

CAMERATA TINTA BAROCCA'S MATZIKAMA MUSIC WEEK 2018



This serves as a report back from Camerata Tinta Barocca Music Charitable Trust about the programme we presented in Matzikama Municipality over the period from Saturday 21st April to Thursday 26th April 2018. CTB's aim and intention is to ensure the sustainability of an outreach programme to continue to help developing young musical talent in rural schools.

This was the 5th year we visited the area and the players this year were:

Erik Dippenaar: virginal, harpsichord

Refiloe Olifant: baroque violin

Lente Louw: soprano

Uwe Grosser: theorbo, lute, baroque guitar

Cheryl de Havilland: baroque cello



These were the main aspects of the week:

1) **Weekend workshop** for the grade 10, 11 and 12 subject learners: **Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April**

Our tour started early on Saturday morning with a workshop of approximately 20 learners. Its focus was to improve their knowledge of music history as well as their performance skills, and it was an opportunity primarily for grade 12 subject music learners, but also for those doing grade 10 and 11 subject music; the focus of the entire weekend related to the current school music syllabus.

The learners were from various areas: De Kuilen High School (Kuils River), Porterville High School, Piketberg High School and Vredendal High School. The topic presented on the first day was the history of Opera and the Symphony. After lunch many of the learners had individual lessons, and used the opportunity to improve their performance skills. The workshop resumed late on Sunday morning with an improvisation class, a much-neglected component of the music as subject syllabus. Here some of the learners played their instruments, which included voice, recorder, and flute; those that were primarily piano or keyboard players were encouraged to participate by singing.

After lunch there was an opportunity for some learners to have workshops with veteran music teacher Berna Pretorius about aspects of exam preparation, especially relating to the final practical exam. The afternoon was concluded with a concert presented by Camerata Tinta Barocca at the main building of Vredendal Gemeente, in the centre of Vredendal. This was timed to officially be the end of the workshop and to allow students to travel back home to Cape Town, Porterville and Piketberg after the concert.



2) Music presentations

This year most of our music presentations were based in Vredendal, to a total of about 600 learners. Our program was skillfully coordinated by Michele de Villiers, music teacher at Hoërskool Vredendal.

On **Monday 22nd April** we travelled to Vredendal Senior Secondary School, which is situated a short distance outside the main town. Initially one talented singer from the school worked with Lente. After this the school choir, consisting of about 30 boys, joined us while we coached them through 4 part songs which they were preparing for an upcoming competition. They were then joined by approximately 40 girls, and the remainder of the morning was spent working with individual groups as well as with the whole choir.

Tuesday 23rd April: Again, we travelled to Vredendal Secondary School and we gave three presentations to learners from Laerskool Vredendal and Vergenoeg Primary Schools, totalling about 200 learners from grades 6 and 7.

Although there were no actual music students amongst these learners, they were all very responsive and enthusiastic about our presentations and they enjoyed trying out our various instruments.

Wednesday 24th April: All our presentations were held at Vredendal Gemeente, which is in the center of the town. The first 2 groups were made up of about 100 learners from Laerskool Vredendal, some of whom were already studying musical instruments. The third group were a mix of grade 10 to 12 learners from Hoërskool Vredendal who were learning dance as a school subject. We gave a slightly different presentation to these learners: various dance forms and dance music was discussed. Uwe demonstrated the Pavane (a stately dance in slow duple time) and they danced along to it.

Thursday 25th April: We gave three presentations in Klawer at the local church hall. The learners were from nearby Laerskool Klawer and Steilhoogte Primary School, and in grades 5, 6 and 7. They showed a very enthusiastic attitude to our music and to the instruments.

At all our presentations the learners were encouraged to try out our instruments. At this last venue they seemed very excited about this and several students came back to play the instruments a second time.

Once again, the level of enthusiasm towards our presentations was extremely encouraging from all schools and we feel we had a positive response from everyone involved.

3) Masterclasses:

In the afternoons during the week we gave masterclasses to individual students and to several groups of students on recorder, voice, piano and violin. This helped them prepare for the concert which they all played in on the Wednesday evening.

4) Concerts

There were two concerts. The first was our own concert which took place on the Sunday afternoon and was timed to close the weekend seminar. The second was on the Wednesday evening and all the students we had worked with in the afternoons performed in it. The evening ended with one item for the combined choirs of Hoërskool Vredendal and Vredendal Senior Secondary.



In conclusion:

All in all, we made morning presentations to about 600 learners, played 2 concerts to learners and the local public, as well as performing various musical items for the Sunday morning service of Vredendal Gemeente; in addition, each afternoon we had a full program of masterclasses for individual learners or groups. The music subject students were inspired to reach new levels in their performances, and the young non-music students were given a taste of new musical possibilities to pursue.

We are again extremely grateful to our sponsors, Colin Davies, Olwen Gibson, and Gillian Foster. We have travelled to this area with a music program annually since 2013, and without their generous support CTB would not have been able to mount such a full and varied program each year. Special mention should also be made to the organizer of the week, Michele de Villiers, as well as to Hoërskool Vredendal and Vredendal Gemeente for their support and for supplying us with the necessary infrastructure.

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