College Chatter

Issue #39

DURBAN GIRLS' COLLEGE

From the Helm

It is believed that one of the origins of rhythm in music is from one's heartbeat; the one sound and feeling that is part of every living creature. It provides the complementary counterpoint to life's narrative, both figuratively and literally.

Rhythm gives life to musical sound. I am always enchanted by very young children who, on impulse, will begin to move when they hear music playing; their complete abandonment and lack of social inhibition as they feel the sound and the beat of the song. I am privileged to hear strains of marimba playing often when in my office. It never ceases to make me smile, evoking a naturally optimistic response. Indeed, rhythm creates powerful responses. Cross-rhythms in musical genres like Isicathamiya and the Cuban, Rumba and Conga make one want to move. Other rhythmic frequencies have the ability to create calming and sometimes, sleep-like or trance-like states. Hence the burgeoning of certain classical music choices for in-vitro soothing!

All in all, the combination of sound and rhythm adds richness to our lives. Our corridors have been filled with music this week during the Music Competition, adding a special dimension to our day-to-day life at College. We celebrate the heartbeat of our lives through our musical and creative expression; our girls do so with alacrity, enjoyment and aplomb. Bravo!

'To live is to be musical, starting with the blood dancing in your veins. Everything living has a rhythm. Do you feel your music?'
Michael Jackson

Lynne van Dellen
Head of Senior Primary

DGC Music Competition 2018

SP WINNERS LEFT TO RIGHT:
Front Row - Ruhi Mudely, Sophia Kidson, Mishara Naidoo, Lily Gorbett, Siphe Myataza
Second Row - Nilashri Naidoo and Rebecca Martin
Third Row - Dharini Pillay, Anika Naidoo, Hiranya Pillay, Keira Reddy, Leah Droyman, Ella Carsterns, Tahlia Kesaru-Anthony, Sarah-Anne Pender-Smith, Alexia Reddy, Alaya Singh, Nastasjia Reddy, Nandini Gangaram, Bibi Motala, Thandolwethu Khuzwayo, Melody Hall.

GRADE 7 MARIMBA BAND WINNERS OF THE MARIMBA TROPHY:
Front - Milla Di Paolo, Zoe Pearson
Back, left to right - Yasti Subramoney, Fatimah Ahmed, Jamie Cockcroft, Jessica Ramini, Ntokozo Khoza, Chanel de Jager, Louisa Hancock.

HS WINNERS:
Front: Niwedita Bhatta,
Back, left to right: Kaela Simpson, Olivia Saulez, Luca Tarboton, Rachel Wedderburn-Maxwell, Gemma Early.
Missing - Georgina and Alice Saulez, Sonali Naidoo, Charlotte Nicolson, Kelly Corbett.

Junior Primary

Music Winners
We are proud of all our girls who participated in the music competition. Congratulations to the winners: Instrumental Solo – Mohini Naidoo; Piano Solo – Vidya Gangaram; Piano Recital – Lydia Pearson.

The JP hosted Books 2 You in preparation for Readathon Day.

Our Grade 3s learnt about acids and bases on their Creative Day. They used a red cabbage indicator to test a variety of household products.

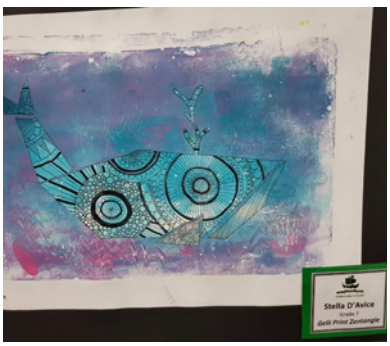
Senior Primary

SP & JP girls enjoying the Family Movie Night on 31 August.

DGC participated in the Annual Durban North Inter-Schools Athletics event on Tuesday 28 August hosted by Northlands Primary. We placed 3rd overall out of 7 participating schools.

Congratulations go to the following girls who received certificates for placing 2nd in their events: Alexia Reddy 200m & Melissa Hulsen 800m; U11 & U13 Relay team (Louisa Hancock missing from photo).

