



UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE



**UNIVERSITY OF
MISSOURI SOUTH
AFRICAN EDUCATION
PROGRAMME
2013**

REPORT



**University of Missouri South African Education Programme
REPORT 2013
Arianna String Quartet in Cape Town
4 - 25 August 2013**



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1. OVERVIEW

With the support of the University of Missouri South Africa Education Program (UMSAEP), the Arianna String Quartet has established a partnership with the University of Western Cape to create an innovative Chamber Music Institute. The only program of its kind in South Africa, it fills a gap in the musical education and communities of the Western Cape.

2. BACKGROUND

The relationship between the Arianna String Quartet and University of Western Cape began with their first exchange in May 2011, in celebration of the UMSAEP 25th Anniversary. Henriette Weber, Director of the UWC Center for Performing Arts and an alumna of UWC, has been keen to restore a musical element in the programs and curricula offered at the university. Through their extensive and effective workshops, outreach and concerts, overwhelming interest grew in the ASQ's work. The teaching and training ideas and ideals, the shared belief in the importance and power of community outreach, and the unrelenting expectation of excellence, made continued collaboration between UWC, through Henriette Weber, and the Arianna String Quartet inevitable. It was during the course of the 2011 tour when the idea began for the Chamber Music Institute at University of Western Cape. The Arianna String Quartet assisted with the selection of repertoire for the UWC String Quartet (UWCSQ) which was started after the ASQ's visit. Video conferencing rehearsals took place between the ASQ and UWCSQ, but unfortunately, space restrictions and venue availability saw the breakdown in this process. The UWC String Quartet formed, rehearsing 3 times per week under the direction of dedicated teachers. Two successful video conference coachings were held with the ASQ at UMSL. Although venue availability became problematic, steps have since been taken to ensure that regular video conferencing sessions will be possible. Communication continued with the Arianna String Quartet and together we prepared the UMSAEP Linkage programme application which would realise the vision of developing a Chamber Music Institute (CMI). The Chamber Music Institute aims to develop a chamber music curriculum; facilitate the refurbishment of a venue at the Centre for the Performing Arts as a video conferencing venue; incorporate key principles of the University of the Western Cape's mission statement namely, community engagement, lifelong learning and distance learning and to be able to provide the necessary skills in equipping young musician in the business of being a professional quartet.

Immediately after the visit, Henriette Weber drew up outlines and plans for the Chamber Music Institute and its programs. The objectives were clear from the beginning:

- CMI is a program that looks to impart knowledge and aid students in developing musical, teaching and interpersonal skills. These skills in turn, enable the student to continue a life in music as a performing artist, a teacher, and one who is able to work collaboratively and productively;
- Participants will be able to give back to communities as able contributors as teachers, performers and leaders in their communities to enhance the culture as positive force;
- The ideas and concepts of the program: collaboration, outreach, critical thought, and problem – solving, transcend music and enhance the experience of any discipline and field of study;
- A flexible program. Not limited to students whose primary area of study was music, or only interest is music. This program is also for those from other disciplines who have had musical experience and want to continue performing and/or teaching, albeit in addition to their primary discipline.

The ASQ shared ideas of curricula from the many presentations, master classes, residencies and summer festivals they have attended and directed.

Henriette applied for the UMSAEP grant in July 2012, submitted letters of support for the programs from her administration, and the application was approved. She also presented two music programmes to the UWC Senate and these courses were approved prior to the ASQ's arrival. These courses will be accredited through UWC Center for Performing Arts. It was thus fitting to celebrate these achievements at a concert to launch the UWC Chamber Music Institute and the reintroduction of music courses at UWC, with our distinguished guests and partners, the Arianna String Quartet.

During the 2011 visit, Henriette Weber was struck by the manner in which the ASQ related to learners of various levels in their musical development. It was evident that they engaged with musicians at these levels regularly. In comparison, South African professional musicians and teachers are rarely seen working in schools as part of their outreach programme. Professional musicians would have part-time employment at tertiary institutions, but send their students to the outreach programmes. The Schools Outreach concerts, workshops and masterclasses were scheduled to provide the Arianna String Quartet with an

opportunity to experience the various levels of music education and to gain an understanding of the South African music context which forms the foundation of the Chamber Music Course.

3. SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Arts Focus Schools are public schools offering an arts curriculum and most students start their music tuition in their first year of high school (Grade 8). Forty-three Arts Focus Schools offering music were invited to participate in the various aspects of the Arianna String Quartet's visit. Three schools confirmed, of which two schools cancelled with minimum notice given, namely Chris Hani High School in Khayelitsha and Alexander Sinton High School in Athlone. However the visit to Good Hope Seminary High School in Cape Town (12 August) and Phandulwazi High School in Lower Crossroads (23 August) were well received. These two schools have different music education backgrounds. Good Hope Seminary has two qualified music teachers at an arts focus school, whereas Phandulwazi is regular, public high school in a very poor township. The Deputy Principal at Phandulwazi High School is an experienced choral conductor, having won many national schools competitions and thus he provides his learners with arts education through his school choir and choral programme.

4. WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

The Beau Soleil Music School (one of three music centres in the Western Cape) participated in the workshops and masterclasses (8, 15 and 16 August) and the rehearsal and Launch Concert of the Chamber Music Institute (10, 17 and 24 August). Beau Soleil Music Center is an after-school music program that offers private lesson and group instruction as well as chamber music and orchestra opportunities for eager and talented young musicians whose schools either do not have music programs, or they are looking for a more challenging musical environment. Ifidyoli Quartet is a young quartet from the townships. Through the outreach efforts of Beau Soleil Music Center, this quartet receives instruction from their faculty. The Frank Pietersen Music Centre declined the invitation, but the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre was unavailable during that period due to their concerto festival taking place at the same time.

The ASQ presented workshops at the Masidlale Project, an outreach and education program, offering Suzuki violin instruction to the students in Nyanga, Gugulethu and Langa townships, which falls under the umbrella of the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra. (7 & 21 August)

The Cape Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's string section participated in workshops, masterclasses (10, 15, 17 and 24 August) in preparation for the Launch Concert of the Chamber Music Institute.

The ASQ visited the Alexander Sinton High School (16 August) where they performed for the learners followed by violin and cello workshops conducted by John McGrosso and Kurt Baldwin, respectively. The University of Stellenbosch String Quartet is the graduate quartet of the Stellenbosch University Conservatory. These students are already working as performers and/or teachers in Cape Town and the vicinity. They regularly give concerts and participate in guest artist master classes and music festivals and were the first to accept the invitation of working with the ASQ, with great enthusiasm. Masterclasses were presented at the UWC Centre for the Performing Arts (20 and 22 August) and at the Endler Hall in Stellenbosch (21 August). They also rehearsed and performed at the Launch Concert of the Chamber Music Institute (24 August). The University of Cape Town was unavailable due to their annual opera production.

By visiting the social spectrum of Cape Town, we were also able to continue assessing the challenges and needs in the social and economic environment in order to better shape the chamber music program to these needs. The following describes the groups with whom we worked most closely during the 3-week course. For a complete list of all school visits, presentations and master classes, please see the schedule that follows.

5. PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES & HOUSE CONCERTS

In tandem with the planning and design of the UWC Chamber Music Institute, the Arianna Quartet's performances on acclaimed series and in renowned concert halls increased the profile and visibility of UWC CMI as well as University of Missouri and UMSL. These concerts also establish the high standards and expectations of the new institute. The ASQ performed on the following series:

- Endler Hall Series on 10 August 2013. This series takes place in the Concert Hall of The Stellenbosch University Conservatory, renowned for one of the highest regarded acoustic halls in the world.
- The Cape Town Concert Series on 17 August 2013 at the Baxter Concert Hall. Established in 1950, the oldest and most prestigious chamber music series in South Africa. (see review attached)
- The St. Andrew's Concert Series on 23 August 2013, at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the heart of Cape Town. Archbishop Emeritus, Desmond Tutu frequents this series.

- The ASQ performed a soiree at the Verona Lodge, the guest house where they lived for the duration of their stay in Cape Town, for the owners' friends and family (9 and 16 August).

6. UWC CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE STRING ORCHESTRA & LAUNCH CONCERT OF THE CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE

Publicity and development in schools is crucial for the success of this program and this concert celebrated the launching of the Chamber Music Institute. The Chamber Music Institute is filling a gap in the musical fabric of Cape Town, as nothing like it existed before. Outreach and inclusion are integral to the mission of UWC, so it is important to cover a true cross-section of the Western Cape.

