



WEST COAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA®
NPC: 2013/173339/08 PBO:930057362
NPO 132-992

NEWSLETTER

Term 4

2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on an incredible year of growth, achievement, and unforgettable experiences. This year was undoubtedly defined by the success of the **International Youth Orchestra Bridges (IYOB) Tour**, which brought together young musicians from around the world and gave our members the opportunity to connect, learn, and perform on an international stage.

Closer to home, we celebrated outstanding results at the **Wes-Boland Eisteddfod**, where many of our talented members shone with exceptional performances.

While the IYOB Tour took centre stage for much of the year, we are proud of the progress our orchestra has made in 2024. A significant contributor to this growth was the arrival of our new conductor, Tylor Gibbons, whose fresh perspective and passion have invigorated the orchestra and inspired our musicians to reach new heights.

From global experiences to local achievements, every moment has contributed to a year where we can feel truly satisfied with the strides we've made as an orchestra. **Here's to continued growth, harmony, and success in 2025!**

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SAVE THE DATE

22
DAY

01
MONTH

25
YEAR

WCMA & WCYO PRIZE-GIVING
CURRO LANGEBAAN

A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT

In October, we were honoured to welcome Minister Ricardo Mackenzie and his team from the **Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport** to WCYO in Langebaan. During the visit, Minister Mackenzie expressed his admiration for the incredible work of Carina Brown, who has dedicated the past 30 years to nurturing young musical talent on the West Coast.

The Minister's visit highlighted the government's commitment to investing in the arts and ensuring that our youth have the opportunities they need to thrive. We are deeply grateful for their support and encouragement, which play a vital role in empowering our young musicians to reach their full potential.

Thank you, Minister Mackenzie and your team, for recognising and celebrating the power of music in shaping brighter futures!



HSH PRIZE-GIVING

The West Coast Youth Orchestra had the privilege of performing at the Hopefield Primary School Prize-Giving, held at Hopefield High. This beautiful open-air performance, conducted by the talented Tylor Gibbons, created an enchanting atmosphere and set the tone for an unforgettable evening of celebration and achievement.

We are proud to have been part of such a special occasion, sharing the joy of music with the Hopefield community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making this event so memorable!



HCI FOUNDATION VISIT

In October, we were honoured to welcome **HCI Foundation CEO Jamala Safari** and **Phadiela Cooper, Operations Manager**, to WCYO. The HCI Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of our organization, and their continued engagement is invaluable to the work we do in empowering young musicians on the West Coast.

This visit was particularly meaningful, as Jamala Safari and Phadiela Cooper took the time to engage in insightful discussions with our dedicated team of tutors. These conversations provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made, share our vision for the future, and explore ways to enhance the impact of our programmes.

We are deeply grateful for the HCI Foundation's unwavering commitment to our mission and their genuine interest in the people behind WCYO's success. Visits like these reaffirm the importance of collaboration and the shared belief in the transformative power of music education. We look forward to continuing this valued partnership and creating even more opportunities for our young musicians to thrive.



UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH SATELLITE CAMPUS @WCMA

Congratulations to **Lushena Papier** who completed her Advanced Certificate course and **Siya Samka** who completed his Introductory Certificate course! As students in the WCYO Scholarship & Bursary Programme, they officially received their certificates on 26 November, and we couldn't be prouder of their incredible hard work and dedication throughout the year. A heartfelt thank you to our committed staff who guided and supported them every step of the way – your encouragement truly makes all the difference!

Are you ready to take the next step toward a brighter future? Whether you're considering a gap year or preparing for further studies, enrolments for 2025 are now open! Email us at usmusic@westcoastmusicacademy.co.za for more information.



HOPEFIELD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL



What a night to remember! WCMA & WCYO brought festive cheer to the **Hopefield Christmas Lights Festival** with the vibrant sounds of djembes, marimbas, brass instruments, and more. Our stall was a hub of fun, smiles, and joyful music that had everyone tapping their feet and joining in the rhythm.

It was truly wonderful to be part of this fantastic community project, sharing in the holiday spirit with such an awesome vibe. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and joined in the fun!

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the Mzansi Philharmonic Orchestra for their generous funding support of WCYO's programmes. Your commitment to uplifting youth through music education aligns perfectly with our mission and values, and your support is instrumental in transforming lives, fostering talent, and building brighter futures on the West Coast.



Thank you for trusting us to carry out this important work. Together, we are not only creating beautiful music but also shaping the next generation of young leaders and artists. Your generosity inspires us to continue making a meaningful difference.

Some of our staff were fortunate enough to attend one of your performances, and it was an unforgettable experience – your music truly spoke to our hearts. We look forward to future collaborative opportunities and continuing to share the transformative power of music.



A big thank you to all our **amazing sponsors, supporters, partners, and friends!** Your trust in our mission and shared passion means the world to us. With your help, we're committed to making a real difference in our communities. **We couldn't do it without you** – thank you for being such an important part of our journey!

GIVING BACK

WCYO recently had the privilege of giving back to the community by donating clothes to **Huis van Heerde** in Moorreesburg. Supporting our local communities is a core value for us, and we believe in not only receiving but also giving back in meaningful ways.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to plan a larger community drive to extend our reach – not only through the power of music but also through initiatives that make a positive impact in other areas of need. Together, we can create harmony both on and off the stage.



THE 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 Programme or to become a volunteer, contact Carina Brown at director@wcyo.org.za or visit our website (www.wcyo.org.za).



Important Dates

- 15 January – Schools open
- 20 January – Lessons start
- 22 January – WCMA & WCYO Prize-Giving

Rehearsal times for the WCYO Junior & Senior Orchestra, the Jazz Band, the Marimba Band, the Percussion Ensemble and the new Brass Band will be communicated in January.

Contact Details

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We welcome any feedback. Send us a WhatsApp or alternatively, send an email to info@wcyo.org.za.

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