Artscape Theatre** in June. Despite facing tight preparation schedules and fierce competition, they showcased their exceptional talent in the audition process, securing their well-deserved spot. This achievement underscores the timeless adage that talent triumphs above all. Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment!

TASTES OF THE WORLD

In the first term, Ina van Zyl assumed leadership of the Marimba Band. This transition aims to broaden the reach of this splendid musical medium to more children, and we are delighted to report that progress has been excellent, and more students have already joined the band. Recently, they had the privilege of taking part in Curro Castle's annual Tastes of the World event. It was a moment of pride for us to represent "South Africa" and infuse the evening with an authentic local vibe.

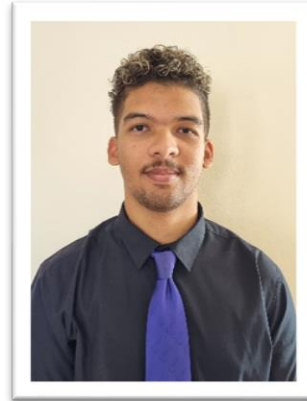
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Marlene and her team for their extraordinary warmth and hospitality. Their exceptional care ensured our experience was nothing short of stellar. Marlene and team, you are truly incredible!!



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Introducing two fantastic additions to the WCMA team: Shania-Amor Kuilders and Aiden Fransman! Shania, our new clarinet teacher, and Aiden, who will be mentoring our saxophone players, both hail from the esteemed ranks of WCMA/WCYO Alumni. We're delighted they've chosen to remain within the WCMA & WCYO family, infusing our activities with their boundless enthusiasm and vitality.

To Shania and Aiden: may your journey with us be filled with joy and growth.



IYOB 2024 TOUR

The IYOB project will bring together young musicians from the UK, US, Australia, and South Africa to form an international youth orchestra. The combined orchestra will perform at various venues in Cape Town, culminating with the final concert in Stellenbosch.

The Senior Orchestra will be focussing on the IYOB tour repertoire this term. The repertoire will also be included for other performances and Eisteddfods.

The musicians will come together in South Africa in July 2024.

Any musicians who are interested in being part of this wonderful experience can contact WCYO. There are no age restrictions for musicians from South Africa.

Contact WCYO at info@wcyo.co.za for more information.



Follow the International Youth Orchestra Bridges on Facebook.

SUPPORT

We extend our sincerest thanks to the HCI Foundation for their continued financial support of WCYO. Your unwavering commitment to our orchestra and youth is deeply appreciated. We are immensely grateful for your friendship and generosity. THANK YOU!!

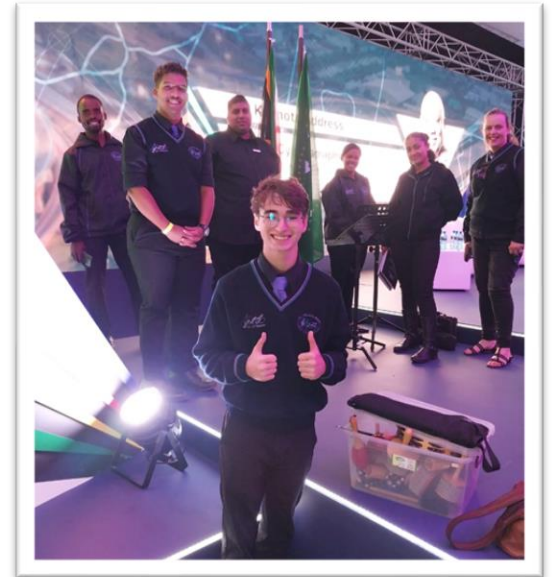


We extend our **heartfelt gratitude** to all our exceptional sponsors, contributors, affiliates, and partners. Your unwavering support, belief in our vision, and shared passion are invaluable to us. With your assistance, we are dedicated to making a meaningful difference in our communities. Thank you for being instrumental in our journey.



SIDSSA 2024

On March 19th, a select WCYO Ensemble had the privilege of performing at The Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium (SIDSSA), graced by esteemed dignitaries, including President Ramaphosa. Despite the short notice, a special ensemble was swiftly organised for the occasion. Despite the limited preparation time, they delivered an outstanding performance, proudly representing the WCYO with distinction.



MUSIQUOLAINE SA



On March 4th, our Junior and Senior Orchestra members were honoured to collaborate with renowned conductor, Chad Hendricks. It was an extraordinary day—a rare opportunity not to be taken lightly. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Hendricks for his invaluable guidance and expertise. We also want to thank everyone from Musiquolaïne for visiting our Orchestra; meeting you all was a delight!

THE FIRST TERM IN PICTURES



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT WCYO

WCYO is a registered Non-Profit Company (NPC 132-992) and was also approved as a Public Benefit Organisation in May 2018 by SARS.

- ♥ **Technology/Digital assistance:** Donate second-hand or refurbished laptops to WCYO for admin and other use. Assist WCYO in making recordings, managing sound for performances, and donating any sound equipment.
- ♥ **Adopt-a-Musician: Individuals and corporate companies can adopt a student in need of financial assistance as protégé.**
- ♥ **Friends-of-WCYO Campaign:** Make a monthly contribution of your choice by EFT or Debit Order to support our Student Bursary Fund or any other programme of your choice.
- ♥ **Transport:** Donate diesel vouchers or assist in transporting Outreach, Development, Band or Orchestra students from and to venues for tuition and/or rehearsals.

We urge you to keep on using your **MySchool Card** as well as **SnapScan** to help WCYO raise funds. These are quick and easy ways to help, and all funds raised go directly to benefit our students.

For more information on how to become involved in our outreach programmes or to become a volunteer, contact Carina Brown at director@wcyo.org.za or visit our website (www.wcyo.org.za).



Important Dates

14 June – Schools close

22 June – Youth Jazz Festival @ Artscape Theatre

Rehearsal days are as follows:

Mondays – Marimba Band

Wednesdays – WCYO Band

Thursdays – Percussion Ensemble

Fridays – Orchestra (Sectionals or tutti)

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