



CAMERATA TINTA BAROCCA

TRAVELLING CONCERT PROGRAM:

THE SUNSHINE CONCERTS 2020



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This was the twelfth year of the Camerata Tinta Barocca (CTB) travelling concerts program, now known as the Sunshine Concerts.

Due to the arrival of the Covid19 virus early in the year there were stringent restrictions and regulations around our quartet being able to visit care homes. This meant that, in order to adhere to all the required protocols, setting up our concert program had several new challenges.

During most of the year no outside visitors have been allowed into homes. Enforced social distancing has meant that many residents have been isolated and unable to have interaction from any visitors. We therefore decided that this year we should focus our concerts towards adults and the elderly.

Our string quartet comprised of Elina Koytcheva (violin), Vincent Espi (violin), Alliz Espi (viola) and Cheryl de Havilland (cello), and we played at the following venues:

Oasis Home, Kenwyn
Adams Farm, Plumstead
Nazareth House, Elsies River
Nazareth House, Cape Town
Douglas Murray Home, Retreat
Rosedon House, Rondebosch East.

Oasis Home, Kenwyn. This is one of two Oasis Group Homes in Cape Town; they provide a caring home environment for adults with intellectual disabilities. All the residents are normally employed at the Oasis workshops.



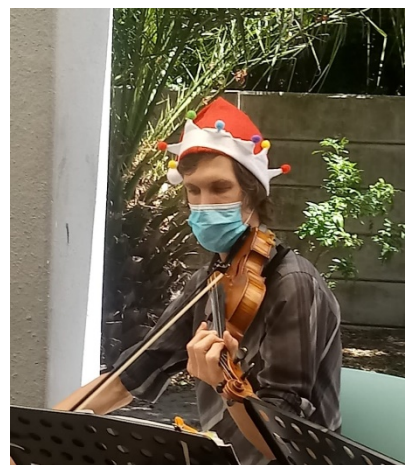
We played our first concert for 2020 at Oasis Home on the National Day of Disability. There were approximately 30 residents, as well as the home mothers and some family members. Fortunately, at this time of year the weather makes playing outside easier. Our quartet sat outside on the stoep to play, while the residents sat inside with open doors to listen to us. All the Oasis Home residents were very excited to have us play for them and expressed their gratitude many times over. They all had the opportunity to make a speech at the end to say how grateful they were to hear the music, and many took the opportunity to do this.



Adams Farm, Plumstead is a long-term residential care facility for women with intellectual disabilities. Our quartet has played at this home on several previous occasions and the ladies are always very excited to see and hear us; they were sitting waiting with great anticipation when we arrived! While we were playing there was much singing, dancing and clapping, and sometimes this made it challenging for us to keep focused! They made us promise to return next year as our music is a firm highlight for them.



Nazareth House provides care for orphans, elderly and abandoned children as well as AIDS orphans. Their care homes for the aged focus on offering life with dignity and respect, whilst the children's homes provide specialised care for youth who have been abandoned, neglected or living with physical or intellectual disabilities.



Our quartet played a morning concert at Elsies Rivier. This branch was established in 1986 when it was realised that there was a desperate need to provide a haven for the frail and impoverished elderly people of this disadvantaged community. There was an overwhelming sense of gratitude for our music from all the residents. They couldn't express enough how much joy we had brought to them at the end of a very difficult year and they loved all the music we played - from pizzicato pieces, ballet music to Christmas carols.

Our afternoon concert that day was at Nazareth House, Vredehoek and we played outside in the courtyard. The audience was a mix of approximately 40 elderly residents, 30 children and 10 staff members, all socially distanced. Playing in a large outside area had its challenges both for our music and for communication, but we received many compliments afterwards and comments about how our music had helped to cheer them whilst they were amidst the difficulties of lockdown life.

Thank you so much for your email and reaching out to us again.

This is a wonderful idea and we would love to welcome you back. It will certainly do our residents good!

Nazareth House Cape Town management



Douglas Murray Home, Retreat, is a residential facility providing care and safety for the aged and frail.

We also played outside in the courtyard at the Douglas Murray Home and it was the perfect space to play in. About 45 residents and staff seated themselves around us and they all listened calmly, and they greatly appreciated our music. We have played at this home almost every year since the outset of our Sunshine concerts in 2009 and the residents are always extremely appreciative of our playing.

Thank you so much for your willingness to provide much needed entertainment to our Aged this Festive Season. Douglas Murray management



Elina playing a piece of music requested by a Douglas Murray resident

Rosedon House, Rondebosch East, is a residential facility for adults with Cerebral Palsy who are no longer able to live independently or with their families. The residents come from communities across the Western Cape and have varying degrees of cerebral palsy.

Rosedon House is another home that we have played at several times; the residents (and staff) get very excited when we arrange to visit them. There were about 45 people plus various staff members, some of whom sang and a few even danced along to our music. We seem to have also acquired a conductor to assist our music making here! There is no doubt that our music is a highlight for them; their faces expressed how our music lifted their spirits.



Our visit to Rosedon House

I am extremely ecstatic to have the string quartet coming to play at Rosedon, bringing some much-needed cheer since 2020 has been full of challenges. The residents have been enquiring about the string quartet already. They will be delighted to hear that you'll be back in December, and since they've been in Lockdown for a long time the music will definitely lift their spirits.

Facility Manager, Rosedon House

In Conclusion

2020 was a year with limited social interaction and events and this created many challenges in people's lives. It was therefore particularly rewarding to take our string quartet out to the local community. We heard repeatedly how our music had helped improve their state of wellbeing.

We are very grateful to the G. and R. Raimondo Charitable Trust for their generous ongoing donation and support, and for the opportunity it gives us to serve and reach out to people in the Cape Town community.

Cheryl de Havilland
Camerata Tinta Barocca Outreach Coordinator

www.ctbaroque.co.za

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