

RAISE YOUR
VOICE WITH
MUSIC RATHER
THAN SHOUTING.
IT IS RAIN THAT
GROWS FLOWERS,
NOT THUNDER.

EDITION 1.1 - APRIL 2019 - BOUGHT TO YOU BY THE GRADE 9 CLASS OF 2019

2019 - THE START OF A NEW CHAPTER

The Drakondale Girls Choir School and School of the Arts moved to their brand new premises in Merrivale at the beginning of this year.

The new premises are bigger and better and we can surely see that this is a growing school. The girls love and enjoy their new spot and they are happy to see development in their school.

Drakondale is very conscious of the need to keep developing. A new year, new students and new premises. What more could the students want? We really feel

that most of our needs and desires are now satisfied.

Our new school even has a concert hall, something we've really been longing for for a long time. So slowly but surely we will become the school we want to be, one step everyday makes a big difference.

We would like to thank all in authority for making this happen because, without you, we would not be where we are today. Sometimes we forget to let you know that you are much appreciated.

By Tshego Ditsele



ABOVE: Final day of 2018 - The holidays await...

BELOW: First day of 2019 - Team Building Fun & Games



THE GRADE 9 EDITORIAL TEAM



Tshego Ditsele



Hannah-Mae Lelong



Chloe Coetzee



Glenore Richards



Rufaro Nyathi



Lauren Wood



Nozizwe Ntshangase



Amahle Dlamini

2018 IN A NUTSHELL

- Performed at the WORLD CHOIR GAMES. Won FIRST place in the Open Category for Children's Choirs.
- Performed 3 songs on the international album, SONGS THAT MADE US FREE - THE LIBERATION PROJECT, released by EMI.
- Performed on a ridge on the Sani Pass with Jack Mantis, as part of an international music documentary.
- Performed the theme song (TILL YOU'RE FREE AGAIN) in Leon Schuster's new movie, FRANK & FEARLESS.
- Performed with Leon Schuster, Themba Ntuli and Don Clarke at the premier for the movie.
- Performed on the stage at PMB City Hall with LADYSITH BLACK MAMBAZO, Jack Mantis & Don Clarke.

PERFORMING AT THE PREMIER OF THE NEW LEON SCHUSTER MOVIE - FRANK & FEARLESS

By Hannah-Mae Lelong



Last year we had the opportunity to sing the theme song for Leon Schuster's new movie called Frank and Fearless. We worked with Don Clarke, the composer of the song, and put together the song. We were all proud to know our schools name would be featured in the movie. We also got to meet Leon himself at the movie premiere. The premiere was at Sun Coast Casino and it was a memorable day. We sung the song "Till You're Free Again" out side of the theater and also got to watch the movie. We got popcorn and drinks at the cinema and all enjoyed the movie. Leon was a really nice man who has created many funny movies and we were so lucky to meet him and the rest of the cast. This was definitely a night we won't forget and are so thankful that they chose us to sing.

UNILEVER TEAM BUILDING

By Glenore Richards

The Drakondale Girls of 2018 were asked by their Conductor at the time, Judith Hawthorne, to accompany her to a particularly interesting project. The 20 girls helped some Unilever employees with their team-building, by incorporating music and choreography. This event took place at the Champagne Sport and Racket Resort in the Drakensberg. This was the girl's first attempt at trying a project this big, considering there were roughly around 300 Unilever co-workers at the event. The girls were driven up on the Friday morning and began rehearsals swiftly. Within two hours, the girls along with Hawthorne had taught all 300 co-workers a song called "This is me" from the Greatest Showman, in different part harmony, with choreography.

At first, not everyone from Unilever seemed enthusiastic about learning but, by the end of the session, everyone fell in love with the girls and their ambition. Once the girls had completed their task, they had to perform it outside, with the co-workers. It was filmed using a drone and other technological devices. It was then sent to the organizers of the team building to show them their amazing progress.

THE WORLD CHOIR GAMES 2018

By Lauren Wood

The WCG was one of the biggest events Drakondale had participated in so far, it was amazing to see how many different countries and cultures came together to share their love for music, DGCS did very well considering it was only its second year and half the girls first year, there was a lot of hard work and preparations to get there though.

