



31 January 2022

Cape Town Baroque Orchestra 2021 Artistic Report

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra's 2021 artistic programme consisted of two general components: 1) recording projects, mostly recorded during audience-size restrictions due to Covid-19 regulations, and 2) live concerts. During the course of 2021 we have produced 3 major recording projects (both audio and visuals) as well as 6 live concerts.

In addition to the recorded material being used on all of our online platforms, most of it have been re-packaged and was broadcast on kykNET, the Toyota US Woordfees 2021 DSTV pop-up channel, as well as several South African radio stations (both regional and national).

Although our main focus will always be live concerts, our online content has enabled us to reach a wider audience (locally and internationally) and created an awareness of the South African musicians working in Historical Performance. It has also resulted in proposals for several international collaborations.

In spite of the change of name from 'Camerata Tinta Barocca' to the 'Cape Town Baroque Orchestra' in July 2021, 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 and PBO. Registration number: IT2889/2006.

Recording Projects

1) At home with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra

Recording date: 10 January 2021.

Members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra explored repertoire that would have been played and sung at home. Recorded in the home of Cape Town based harpsichord and organ builder, William Selway Robson.

Episode 1

Bist du bei Mir BWV508

Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel (1690–1749)

from the *Notenbüchlein für Anna Magdalena Bach*

Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Erik Dippenaar (organ)

<https://youtu.be/BwECuvAOuwU>

Episode 2

Recorder Sonata in D minor, HWV 367a

George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)

Largo – Vivace

Joshua Frank (recorder), Erik Dippenaar (spinet)

<https://youtu.be/USqAxFpntTk>

Episode 3

Sonata in G major, BWV1021

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Copyist Anna Magdalena Bach (1701-1760)

Adagio

Refiloe Olifant (Baroque violin), Erik Dippenaar (spinet)

https://youtu.be/vBHNSlfd_NY

Episode 4

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 691

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

from the *Notenbüchlein für Anna Magdalena Bach*

Erik Dippenaar (organ)

<https://youtu.be/kEqfSIO79eQ>

Note: this was the project that was used as the start of the campaign to launch our new name.

2) From the Handel Operas

Recording date: 20 January 2021. The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, in orchestral format, accompanied soloists Stefanie True (soprano) and Christopher Ainslie (countertenor). This series was filmed in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in De Waterkant, which is the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra's 'home' rehearsal and concert venue in Cape Town. St Andrew's was built in 1828, and was the first church to open its doors to emancipated slaves. Today they continue to meet as a cross-cultural as a non-racial congregation.

Episode 1

Overture from Rodelinda (1725)

https://youtu.be/ytY_BIDPx_o

Episode 2

Sussurrate, onde vezzose from *Amadigi di Gaula* (1715)

Countertenor: Christopher Ainslie

<https://youtu.be/Ytkk6P1TsCk>

Episode 3

Io t'abbraccio from *Rodelinda* (1725)

Soprano: Stefanie True

Countertenor: Christopher Ainslie

https://youtu.be/uVfBWQ3l_Fg

Episode 4

Lascia ch'io pianga from *Rinaldo* (1711)

Soprano: Stefanie True

<https://youtu.be/YIT-RTJt-s>

Episode 5

Caro! Bella! Più amabile beltà uit *Giulio Cesare* (1724)

Soprano: Stefanie True

Countertenor: Christopher Ainslie

<https://youtu.be/XQuKq5zr-Xc>

3) Monteverdi Vespers of 1610

Recording date: Thursday 11 February and Friday 12 February 2021

Cape Town Opera, in collaboration with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, recorded extracts from Claudio Monteverdi's (1567–1643) monumental *Vespers of 1610*, filmed in St George's Cathedral in Cape Town. With soloists Elsabé Richter and Brittany Smith (sopranos), Siphokazi Molteno (contralto), Jason Atherton, Makudupanyane Senaoana, Nkululeko Mqobongo (tenors) and William Berger (bariton), as well as the Cape Town Opera Chorus.

Directed from the harpsichord and organ by Erik Dippenaar.

Usage of the recorded material

We have structured the format of the recorded material in such a way that it can be utilised in multiple ways. A 5–7 minutes long format works very well with online audiences, and it is also very useful in terms of wide dissemination (please see 'Usage of the recorded material' below). Through our 2021 'At Home with the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra' and 'From the Handel Operas' series we have increased our YouTube subscribers from 39 to 483, with over 1,386 public watching hours. Our most popular video has over 21,000 views.

Usage of the recorded material:

- **Social media:** The above clips were distributed on our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Instagram TV) as general publicity material for the ensemble.
- **Radio:** Anna Stoddard, who presents Anna's Baroque Bon Bons on Fine Music Radio, has included the sound component of some of these clips in her weekly programme. The

material has been sent to other local radio stations for inclusion in their classical music programming, including RSG and FMR.