SP Girls enjoying Miss Keyworth's Push Pin Poetry board.



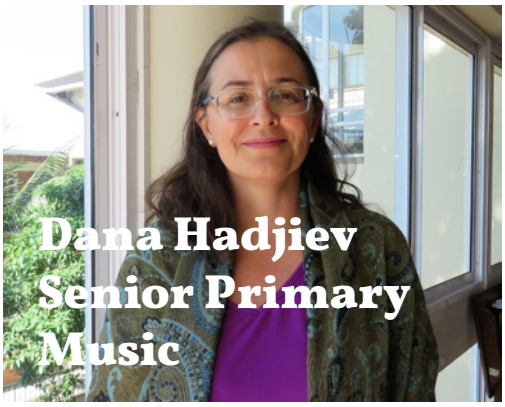
Beautiful SP works of Art on display at the Virginia Art Exhibition held from 29 August – 1 September.

From our Chaplain

Let the message about Christ live among you like a rich treasure. Teach and correct one another wisely. Teach one another by singing psalms and hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing to God with thanks in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

It's interesting and surprising that in speaking about the importance of reminding others of what God has said, the apostle Paul advises that we do that in song. It's little surprises like this in the Bible that often give us pause as we are made to engage our minds and think about what the author is saying. It makes us look at the context and read more carefully. This slower reading of the text is good practice. It often leads to enriched appreciation of the content - and here, we learn that in music and song we have the opportunity, and responsibility, to teach others and ourselves about the deep truths of life. How wonderful... for isn't music and song where we often find deep and meaningful comfort or challenge?

Michelle Edgecumbe



Meet our Staff

My name is Dana Hadjiev and I was born and grew up in Bulgaria, a beautiful eastern European country with an ancient history and great tradition in Music, Art and Education. At the time, my father was convinced that a child is capable of reaching professional heights in any field of human activity, so… here I am, at 6 years old I started playing the piano, and that's how my love story with music began. 40 years later, after a long period of studying, travelling and teaching at different schools, and universities, I have the one-of-a-kind opportunity to be part of a great team as a Music teacher at Durban Girls' College. I am the Choirmaster of DGC Senior Primary Choir and teach Grade 4 to 7 class Music. My ultimate goal is not only to instill passion for the Art of Music, but also to make my students understand the true nature of Human Creativity.

Alumna

Described as the "leading Tosca of her generation," soprano Amanda Echalaz has appeared at leading opera houses across the world, including the Royal Opera House, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Sydney Opera House.

Amanda Echalaz was born in Durban and educated at Durban Girls' College. She represented South Africa in the Cardiff Singer of the World competition. She made her debut at the Royal Opera House in 2008 when she was invited to create the role of Ker in the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's opera *The Minotaur.*

Amanda received critical acclaim for her performance as the title role in *Tosca* at Opera Holland Park, Echalaz was invited to reprise the role for Covent Garden, the Salzburg Landestheater, the Berliner Staatsoper and l'Opéra National du Rhin.

Other career highlights include a critically acclaimed debut in the role of Salome at La Monnaie, Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* at the Berliner Staatsoper, Maddalena in *Andrea Chénier* at the Bregenz Festival, Manon Lescaut at both Polish National Opera and La Monnaie, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* at Bologna, and *Tosca* at the Sydney Opera House and Dresden Semperoper.

Most recently, she returned to the Santa Fe Opera festival as the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos.*

Results

HIGH SCHOOL

Music

Trinity College London Certificates awarded to:
Niwedita Bhatta: Grade 6 Piano: Distinction
Sophie Bresler: Grade 4 Singing: Distinction
Sarah Sparks: Grade 5 Singing: Merit
Andrea Plumbley: Grade 8 Singing: Merit
The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Certificates awarded to:
Sarah Sparks: Grade 3 Music Theory: Merit
Jaime Davies: Grade 5 Theory: Pass
Congratulations to Sarah Andrew who was invited to perform at the SASMT's Senior Student Concert.

