

TALENT UNLOCKED

Donor Report

AUG '21

Reporting on activities of:

- CPO Music Academy
- Two training bands
- CPYWE
- CPYO

Talent Unlocked

The CPO's Music Academy (CPOMA) is aimed at talented and deserving students regardless of their background. In particular, the Music Academy is committed to enrolling students under-represented in orchestral music. The Music Academy's Saturday programme comprises a rigorous curriculum for intermediate and advanced music students in specialist instrument teaching and training, performance opportunities, and mentoring from accomplished faculties to acquire the necessary skills to pursue advanced music studies while developing their talents as musicians and teachers. CPOMA music students receive their training for a nominal fee in exchange for a demonstrated commitment to artistic excellence. Most students are from Cape Town and surrounding (peri-urban) towns.

Junior Strings Ensemble

Three years ago the CPOMA established a Junior Strings Ensemble to provide Masidlale learners who have been admitted to the CPOMA with the opportunity to receive training and gain experience in ensemble playing. An exciting development this year has been with the inclusion of students from two other community orchestras. Eighteen additional students auditioned successfully for inclusion in the CPOMA's Junior Strings and Intermediate ensembles. This year's Junior Strings consists of 23 students.



Registering for CPOMA

78 Students registered for intermediate and advanced music lessons at the Music Academy. Most CPOMA students are high-school and out of school youth who started their music training in school bands and orchestras, at church, and community based music centres. Increasingly more and more Masidlale students (the CPO's entry-level programme for primary school children) are qualifying to enter the Music Academy.



Specialist teaching



Students audition to enrol at the Music Academy where they are instructed by a specialist teacher. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no external exams took place in 2020; however this year, 38 students from the Music Academy and Masidlale have been registered for external exams, ranging from Grades 1 - 8 for practical exams, and five students have enrolled for theory exams. This record number of entrants is due to Youth Development & Education Programme's successful online teaching that was implemented as a result of the pandemic. Pictured above are Charlene Bogenhagen (left) specialist strings teacher and Snazo Eleni (second from right) Masidlale trainee teacher. Snazo attends the Music Academy on Saturdays and will soon be doing her Grade 4 practical exams.

COVID-19 precautions

There was great excitement when the CPO Music Academy opened its doors for physical lessons with COVID-19 protocols in place.



Marvin Weavers, Music Academy Co-ordinator, and Nazeema Bailey, Administrator



Odile Burden, Education Manager - Music Academy and Masidlale





Faan Malan, Director of the Cape Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensemble (CPYWE) and specialist teacher (brass) practising with one of his students. Faan is one of eleven specialist teachers responsible for the progress of this year's students. The other teachers are Charlene Bogenhagen (Strings), Felicia Salies-Petersen (Strings), Michele Williams (Strings), Garreth Cederez (Flute), Ruan van der Vyver (Theory), Kim Malan (Winds), Lincoln Isaacs (Trumpet), Nathan Adonis (Trombone), Zhaun Gorridon (Lower Brass) and Stephan Galvin (percussion).

Master classes with the maestro



Kamal Khan, SA born international conductor, treated the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (CPYO) to a master class on interpretation, ensemble playing and music theory on 19 June. More pictures are available from [CPO's Facebook post link](#).

Mentoring the Next Generation

Mentoring has always been part of the curriculum as a means to transfer skills from the professional musicians to young musicians in the CPYO. Pre-COVID students were identified or could apply for mentoring. COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible for CPYO and CPYWE to attend rehearsals; consequently, the CPO conceptualized a virtual mentoring strategy to prepare students for careers as professional musicians. The mentoring programme was significantly strengthened to accommodate ALL the musicians in the two youth orchestras. The CPYO (60 musicians) and CPYWE (50 musicians) were paired with their CPO professional counterparts to receive weekly instruction in mastering new works. Musicians in the two youth orchestras are from 58 suburbs, townships and semi-rural towns surrounding Cape Town. Two members in the CPYO are from Nigeria, and 3 are from other provinces.

During the next three months, the mentors will help their mentees prepare for four curtain-raisers which will form part of the next two seasons' cyber concerts to be performed by the CPO.

[Click here to view our online campaign.](#)



Zoe Torres is mentored by Peter Martens, CPO principal cello, in preparation for the CPYO auditions that took place on 18 April 2021



To see the video of the mentees performing with their mentors, click [here](#).

Achievements



Chris Njapha (23), former **CPYO** principal cello was accepted to study music at the world renowned Manhattan School of Music in New York. The CPYO takes pride in the role it played in contributing to Chris' career. Chris took up the cello at the late age of 17 years old. For more information about Chris, visit Instagram page- @scello_chris or Youtube <https://youtu.be/MQobOKS4DHI>

Year-end Gala Concerts

While the challenges wrought by the pandemic were profound, the CPO is proud to have surmounted them and to have ended last year with its annual year-end concerts, one for Masidlale and a Gala concert where the CPYO and CPYWE performed. These two successful events testified to a secure and successful youth development and education programme that overcomes many obstacles to ensure that a career path trajectory for talented, young musicians remains firmly on track.

To see the CPYO and CPYWE in action, watch the year-end video of the CPYO and CPYWE [here](#), and click [here](#) to view the pictures on the Cape Town Youth Orchestras, Ensembles and Education Facebook page.

Intermediate Strings Ensemble



Three years ago the first cadre of Masidlale learners successfully auditioned for entry into the Music Academy. These students have now progressed to the Intermediate Strings Ensemble. CPOMA takes great pride in having been able to establish this ensemble in spite of the COVID -pandemic. 37 students are making use of this outstanding opportunity to develop the necessary skills required for a career as a professional musician.

*Thank!
You!*

The CPO expresses its sincere appreciation to the Friends of Orchestral Music for its continued support in transforming our Youth & Development Education Programme projects especially during the COVID pandemic when this support has been crucial to our sustainment.

