



Wcyo

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

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 2025

REHEARSE TODAY, SHINE TOMORROW

The West Coast Youth Orchestra® is in an exciting building phase, but that hasn't slowed the energy or determination of our young musicians! With the **30-Year Celebration Concert** on **17 October** fast approaching, the orchestra has been rehearsing tirelessly to prepare a memorable programme.

Under the direction of **Mr. Kenny Leibbrandt** and with exciting new arrangements by **Mr. Eric Gerber**, the orchestra is ready to shine on stage. Joining them in the celebration are the **Marimba Band**, led by **Ms. Ina van Zyl**, and the **WCYO® Band (The Sparkly Shoes)**, directed by **US student Thomas Lintvelt**. The line-up promises to be truly special and not to be missed!

This **formal celebration** will welcome several **guests of honour**, including the **Minister of Arts & Culture**. A **string quartet** will provide elegant entrance music, followed by a performance from guest artist **Shaun Beer** during a **canapé meal** at the Fossil Park restaurant, all included in the ticket price.

Ensemble playing lies at the heart of WCYO®'s programmes. It builds discipline, teamwork, and confidence, and watching our young musicians grow together remains one of our greatest rewards.

Tickets are available at [QUICKET!](#)

Tickets include **canapés** and a **welcome drink!**

BOOK TODAY!



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30 Year CELEBRATION Concert

Venue:
West Coast Fossil Park

Date:
17 October 2025

Time: 19:00 **Price:** R285

Tickets available at Quicket
Your ticket includes canapés and a welcoming drink

MARIMBA JAM MAKES HISTORY!

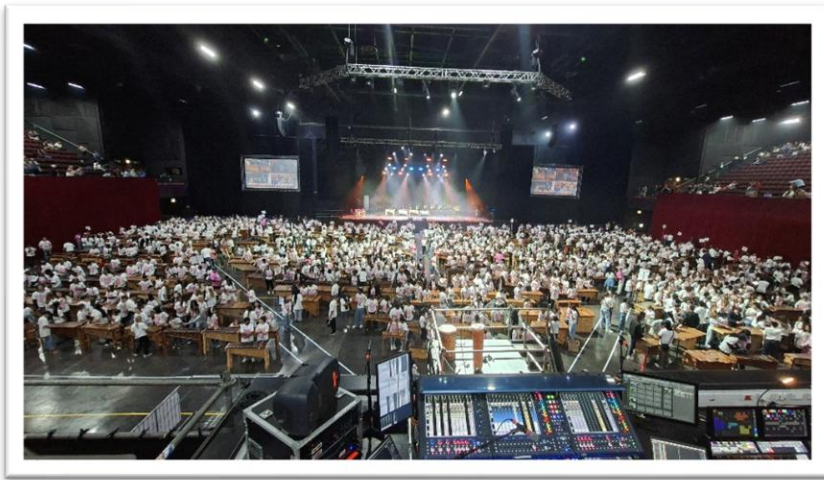
On 2 August, WCYO® joined a spectacular musical achievement: the Biggest Jam 2025 marimba event at Grand Arena, GrandWest — and we **helped break the Guinness World Record for the largest marimba ensemble!**

With **more than 1,276 participants** from across South Africa and Zimbabwe, all playing in unison, the atmosphere was electric.

Our WCYO® ensemble was one of 75 schools and groups invited to take part, performing the official medley alongside many others.

Standing there, surrounded by so many marimba players, truly felt like magic. It's an experience we'll treasure forever and a reminder of what musical unity can achieve.

We're so proud of every student who contributed. **Your dedication and passion helped create a moment that will go down in history!**



NEW TIMPANI FOR WCYO®!

WCYO® is thrilled to announce the arrival of a **brand-new set of timpani!** This long-awaited addition marks a major milestone for our orchestra, and a dream come true for Director Carina Brown, who has envisioned this upgrade for many years. How fitting that, in our **30th anniversary year**, this dream has finally become a reality, a reminder that one should never give up!

Our heartfelt thanks go to **Me. Suzette Brits** for her invaluable support and to the **Rupert Foundation** for their generous funding, which made it possible to acquire a **modern set suitable for examination use**. The joy among our percussion players was unforgettable. Some were even moved to tears, having long persevered with the old instruments.

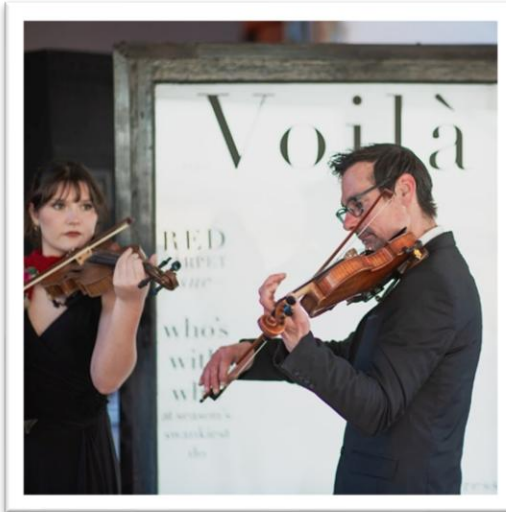
To complete the set, we are still hoping to acquire the **fourth piccolo timpani** and are actively raising the remaining R66,000 needed for its purchase.