- **Television distribution:** The 'From the Handel Operas' series was repackaged into a television programme that was broadcast by kykNET, as well as for the 2021 Toyota US Woordfees pop-up channel during October 2021. The Monteverdi Vespers was broadcast on kykNET, and the Pergolesi Stabat Mater (which we recorded in 2020) was also re-broadcast as part of the 2021 Toyota US Woordfees channel.
- **Publicity:** The recorded material has been, and will be, used as publicity material for future concerts, and to promote the work of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra in general.
- **Education:** We have distributed the clips to learners who would have been part of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra's *Schools' Baroque Festival*. The recorded material aligns with some of the repertoire found in the Grade 10 and 12 Subject Music syllabus.

Live concerts

1) Chamber Music from the Baroque

15 May 2021, 19.00 Endler Hall, Stellenbosch

Note: this was the last concert presented under our 'old' name: *Camerata Tinta Barocca*

Camerata Tinta Barocca (CTB) presented a concert of chamber music from the Baroque, featuring Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Ralitza Macheva and Annien Shaw (baroque violins), Joshua Frank (recorder), Bridget Rennie-Salonen (baroque flute), Uwe Grosser (theorbo), and directed from the harpsichord by Erik Dippenaar.

The programme explored the possibilities of juxtaposing movements from works by a diversity of composers and from different genres, by grouping them together in suites or partitas, a common practice during the Baroque period. The programme included music by JS Bach, Barsanti, Geminiani, Handel, Hotteterre and Merula, and was performed on period instruments by members of CTB.

Attendance: 145 pax

2) The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra with Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi (soprano)

20 October 2021, 18.00, St Andrew's

20 October 2021, 20.00, St Andrew's

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra presented its first live orchestral concert since March 2020 on Wednesday, 20 October 2021 at their Cape Town home venue, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in De Waterkant. The concert featured instrumental repertoire by Corelli, Handel, Purcell and De Lalande. Soprano Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi appeared as soloist in arias by Handel, Pergolesi and Rameau. We also welcomed back Bettina von Dombois (baroque violin) as visiting concert master. Due to audience size limits, we repeated the programme on the same evening, with 18.00 and 20.00 performances.

Attendance: 18.00 (120 pax), 20.00 (100 pax)

3) Salsa Baroque

10 November 2021, 19.00, St Andrew's

13 November 2021, 19.00, La Motte, Franschhoek

The Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, in collaboration with Ensemble Caprice from Montréal, Canada, presented Salsa Baroque, an exciting programme of 17th and 18th century music from Latin America and Spain. During this time period, the musical dialogue between the Old and New Worlds produced extraordinary results. The fascinating blend of European polyphony and Latin American traditional

music created a unique style that is exemplified by the villancicos of the Bolivian composer Juan de Araujo and the colourful guarachas of his contemporaries. The programme also includes sonatas by Falconieri, a European composer who was influenced by this Latin American style.

With:

Members of **Ensemble Caprice**: Matthias Maute (recorder, traverso), Ziya Tabassian (percussion) and

Members of the **Cape Town Baroque Orchestra**: Ralitz Macheva, Nicole D'Oliveira (baroque violins), Lynn Rudolph (baroque viola), Cheryl de Havilland (baroque cello), Henrike Kovats (baroque double bass), Uwe Grosser (theorbo, baroque guitar), Dale de Windt (chamber organ), Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord)

Attendance: 10 November (140 pax)

Attendance: 13 November (60 pax)

4) A Baroque Christmas

28 November 2021, 11.00, Civic Centre, Oudtshoorn, as part of the 'Klein Karoo Klassique' festival

Members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra presented a program of Christmas music from the Baroque, much of which is still included in our regular Christmas repertoire today. The programme included extracts from Handel's *Messiah*, Corelli's Christmas-concerto as transcribed for keyboard around 1780 by Thomas Billington, as well as popular Christmas carols such as Isaac Watts' *Joy to the World* from 1719, and *O come, all ye faithful* from the mid-1700's. The music was supplemented with season appropriate readings by veteran actress, Sandra Prinsloo.

With Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Joshua Frank (recorder), Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord, director) and Sandra Prinsloo (readings).

Attendance: 10 November (200 pax)

On behalf of our administrative team, our trustees and our musicians I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Rupert-Musiekstigting and Bill van Rensburg for their continuous and generous support, especially during 2021, which was, like 2020, a challenging year. Through their support CTB was in the happy position that we could continue offering work to our regular players and singers.

We very much look forward to resuming our live concert activities in the 2022 season.

Yours sincerely,



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