

Cape Town Baroque Orchestra



20 December 2023

2023 Artistic Report

2023

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra's 2023 Artistic Programme was busy and varied, with programming that ranged from large-scale canonic works (Bach's *St John's Passion*, and Handel's *Messiah*) to lesser performed works such as Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, and small-scale concerts exploring lesser-known composers. In addition to the annual concert series that took place in two seasons (Season 1: February–April and Season 2: July–December), we also presented the 2023 Cape Town Baroque Festival during September/October 2023.

In keeping with the goal we set during the 2021 name change from 'Camerata Tinta Barocca' to the 'Cape Town Baroque Orchestra', we intensified our focus on larger-scale orchestral forces during the 2023 season, which expands our employment reach, and also strengthens our brand as the only Baroque orchestra on the African continent. At the same time, we also maintain an active chamber music component. Consistent with one of our main artistic goals, all our concerts during the course of 2023 were performed on period-appropriate instruments, with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra playing an increasingly important role in training a growing number of local musicians in Historically Informed Performance practice on period instruments.

Whilst our main priority is to empower and employ local musicians specialising in Historically Informed Performance, we do, however, find great inspiration in collaborating with international specialists. In this vein we have worked with the following international musicians during 2023: Philipp Mathmann (male soprano), Aviad Gershoni (baroque oboe), Anna Fusek (recorder and baroque violin), Gianluca Geremia (theorbo), and Raphael Pouget and Julian Ritsch (natural trumpet).

Governance

All operations of the 'Cape Town Baroque Orchestra' and the 'Cape Town Baroque Festival' are overseen by The Camerata Tinta Barocca Music Charitable Trust, which is a registered NPO. Registration number: IT2889/2006. Trustees: Dr Erik Dippenaar, Susan Smith (chairperson) and Dr Wayne Muller.

2023 CONCERT SERIES

SEASON 1

Purcell Celebration

Saturday, 11 February 2023, 11:00, Baxter Concert Hall, Rosebank

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra (CTBO), in collaboration with the Cape Town Concert Series, celebrated the music of Henry Purcell (1659–1695) with a line-up of instrumental repertoire and arias from his most famous stage works, including *King Arthur*, *Dioclesian*, *Fairy Queen* and *Dido and Aeneas*. Sopranoist Philipp Mathmann (Germany) and soprano Louise Howlett joined the CTBO as soloists. The performance was followed by a short question-and-answer session with the orchestra and soloists.

Chamber concert with Philipp Mathmann (male soprano)

Sunday, 16 February 2023, 16:00, Weltevreden, Oranje Road, Noordhoek

A chamber concert with Philippa Mathmann (male soprano), Joshua Frank (recorder) and Erik Dippenaar (historical keyboard instruments) held at the home of Noordhoek-based organ and harpsichord maker, William Selway (Bill) Robson.

Handel at Home

Sunday, 12 March 2023, 16:00, Old Nectar, Jonkershoek Valley, Stellenbosch

Members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra was joined by sopranos Lynelle Kenned and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi in their award-winning concert of chamber works for instruments and voices by GF Handel (1685–1759).

With: Lynelle Kenned and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi (sopranos), Ingo Müller (baroque oboe), Cheryl de Havilland (baroque cello) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord & Director).

Bach - *St John's Passion*

Performance 1: Saturday, 25 March 2023, 19:00, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town

Performance 2: Sunday, 26 March 2023, 16:30, Endler Hall, Stellenbosch

The Stellenbosch University Schola Cantorum, in collaboration with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, presented two performances of JS Bach's *St John's Passion*, conducted by Martin Berger. The chorus and orchestra were joined by a stellar line-up of vocal soloists, including Christian Rathgeber (Evangelist), Felix Rathgeber (Jesus), Elsabé Richter (soprano), Lente Louw (mezzo-soprano), Jason Atherton (tenor), and William Berger (bass).

Note: This was the first time that the CTBO played this monumental work on period instruments.

Buxtehude - *Membra Jesu Nostris*

Thursday, 6 April 2023, 19:00, Dutch Reformed Church Rondebosch, Rondebosch

The Lutesong Consort and members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra presented Dieterich Buxtehude's moving sequence of 7 cantatas *Membra Jesu Nostris*. Each cantata addresses a part of Jesus' crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart and face.