For a week before WCG the girls

rehearsed for 8 hours a day and had many mock performances, but all their hard work paid off and was well worth it. The Drakondale Girls Choir placed Silver for Sacred and Silver for Scenic Pop and received Gold for Mixed boys and childrens choirs. This was an amazing achievement. The girls will look back on this with pride and gratitude as it really was a team effort and without the help of Mr. Gresse, Mrs. Perks, Miss. Kate and Mrs. Clarke; they don't know what they would have done without them. It was all just to show what hard work, perseverance and team work pays off.



READ ABOUT OUR NEED TO DEFEND
OUR TITLE IN 2020 ON PAGE 8

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO

By Chloe Coetzee

WOW, what an honor it was to for Drakondale Girls Choir School to have been able to perform with Lady-smith Black Mambazo. As a lot of people know, LBM is a four times Grammy winning group, they have travelled the world and are now known all over the world. There are 9 men involved in the group all of them being related, that is one thing that is very touching when it comes to them. They are the most well known singing group from SA.

LBM is known for doing quite traditional African songs and is also known for their wonderful dancing. LBM is one of a kind, one of the comments from the Drakondale girls is that they are 'the most extra ordinary group ever and that she wishes she could listen to them all day.'

Drakondale was one of the very few schools that have been able to sing with them, the reason being that the lead singer from LBM's daughter attended Drakondale.

Drakondale has done two concerts with LBM, the first being in Hillcrest at the City Hill Church for the "Festival in the Hills" which was in 2017. Drakondale sang a few songs with LBM and then LBM sung a few songs themselves. The second concert Drakondale did with LBM was at the PMB city Hall. Drakondale sang one song with them named "Sanbonani" which was written by Don Clarke. At the concert Jack Mantis, Don Clarke and the Durban Men's Barbershop Choir also participated.

DGCS has been very happy to have worked with LBM and hopes to carry on doing so. Having worked with LBM was one of the most eye opening things they have experienced and Drakondale would like to thank LBM for that and for just being them.



SANI PASS TOUR

By Rufaro Nyathi

Drakondale Girls Choir School and School of the Arts has been to many incredible places. They have performed at various concerts, big and small, and they have sung many beautiful songs. They have met quite a few talented fellow musicians. Jack Mantis was one of them. He is an amazing musician and songwriter. Jack Mantis gave Drakondale a once in a life-time opportunity. Three of his wonderful songs, called Frequency, Beth and Radiate featured the Drakondale girls and we all travelled up to Mkomazana Lodge, on the Sani Pass in the Southern Drakensberg to shoot a music video. The girls put in a tremendous amount of work into it all. They travelled with Jack Mantis, Wendy and Don Clarke, Mr. Botes Gresse and the some other Drakondale Staff.

The girls had a great three days and two night stay. They climbed a mountain with Mr. Gresse, Miss. Ngobese, Jack Mantis and Mr. and Mrs Clarke to shoot the Frequency video. It was very hot but all their hard work paid off and it was all worth it. They had a braai and went for a lovely swim in the dam and the river. They took peaceful walks and looked at the beautiful scenery.

The girls had some awesome rehearsals and recordings. They created impressive harmonies. Jack Mantis must have been very proud. Most of the girls struggled with the tremendous heat during the day and the bitter cold at night, but in the end they had a good stay. Their journey there and back took two hours. The girls had a great week-end and they enjoyed shooting the music video. Congratulations to Drakondale. They did an amazing job and I am sure it will turn out to be a great music video.

"Frequency" is a song about bringing people together and creating a powerful connection. This song is empowering and it creates a a harmony which unites people. It features incredible musicians from around the world. Beth is a stunning song written for a special girl who unfortunately passed away in her house in Cape Town. It was a very tragic event that broke many hearts. This touching and sad, yet beautiful song, that has become a part of Drakondale and it has become very special to the girls. They may have not have ever known Beth in person but through this song, they have gotten to know her and feel a connection to the song. Special condolences to Jack Mantis, may her soul rest in peace.