If you would like to contribute and help us make this dream fully complete, please contact Carina Brown!



MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY

Our talented piano and violin teacher, **Eric Gerber**, performed with **Monique van der Merwe** at the annual meeting of the local **Women's Agricultural Association**. The duo also brought a touch of classical elegance to the **Hopefield High School Matric Farewell**. Their beautiful music is always a highlight and adds something truly special to every occasion!



Anyone looking for live music for a wedding or special occasion is welcome to contact **Mr. Eric Gerber** or **Carina Brown** at info@wcyo.org.za.

WCYO® STRING QUARTET SHINES



In July, a WCYO® string quartet captivated guests at the **West Coast Chamber of Commerce** function at Blue Bay Lodge with a moving and soulful performance.

The talented ensemble, **Eric Gerber**, **Elmarie Lith**, **Kristina Jonker**, and **Monique van der Merwe**, impressed and inspired the audience with their artistry, musical connection, and professionalism. It was a proud moment for WCYO® and a wonderful showcase of the talent within our organisation.

THANK YOU TO SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

A big thank you to some of the amazing supporters of WCYO®!

We're deeply grateful to **Theresa Hall from U3A South Africa** for the generous donation of musical resources that will make a real difference to our young musicians. Your contribution is a wonderful reminder of how local communities can uplift youth through music.

We also extend our sincere thanks to **Celéste Roux from JPN Music Books** for her kind donation of printed music. JPN is a trusted supplier of music books to schools and individuals across South Africa, and we're honoured to be one of their beneficiaries.

Support like this is invaluable to WCYO® and strengthens the work we do in music education and youth development across the West Coast. Thank you!



THANK YOU

To all our **amazing sponsors, supporters, partners, and friends** — thank you! Your belief in what we do and your love for music keeps us going. **Because of you**, we're able to reach more young people, grow our programmes, and make a real difference in our communities. We truly couldn't do this without you. **Thank you** for being such a big part of our journey!



SUPPORT WCYO® WITH SNAPSCAN!



Giving to the West Coast Youth Orchestra® is super easy. If you'd like to support our work, simply scan our **SnapScan** code to make a quick and secure donation. Every contribution helps us provide music education, instruments, and performance opportunities to young musicians across the West Coast. No amount is too small. Your support makes a real difference!

WAYS TO 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.

THE TERM IN PICTURES



GIVING BACK

WCYO® recently had the heartwarming opportunity to visit Siyabonga Care Village, where music filled the air and smiles were everywhere. Everyone also enjoyed sweet treats and got creative making colourful bracelets and necklaces together. While the crafts and treats brought joy, it was the music that truly stole the show, creating memorable moments of connection and happiness for all.



SPECIAL MUSIC MORNING

WCYO® was thrilled to welcome back the special needs exercise group for another inspiring visit. This time, it was the caregivers and volunteers who took center stage, exploring the marimbas and making music together with joy and enthusiasm. Laughter, rhythm, and creativity filled the room, making it a truly special morning for everyone involved.



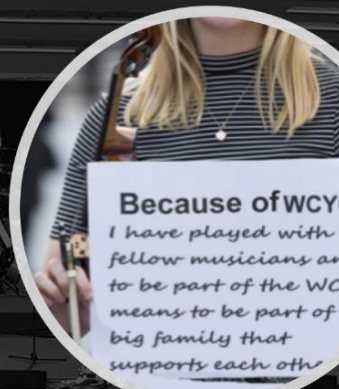
IMPORTANT DATES

- 11 October – WCYO® Orchestra Workshop**
- 14 October – Curro Langebaan Prize-Giving**
- 17 October – 30 Year Celebration Concert**
- 21 October – HSH Prize-Giving**
- 22 October – Curro Culture Evening**
- December – Christmas Carols @ West Coast Mall (TBC)**

Are you an WCYO Alumni?

Reconnect with your fellow Alumni, stay up to date with Alumni news, networking events and other opportunities by joining our WCYO Alumni Program.

Contact WCYO at info@wcyo.org.za for more information on how to become involved or visit our website at <https://www.wcyo.org.za>



CONTACT DETAILS

General enquiries, applications & admin

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Performances & Programmes

Donations

director@wcyo.org.za

Account and financial enquiries

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Marketing

marketing@wcyo.org.za

Clothing / Attire enquiries:

petula@wcyo.org.za

Instrumental & Accessories Orders /Repairs

sales@wcmac.co.za

University of Stellenbosch Courses

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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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