DGC Music Competition Winners - 2018

Candace Swainson-Harrison Instrumental Solo Grade 1-3
1. Mohini Naidoo
2. Ruhi Misser
3. Saryana Kesaru-Anthony

MacColl Piano Solo Grade 1-3
1. Vidya Gangaram
2. Cassandra Lewis
3. Romana Gangat

DGC Piano Recital Grade 1-3
1. Lydia Pearson
2. Kaisara Pillay
3. Vidya Gangaram

DGC Junior Instrumental Solo Grade 4-5
1. Nilashri Naidoo
2. Siphe Myataza
3. Melody Hall

Macpherson Piano Solo Grade 4-5
1. Hiranya Pillay
2. Sophia Kidson, Nandini Gangaram & Nilashri Naidoo
3. Shreya Subramoney &Mishara Naidoo

Louise Howell Instrumental Ensemble Grade 4-5
1. Grade 4 & 5 Violin Group
2. Dharini Pillay & Nastasjia Reddy
   Grade 5 Violin Group
3. Dharini Pillay & Tahlia Kesaru-Anthony

Perrigo Solo Singing Grade 4-5
1. Lily Corbett
2. Zaveri Anya Valjee

DGC Piano Recital Grade 4-5
1. Mishara Naidoo & Nilashri Naidoo
2. Hiranya Pillay
3. Aarya Bhatta

Macllwaine Piano Duet Grade 4-5
1. Nandini Gangaram & Alaya Singh
2. Sophia Kidson & Mishara Naidoo
3. Anjali Ramdhani & Keren Curtis

Mattier Piano Solo Grade 6-7
1. Georgina Stephenson & Yasti Subramoney
2. Jaime Cockcroft
3. Zoë Pearson

Trofymczyk Solo Singing Grade 6-7
1. Ella Carsterns
2. Iman Ally
3. Michaela Lewis

Zoé Stacy Frost Instrumental Solo Grade 6-7
1. Rebecca Martin & Ruhi Mudely
2. Chanél de Jager
3. Megan Pillay

Dina & Kaela Simpson Instrumental Ensemble Grade 6-7
1. Chanél de Jager & Zoë Pearson
2. Chanél de Jager & Rebecca Martin
3. Chanél de Jager & Madison Waller

Macllwaine Piano Duet Grade 6-7
1. Leah Droyman & Nilashri Naidoo

Violeta Osorhean Violin Grade 5-9
1. Chanél de Jager
2. Rebecca Martin
3. Nilashri Naidoo

DGC Piano Recital Grade 6-7
1. Zoë Pearson
2. Georgina Stephenson
3. Jaime Cockcroft

Saulez Family Solo Singing Grade 8-9
1. Charlotte Nicolson
2. Ella Macpherson
3. Alice Saulez

MacColl Piano Solo Grade 8-9
1. Niwedita Bhatta
2. Elizabeth Modola
3. Sarah Andrew & Sonali Naidoo

Blake Contemporary Solo Singing Grade 8-9
1. Luca Tarboton
2. Cassidy Coombes & Rebecca Darby-Wade
3. Sophie Bresler & Alice Saulez

Bruton Instrumental Solo Grade 8-12
1. Rachel Wedderburn-Maxwell
2. Young Eun Kim
3. Sonali Naidoo

Results

Smerdon Ensemble Singing Grade 8-12
1. Olivia, Georgina & Alice Saulez

Van Dellen Popular Solo or Ensemble Grade 8-12
1. Gemma Early, Kelly Corbett & Kaela Simpson
2. Sarah Sparks & Sophie Bresler

DGC Piano Recital Grade 8-9
1. Niwedita Bhatta
2. Elizabeth Modola
3. Sarah Andrew

Borman Piano Duet Grade 8-9
1. Sonali Naidoo & Niwedita Bhatta

Eberle Contemporary Solo Singing Grade 10-12
1. Olivia Saulez
2. Gemma Early & Georgina Saulez
3. Julia Lewis & Kelly Corbett