Radiate is a song that brings a message of love and hope to people. "For what it's worth my friends, it's never too late". These are the first few words of the song. It is a very motivating song, letting people know that it's never too late, that you have to have faith. Singing these songs makes the girls feel that strong connection. They feel the way the song brings people together. Jack Mantis really is an incredible musician and everyone appreciates his talent. Congratulations to Jack Mantis, his band, Drakondale and all the people that contributed to making all of this happen. I'm sure that everybody is hoping to see more of what they have to offer in the future.



INTERVIEWS

MR. BOTES GRESSE

Principal Of Drakondale

By Nozizwe Ntshangase

Mr. Botes Gresse was born in Otjiwarongo, Namibia. He matriculated in 1973 at Hottentots-Holland High School, Somerset West. In 1974 he started his undergraduate studies at Stellenbosch University and obtained the B. Mus. Ed. Degree together with the Diploma for Church Organists in 1977. He completed several exams for the South African Dance Teachers' Association in Dancing (Ballroom and Latin).

After finishing his military service in 1979, he took on his education career in the Western Cape at Worcester Gymnasium. In 1983 he was appointed lecturer in the Department of School Music, Faculty of Education, at Stellenbosch University where he lectured piano, music history, music harmony and choral conducting. In 1984 he obtained the Hons. B. Mouse. Ed. Degree (cum laude) at the same university. During this period Botes acted as adjudicator at various art competitions and music festivals and also acted as regional and provincial representative of the South African Choir Association (Western Cape).

In 1990 he accepted the position as choirmaster at the Drakensberg Boys Choir. In 1996 and was appointed principal of the Lady Gray Arts Academy. He also established an exchange programme between schools in Stockholm, Sweden and the LGAA in 2006.

He accepted the position of Rector of the DBCS Choir in 2009. He then became Principal of McLachlan High School in 2011.

Mr. Botes Gresse has achieved many things in his life and Drakondale Girls Choir School has the privilege of having him as their Choir Master and Principal. We are all excited to see what else he will do in the future.



MR JACK MANTIS

Music Teacher (POP)

By Tshego Ditsele & Amahle Dlamini

Jack Mantis came to Drakondale school mid last year to work with the girls for a while, but due to Jack's love towards the girls Jack stayed for much longer than expected.

Jack Mantis is a wonderful inspiration and he loves the girls unconditionally. Jack is not just a musician, but he is also a graffiti artist and a bunch of happiness. Jack worked on many gigs with the girls, he travelled with the girls as well. The girls got to work with various artists because of Jack.

Jack also created a group called the "Paranormals". Jack said, "having to choose is very hard", because he had to take a small portion of the girls to work with to form a band so they could perform songs at Music in The Park, one of the biggest Festivals we've ever had.

Jack was loved by all and he loved all, but unfortunately Jack has left for a while for an International Tour. He will be back in June. The girls really bonded with him and not seeing him makes them sad. The girls are already planning for the day he comes back. We as a school love and appreciate everything Jack has done for us.

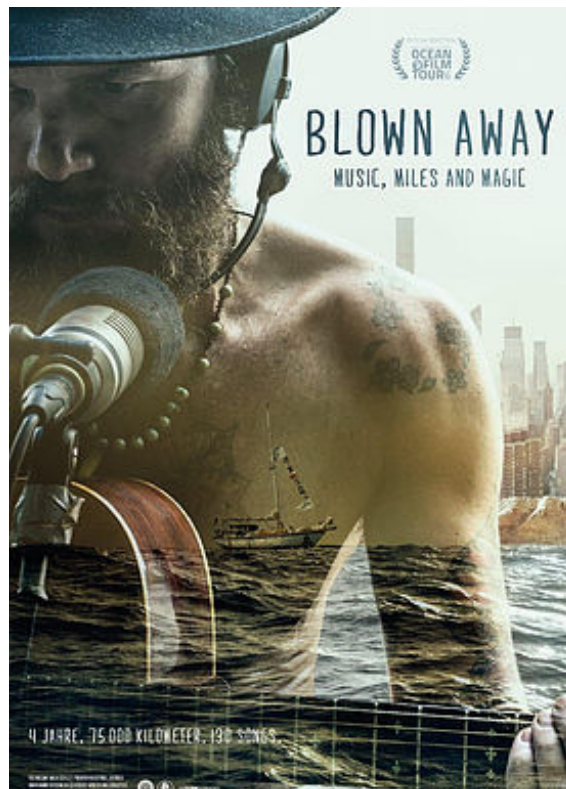
WE LOVE YOU JACK!!