The String Orchestra for the launch of the UWC Chamber Music Institute were musicians from the Beau Soleil Music Centre, the University of Stellenbosch String Quartet, the Cape Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and UWC Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Arianna String Quartet opened the program with Felix Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor, Op 80. Then the University of Stellenbosch String Quartet joined the ASQ to perform Mendelssohn's Octet in E flat, Op. 20. The last piece performed was the *Concerto Grosso No. 2*, by South African composer, Allan Stephenson. This work for string orchestra and solo string quartet was commissioned by UWC for the launch of the Chamber Music Institute. Written for the CMI Launch String Orchestra, listed above, and the Arianna String Quartet and it was premiered at the launch concert.

Kurt Baldwin (ASQ), Henriette Weber and the Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Brian O'Connell addressed the audience and remarked on the importance and significance of a program such as CMI for the students, the community, to UWC and UMSL, and to the fabric of the South African society.

7. UWC CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES – The Intermediate and Advanced Programmes in Chamber Music

Throughout the three-week visit, various discussions regarding the chamber music course took place. A formal discussion was held on 13 August where the design, responsibilities, content and context were identified. This is a work in progress as we develop this curriculum which is aimed for implementation by 2015, when we hope to have the ASQ return to assess the progress made.

8. UMSAEP BUDGET

Attached please find the budget for the exchange period.

9. MEDIA REPORTS

In the week leading up to the Launch Concert of the UWC Chamber Music Institute, Henriette Weber was interviewed on Smile Radio, Bush Radio, Valley Radio and KFM where the interviews focused on the music courses being reintroduced at UWC and the Arianna String Quartet's involvement in the launch of the UWC Chamber Music Institute. Attached please find articles published in City Vision and West Cape News.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS

11. CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE UNDERWAY

Since our visit, Henriette Weber has continued publicity and recruiting efforts through radio interviews and newspaper articles that have already drawn some response. Meetings have been scheduled with prospective students for the Chamber Music Institute. She also had a meeting with a community music programmes and organisations with the intent to form partnerships with UWC.

The ASQ will coordinate with Henriette to resume distance learning initiatives. More and regular video conferencing will provide online instruction for chamber music coaching, private lessons, and teacher training.

The ASQ will continue our relationship with The Stellenbosch University Quartet when they participate in the Intensive String Quartet Program of the Festival of Music in Santa Catarina, Brazil. This furthers their training of the concepts we introduced them to while in South Africa, and ultimately leads to the same goals of the UWC Chamber Music Institute.

12. THE NEXT STEP

We are hopeful that the ASQ will return to Cape Town in May 2015 in order to assess the progress of the Chamber Music Institute and determine whether distance learning standards have been upheld. We will need to bolster the program through more outreach, recruiting and working with teachers. We are presently in contact with a concert manager to organize a more extensive tour of concerts, one that covers a wider area of the Western Cape and beyond, including central and eastern provinces.

13 CONCLUSION

The goals set out in the UMSAEP Grant Application in 2012 were not only met, but exceeded our expectations. This can be attributed to the professionalism, artistic integrity, values and the spirit which thrives in the Arianna String Quartet.

With the closure of the UWC Music Department in 2002, this three-week exchange programme with the Arianna String Quartet from the University of Missouri, St. Louis has created awareness at schools, community music programmes, universities and in the community at large that the University of the Western Cape's Centre for the Performing Arts is actively involved in music education and offering accredited music courses and that, together with the Arianna String Quartet, we are in the process of designing courses for Chamber Music.

The integration of knowledge and experiences and the understanding of the music education environment in the Western Cape, will influence how we design and introduce the new curriculum design at UWC Centre for the Performing Arts to the benefit of all musicians, especially focusing on the envisaged community engagement initiatives.

As the ensembles develop in 2014 and the curriculum design takes shape, we are also engaged in refurbishing a venue at the UWC Centre for the Performing Arts which will facilitate the distance learning aspect of this partnership.

I wish to echo what was said at the UWC Chamber Music Institute's Launch Concert, namely that this exchange programme and the launch of the Chamber Music Institute is just the beginning of a journey with the Arianna String Quartet in realizing the UWC Centre for the Performing Arts vision. We are working towards a long and mutually-enriching programme at the University of the Western Cape, with our distinguished partners, the Arianna String Quartet from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

In 2015, we hope to welcome the Arianna String Quartet back as we assess and develop this new music education innovation.

Prepared by Henriette Weber (UWC) and Joanna Mendoza (UMSL).

Presented by Henriette Weber, UWC Centre for the Performing Arts.