Kardjiev Solo Violin Grade 10-12
1. Rachel Wedderburn-Maxwell

Brownwen Kort Original Composition
1. Gemma Early
2. Reyhana Jacobs

MacColl Piano Solo Grade 10-12
1. Rachel Wedderburn-Maxwell
2. Ara Naidoo
3. Arin Pincus

DGC Piano Recital Grade 10-12
1. Rachel Wedderburn-Maxwell
2. Nina Kruse

Banfield Classical Solo Singing Grade 10-12
1. Georgina Saulez
2. Jaime Davies
3. Kaela Simpson

Van Dellen Traditional Instrumental Solo or Ensemble Grade 3-12
1. Grade 7 Marimba Band
2. Grade 6 Marimba Band
3. Grade 5 Marimba Band

SENIOR PRIMARY

Athletics
College participated in the Annual Durban North Inter-Schools event on Tuesday 28 August hosted by Northlands Primary. Our girls ran exceptionally well and DGC placed 3rd overall out of 7 participating schools.

Congratulations go to the following girls who placed in the Top 3 positions:
Louisa Hancock - 3rd: U13 100m
Certificates to:
Alexia Reddy - 2nd: U11 200m
Melissa Hulsen - 2nd: U10 800m

Certificates to: Athletics Captain: Chelsea Murray:
DGC: Open 100m Relay Runner up
DGC: Open U11 100m Relay Runner up
U13 Relay team: 2nd place - Louisa Hancock; Chelsea Murray; Maxine Port; Kira Altshuler.
U11 Relay team: 2nd place - Keira Reddy; Alexia Reddy; Nastajjia Reddy; Julia Butcher.

Trinity College London:
Certificates awarded to:
Milla Di Paolo: a. Grade 5 Singing: Distinction and Grade 3 Piano: Distinction

South African Society of Music Teachers: Certificate of participation for the Young Music Makers' Concert 2018: Keren Curtis

The Week Ahead

MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Monday 10	**Day 1** *Rosh Hashana* JP: Parent Interviews Begin: JP Classroom
Tuesday 11	**Day 2** *Rosh Hashana* JP: Parent Interviews: JP Classroom SP: Gr 6 & 7: Drama Production attendance: Olivia: 08h30 – 10h00: Maris Stella SP: 08h15 – 09h15: Inter- house Field events: U10 &U11: Field SP: 12h00 – 14h00: Inter-House Field events: U12 & U13: Field
Wednesday 12	**Day 3** JP: Parent Interviews: JP Classroom SP: U13: 1500m: 07h40: Field SP: High Jump: 12h35: Field SP: 14h30: Inter-House Hockey & Parents vs Daughters: Field SP: 14h00 – 16h00: Staff : isiZulu Workshop: St Mary's: HS: 17h30-19h30: Gr 9 Subject Choice Evening: LT/Hall - TBC WS: 18h00-19h00: Parents' Speakers Corner: Presentation: Dianne Pickford: Screen Addiction: DGC
Thursday 13	**Day 4** *JP: Parent Interviews* *HS & SP: 08h00-13h00: Inter-House Athletics: Kings Park Athletics Stadium* *HS: 15h00: Water Polo vs Danville: DGC* *HS: 15h00: Soccer vs Danville: Virginia FC* *WS: 18h00-20h00: "On A High Note": Centenary Hall*
Friday 14	**Day 5** JP: Parent Interviews End JP: Inter-House Athletics: DGC HS: Hilton Arts Festival: Hilton HS: Gr 10 Outing to Hilton & Drama Girls to Hilton: Hilton HS: 12h00-14h00: OG Lunch with Matrics: Functions Room SP: 14h00: Cross Country League: Umhlali
Saturday 15	JP: Marimba Mania SP: 08h00: Hockey vs Virginia: DGC
Sunday 16	

"**Music gives a soul to the universe,** wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

Plato