ABOVE: Mr Gresse and his lovely wife at the Music in the Park Festival



ABOVE: Mr Gresse teaching Nokuthula how to mime.



LEFT:
Jack Mantis
is part of the
Sailing
Conductors -
and his
documentary
BLOWN AWAY
has been
entered in the
OCEAN FILM
FESTIVAL.
He is currently
touring in
Germany.

MUSIC IN THE PARK⁵

MARCH 2019

By Glenore Richards



Drakondale Girls Choir School and School of the Arts hosted a Music Festival at their school. This event took place on the 10th March 2019.

The day had a peaceful and beautiful introduction. The Drakondale Girls opened with a show of their own and the PAMS (Pietermaritzburg Amateur Music Society) also performed a few of their own numbers. Everyone fell in love with the contrast of voices. The show went considerably well, especially since it was Drakondale's first concert of the year. A big Thank You to Mr. Gresse for all of this.

The second part of the day was less formal and organized by Mr. Jack Mantis and Mrs. Clarke. It was Drakondale's first Music Festival in its three years of existence. After the more classical concert, the audience made their way down to the bottom field, (which Jack Mantis and the team so beautifully prepared) to hear more modern/contemporary songs.

On the way down to the bottom field, there were plenty of stalls with delicious foods and beautiful goods to buy. There were fudge stalls, coffee stalls all the way down to the tie-dye shirts / clothing and Dinosaurs Caramel Popcorn.

The Festival had many great guest stars including Ard Matthews, Dave Knowles, Jessica Martins, Don Clarke, Flamenco Dancers, Mjoja guys and the girl's personal favourite, Jack Mantis.

About 11 of the Drakondale girls got together with Jack Mantis and formed a group called the Paranormals, who got to perform for the Festival. Luckily, every single girl got to perform with Mr. Mantis. The girls also enjoyed performing with Don Clarke, Dave Knowles and Ard Matthews. All in all, it was a great day with a great turnout and the girls hope they could do it again.

A big thanks goes to the Drakondale team, the Jack Mantis team and the sound guys and stall holders.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

Compiled by Hannah-Mae Lelong

In 2018 a number of girls took part in singing eisteddfods, music and singing exams, ballet performances and still achieved high marks in their academics. They achieved pleasing marks and definitely made their school proud!

In May Glenore Richards, Lwandle Zaca and Hannah Lelong went to the Queensburgh Eisteddfod. They all got A+'s and Glenore came first in the classical U12 and Hannah came first in the musical U14.

There was also a Pietermaritzburg Eisteddfod which was held at the Wykeham Collegiate Girls School and Hannah Vieweger, Glenore Richards, Ayanda Khumalo, Lwandle Zaca and Hannah Lelong all competed. Hannah Vieweger was awarded 3 silvers, Glenore Richards got 2 golds, Lwandle got silver, Ayanda got silver and Hannah Lelong was awarded gold. They also performed duets where Ayanda and Hannah Vieweger got a silver (88%), Lwandle and Glenore got a gold (90%) and Hannah and Ayanda got gold (92%).

Our dancers danced in a concert with the Lisa Jennings school of dance in April. This was Ayanda Khumalo, Muhle Shabalala, Chloe Coetzee, Nonala Zondi and Hannah Lelong. Miss Tanya was choreographing and teaching them the dances and they performed 3 full dances and also danced in the opening and finale.

In August it was the annual performance awards and 4 of us took part. They had to learn 4 dances and did very well. Chloe got silver, Nonala got silver, Hannah got Silver distinction and Ayanda got Silver double distinction.