SEASON 2

Variations

Friday, 4 August 2023, 16:30, Dutch Reformed Church Park, Oudtshoorn

(As part of the 2023 Klein Karoo Klassique Festival)

A popular genre during the baroque period was so-called "sets of variations" or "divisions": composers composed variations and embellishments on folk melodies or hymns. Erik Dippenaar

(harpsichord and organ) and Ralitza Macheva (baroque violin) presented a programme of virtuoso sets of variations from the baroque, including music by Corelli and Buxtehude. The programme also included a collection of newly composed sets of variations for solo violin, in a baroque style, by Montreal-based composer and early music specialist Matthias Maute, as well as an improvised set of variations on the organ by Dippenaar.

Note: This concert was recently nominated for a kykNET Fiësta award.

Handel's Roman Cantatas

Sunday, 6 August 2023, 14:00, Civic Centre, Oudtshoorn

(As part of the 2023 Klein Karoo Klassique Festival)

Following their award-winning Handel at Home programme, members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, alongside sopranos Lynelle Kenned and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi, presented a selection of Italian cantatas that Handel composed while he lived and worked in Rome. The recital was followed by a 45-minute discussion between artists and audience members.

With: Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi (soprano), Ralitza Macheva (baroque violin), Rosamund Ender (baroque cello & viola da gamba), Dale de Windt (chamber organ) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord & Director)

CAPE CHORAL ACADEMY: BOLANDSE MISSE @ Woordfees

Tuesday, 10 October 2023, Endler Hall, Stellenbosch

(As part of the 2023 Toyota US Woordfees)

Xander Kritzinger and his newly founded Cape Choral Academy collaborated with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra in a performance of, amongst other works, Vivaldi's *Magnificat*.

With: Cape Choral Academy directed by Xander Kritzinger, Cape Town Baroque Orchestra directed by Erik Dippenaar, and Winand Grundling (organ)

Les Barricades Mystérieuses

Saturday, 28 October 2023, 11:00, Sts Simon & Jude Catholic Church, Simon's Town

(As part of the 2023 Simon's Town Music Festival)

Rosamund Ender (viola da gamba) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord) presented an intimate duo recital of music from the French baroque. Dippenaar played solo harpsichord works by Rameau and François Couperin, including the well-loved *Les Barricades Mystérieuses*, and Rosamund Ender played both solo and accompanied viola da gamba repertoire by Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe, Marin Marais, Sieur de Machy and Antoine Forqueray.

Handel at Home

Sunday, 29 October 2023, 15:00, Simon's Town Wesley Methodist Church, Simon's Town

(As part of the 2023 Simon's Town Music Festival)

Members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra (CTBO) were joined by sopranos Lynelle Kenned and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi in their award-winning concert of chamber works for instruments and voices by G.F. Handel (1685–1759).

With: Lynelle Kenned and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi (sopranos), Ingo Müller (baroque oboe), Cheryl de Havilland (baroque cello) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord & Director).

Handel's *Messiah*

Performance 1: Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 19:00, NG Church Welgelegen, Stellenbosch

Performance 2: Wednesday, 6 December 2023, 19:00, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town

Performance 3: Friday, 8 December 2023, 18:00, Burgersentrum, Oudtshoorn

For this production of *Messiah*, the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra (CTBO), directed from the harpsichord by Erik Dippenaar, in association with the singers of Lutesong Consort, returned to the version presented at the oratorio's first performances in Dublin (13 April and 3 June 1742). Similar musical forces to that first performance were used: baroque strings and continuo, natural trumpets and timpani, as well as an ensemble of twelve professional singers singing the solos and choruses, and a return to the smaller scale chamber music feel of the first performances. The CTBO was also joined by Austrian natural trumpeters Raphael Pouget and Julian Ritsch for this performance. Gracing the stage on a vocal front were Lutesong Consort singers Lynelle Kenned, Elsabé Richter and Louise Howlett (sopranos); Lente Louw, Minette du Toit-Pearce and Marcelle Steinmetz (altos); Jason Atherton, Willem Bester and Levi Alexander (tenors); and Aubrey Lodewyk / Van Wyk Venter (alternating), Keaton Manwaring and Patrick Cordery (basses).

Note: This production was a momentous event in the South African performance history of *Messiah*, since the full 1742 Dublin version is very rarely performed here, and on period instruments.

2023 Cape Town Baroque Festival

NEW MUSIC FOR OLD INSTRUMENTS

Friday, 22 September 2023, Endler Hall, Neethling Street, Stellenbosch

The 2023 Cape Town Baroque Festival, in collaboration with the South African Composers' Symposium, presented an exciting programme of new music for baroque instruments. The programme includes sets of variations for baroque violin on baroque themes composed by Matthias Maute in 2021, a piece titled *The Seige of Chester* (1997) for virginals in a quarter comma meantone tuning by William Mival, and a work composed in 2007 for recorder and percussion by Australian composer Racheal Cogan. Two newly composed works by Arthur Feder and Antoni Schonken formed the centrepieces of this programme.

With: Annien Shaw and Ralitzza Macheva (baroque violins), Rosamund Ender (viola da gamba), Caroline Walters (recorder), Emilio February (percussion), and Erik Dippenaar (virginals, harpsichord).

A SPANISH SALAD

Saturday, 23 September, 11:00, Baxter Concert Hall, Rondebosch

The 2023 Cape Town Baroque Festival, in collaboration with the Cape Town Concert Series, presented the Lutesong Consort in a programme titled 'A Spanish Salad – Vocal polyphony from Renaissance Spain'. The aptly named genre of ensaladas (literally: salads) flourished for the largest part of the 16th century in Spain, but only ten survive today. These highly entertaining religious allegories tell of redemption from various natural disasters, and contain a mix of references to popular songs, chant and onomatopoeic nonsense syllables in various metres. The ensaladas developed from the sacred villancico tradition: the singing of songs in the vernacular at matins in chapels and cathedrals on feast days, or as theatrical performance spectacles before the Mass. The Lutesong Consort performed two ensaladas by Mateo Flecha (1481–1553) with an ensemble of four singers and period instruments. They also presented sacred and secular villancicos from the Cancionero de Upsala(sic) (Venice, 1556), one of the most important historical sources for this genre. The vocal works were interspersed with instrumental pieces by Luis de Narváez (1490-1547), Alonso Mudarra (1510-1580) and Diego Ortiz (1510-1570).

With: Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Lente Louw (mezzo-soprano), Jason Atherton (tenor), Keaton Manwaring (bass), and an ensemble of period instruments.

BILL ROBSON – 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 24 September 2023, Weltevreden, Oranje Road, Noordhoek

Session 1: Concert at 14:00–14:45 and workshop tour at 15:00–15:30.

Session 2: Concert at 15:30–16:15 and workshop tour at 16:30–17:00.

The Cape Town Baroque Festival celebrated the 80th birthday of local harpsichord and organ builder William Selway (Bill) Robson with a series of short concerts in the chapel—originally a farmhouse dating from 1790—that he restored during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as tours through his workshop. The concerts were performed on historical keyboard instruments built by Robson. With: Erik Dippenaar, Anna Fusek and Dale de Windt (harpsichord, organ, spinet, virginals)

17th CAPE TOWN RECORDER SYMPOSIUM

Monday, 25 September 2023

See 'Education' below.

BRIEF TALES FOR TWO

Wednesday, 27 September 2023, 19:00, 6 Spin Street, Cape Town

Anna Fusek (baroque violin, recorder, spinetta) and Gianluca Geremia (theorbo, guitar, melodica) presented an intimate chamber concert based on a baroque aesthetic, but sometimes also venturing further afield.

With: Anna Fusek (baroque violin, recorder, spinetta) and Gianluca Geremia (theorbo, guitar, melodica)

DOUBLE TROUBLE! FESTIVAL FINALE

Sunday, 1 October 2023, 16:00, pre-concert talk at 15:15, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, De Waterkant

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra presented the festival finale of the 2023 Cape Town Baroque Festival, consisting of several exciting double concerti, focussing on the dynamic dialogue between two solo instruments and orchestra, and how different composers used this for expressive and dramatic purposes. The concert was preceded by a talk by Anna Stoddard of FMR's *Anna's Baroque Bon Bons*. Concerti by Vivaldi, Telemann and Bach.