With academics Nonala Zondi came first in grade 9, Hannah Lelong came first in grade 8 and Anele Mncube came first in grade 7.

Congrats to all

SONGS OF INSPIRATION

with Pietermaritzburg Amateur Music Society
APRIL 2019



A dynamic spiritual experience with the Pietermaritzburg Amateur Music Society (PAMS) Choir under the baton of Botes Gresse. Accompanist Jacques Heyns. Percussion: Pietermaritzburg City Orchestra. Soloists: Wandile Nsele and Banele Bhengu. Guest choir: Drakondale Girls Choir

"The mix of young and not so young voices under the baton of our conductor Botes Gresse has been great. Adding to a wonderful concert were the soloists, guitarist Kech Sanchez and percussion from the Pietermaritzburg City Orchestra."

Stella Ntshangase: "I went. Mindblowing! Young and not so young voices under Botes was something to be witnessed. The future looks bright for you guys."

Val Gemmell: "Brilliant performances by all participants. Thank you for a most enjoyable afternoon."



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GUEST ARTISTS: DON CLARKE & THE DRAKONDALE GIRLS CHOIR



DRAKONDALE

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11,12 & 13 JUNE 2019

ALL SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIRS ELIGIBLE
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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MAY BOKWE ON 083 777 3002 OR info@drakondale.co.za

HELP US DEFEND OUR TITLE

IN 2018, AT THE WORLD CHOIR GAMES IN TSWANE,
WE WERE PLACED FIRST IN THE WORLD - CHILDREN'S CHOIRS - OPEN CATEGORY

In order to defend our title we need to get to Flanders...

WORLD CHOIR GAMES 2020 : FLANDERS



The World Choir Games (formerly named the Choir Olympics) is the largest global choral festival and competition. Organised by the Interkultur Foundation for amateur choirs from all over the world, regardless of their country of origin, race, genre of music or artistic ambitions, its motto is "Singing together brings nations together". The Games originated from the idea to bring people together through singing in peaceful competition, showing that unity of nations through the arts can be effectively and illustratively demonstrated and challenged. The focus of the Games is on participation above winning, and it aims to inspire people to "experience the strength of interaction, challenging personality and community equally by singing together".

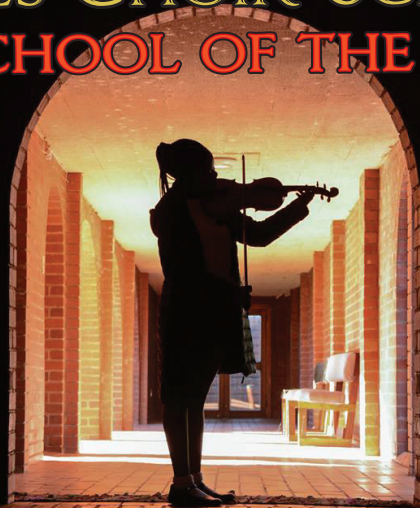
WE NEED TO RAISE R1 MILLION AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

*Any contributions will be greatly appreciated as many of our students
do not have parents who can afford such an outlay.
We are determined not to leave any girls behind!
With love & gratitude... from the girls of Drakondale Girls Choir.*

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info@drakondale.co.za

DRAKONDALE GIRLS CHOIR SCHOOL & SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



WHATEVER HER PASSION

be it Choir, Music, Dance or Drama
...we will encourage her to pursue those dreams, whilst always ensuring
she receives a strong academic grounding!

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Contact : Wendy Clarke 083 661 5044 | 074 222 0002
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CURRENTLY AUDITIONING

2019:

Grades 7, 8, 9 & 10

2020:

Grades 7 - 11

2021:

Grades 8 - 12

2022:

Grades 8 - 12 + post
matric

SMALL CLASSES =
INDIVIDUAL
ATTENTION
(MAX 16 STUDENTS
PER CLASS)

GRADE 10 ARTS
SUBJECT CHOICES
INCLUDE:
MUSIC
DANCE
DRAMA
VISUAL ARTS