With: Anna Fusek (recorder and baroque violin), Annien Shaw (baroque violin), Ingo Müller (baroque oboe), Bridget Rennie-Salonen (baroque flute), Rosamund Ender (viola da gamba) and the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra

Outreach

During December 2023 the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra presented our annual 'Sunshine Concerts' series: an outreach programme for people unable to attend concerts because they are elderly, indigent or disabled in some way. We presented concerts at six institutions:

- Monday, 11 December, 10:30, Douglas Murray Home, 53 Gordon Searle St, Cafda Village
- Tuesday, 12 December, 10:30, Lilac Residence, 43 La Provence Rd, Welgelegen 2
- Wednesday, 13 December, 11:00, Rosedon House, Rosedon Road, Rondebosch East
- Monday, 18 December, 10:30, Nazareth House, 1 Derry Street, Cape Town
- Monday, 18 December, 14:15, Adams Farm Home, Victoria Rd, Plumstead
- Tuesday, 19 December, 10:00, Murambi House, corner of Wellington and Langley Rd, Wynberg

Musicians involved: Craig Williams (violin), Remi Ludick (viola), Erik Dippenaar (spinetto) and Cheryl de Havilland (cello, organiser)

Education

17th Cape Town Recorder Symposium

Monday, 25 September 2023, 11:00–15:00, Imbewu Music Centre, Westerford High School, Mount Road, Rondebosch

The Cape Town Baroque Festival, in collaboration with the annual Recorder Symposium, presented the 17th Cape Town Recorder Symposium. Anna Fusek was the guest speaker on the topic 'Tempo rubato – the flow of the upper voice'. She was joined by Gianluca Geremia (theorbo).

Publicity and audience base

We continually aim to expand our audiences and reach as many people as possible through various publicity media. We currently have a mailing list with 1045 subscribers (end 2022: 1,040), a Facebook page with 1851 followers (end 2022: 1,565) as well as an active Instagram account with 1127 followers (end 2022: 983). Our YouTube channel has 794 subscribers (end 2022: 626).

Awards

In March 2023 our 'Handel at Home' chamber programme won a kykNET Fiësta Award (this is in addition to a US Woordfees Woordtrofee in 2022 for the same programme), and the 'Variations' programme (with Ralitza Macheva and Erik Dippenaar) was nominated for a kykNET Fiësta Award (the winners will be announced in March 2024).

Collaborators

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra acknowledges the importance of collaboration in order to achieving a worthwhile artistic output. We are grateful to the following collaborators during the course of 2023: the Cape Town Concert Series, Stellenbosch University Schola Cantorum, Lutesong Consort, Fine Music Radio, the South African Composers' Symposium, William Selway (Bill) Robson, Kunste Onbeperk, Klein Karoo Klassique and the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees.

Funding

The Trustees of the Camerata Tinta Barocca Music Charitable Trust and the musicians of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra would like to express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the following donors that make it possible to keep our work alive: the Rupert Musiekstigting (annual Concert Series and Cape Town Baroque Festival), Bill van Rensburg (Cape Town Baroque Festival), the Raimondo Trust (Sunshine Concerts – Outreach), and the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra (Messiah 2023).

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra in numbers

Number of orchestral musicians regularly employed during 2023: **30**

Number of singers regularly employed during 2023: **15**

Number of international musicians collaborated with in 2023: **6**

Number of live performances during 2023: **23** (9 orchestral and 14 ensemble)

Number of venues used during 2023: **18**

Concert	Venue	Audience size
Season 1		
Purcell Celebration, 11 February	Baxter Concert Hall	257
Chamber concert, 16 February	Weltevreden, Noordhoek	40
Handel at Home, 12 March	Old Nectar, Stellenbosch	80
St John's, 25 March	Endler Hall, Stellenbosch	250
St John's 26 March	St Andrew's	550
Membra Jesu, 6 April	Rondebosch DR	130
Season 2		
Variations, 4 August	DR Park, Oudtshoorn	130
Roman Cantatas, 6 August	Civic Centre, Oudtshoorn	220
Woordfees, 10 October	Endler Hall, Stellenbosch	430
Les Barricades, 28 October	St Simon's, Simon's Town	52
Handel at Home, 29 October	Methodist Church, ST	56
Messiah, 5 December	DR Welgelegen, Stellenbosch	320
Messiah, 6 December	St Andrew's	300
Messiah, 8 December	Civic Centre, Oudtshoorn	420
Baroque Festival		
New music, 23 September	Endler Hall, Stellenbosch	65
Spanish Salad, 24 September	Baxter Concert Hall	193
Robson Celebration, 25 September	Weltevreden, Noordhoek	80
Brief Tales, 27 September	6 Spin Street	70
Double Trouble, 1 October	St Andrew's	190

We very much look forward to resuming our live concert activities in the 2024 seasons.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Erik Dippenaar
Artistic Director

Alida van der Walt
Administrator

Cape Town Baroque Orchestra
Cape Town Baroque Festival
info@ctbaroque.co.za
www.ctbaroque.co.za