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UMSAEP FINANCIAL REPORT

UWC BUDGET


ITEM	VENDOR	DURATION	AMOUNT
Accommodation	Verona Lodge	4 pax @ R 7 500.00 (15 days)	R30 000.00
Subsistence Allowance	UWC	4 pax @ R 5 700.00 (21 days)	R22 800.00
Transport (Diesel)	Dept of Nursing	3 weeks	R 1 988.16
TOTAL			R54 788.16

ACCOMMODATION – ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS

VENDOR	CONTRIBUTIONS	DURATION	AMOUNT
Verona Lodge	Stellenbosch University	4 pax @ R500.00 (1 day)	R2000.00
	Cape Town Concert Series	4 pax @ R500.00 (1 day)	R2000.00
	St. Andrew's Concert Series	4 pax @ R500.00 (4 days)	R8000.00
TOTAL			R12 000.00

ARIANNA STRING QUARTET – PERFORMANCE INCOME

DATE	CONCERT	AMOUNT	TOTAL
10 August	Stellenbosch University	R8000.00	
17 August	Cape Town Concert Series	R8000.00	R16 000.00



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to action through knowledge



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LAUNCH of the UWC CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE BUDGET – ENTITY 121001

ITEM	VENDOR	DURATION	AMOUNT
Accommodation	Verona Lodge	4 pax @ R 7 500.00 (15 days)	R30 000.00
Subsistence Allowance	UWC	4 pax @ R 5 700.00 (21 days)	R22 800.00
Commissioned Work	Allan Stephenson	1 x R10 000.00	R10 000.00
Transport (Diesel)	Dept of Nursing	3 weeks	R 1 988.16
Concert: Venue Cleaning	Metro	1 day	R1 161.07
Concert: Security	Pro Events	1 day	R1 413.60
Concert: Catering - reception	Z & R	1 day	R3 420.00
Concert: Catering – students	Double Option	1 day	R 750.00
Concert: Décor	Décor Splendour	1 day	R3 500.00
Concert: Stage Attendant	Hennie Ruiters	1 day	R 400.00
Concert: Programme	SJR Printers	1 day	R 598.50
TOTAL			R76 031.33

INCOME

ITEM	INSTITUTION	AMOUNT
Workshop Registration Fee	Beau Soleil Music Centre	R1550.00
	Cape Philharmonic Youth Orchestra	R1500.00
Ticket sales	Concert	R 500.00
TOTAL		R3550.00



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to action through knowledge

WEST CAPE NEWS

NEWS AGENCY, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
TUESDAY AUGUST 27TH 2013

Orchestra celebrates innovate shift in music education



Musicians from various institutions played with the Ariana String Quartet from University of Missouri to mark the launch of UWC's Chamber Music Institute on Saturday evening.

Photo: Steve Kretzmann/WCN

25.08.2013

A string orchestra playing the world premiere of a new composition marked the launch of the Chamber Music Institute which will enable musicians without formal training to obtain accreditation at the University of the Western Cape.

The official launch of the institution on Saturday evening marks an innovative approach that not only allows accomplished musicians without formal training to receive Recognition of Prior Learning, it also allows students studying other degrees to obtain tuition and grading in music across intermediate and advanced levels.

To “kickstart” the institute, the Arianna String Quartet from the St. Lois campus of the University of Missouri – which has a 27-year partnership with UWC – spent three weeks working with music pupils at Good Hope Seminary High and Phandulwazi High, as well as holding workshops and master classes at institutions ranging from township schools to the University of Stellenbosch.

Many of the participants in these workshops formed part of the string orchestra that played the first movement of Allan Stephenson’s new Concerto Grosso No.2 at the launch, a composition especially commissioned by the UWC Centre for Performing Arts within which the institution is housed.

Arianna String Quartet First Violinist John McGrosso said working with people in the townships and universities, he was struck by the potential of people in South Africa.

“The most powerful thing about being a teacher is seeing what the future has in store and it is a powerful thing to see what potential the people hold here.”

While the quartet worked hard during their three weeks, the first word that came to mind for Grade 12 pupil and workshop participant Yonela Ngungeni, was “fun”. Working with the Arianna String Quartet was “fun, amazing”, said Ngungeni, who attends Trafalgar High but is a music pupil at Beau Soleil Music Centre.

UWC Centre for Performing Arts head Henriette Weber said they were trying to change the mindset around how education is offered. There are many people who have the talent but lack the opportunity to receive accreditation, she said.

With 25 students at the institute currently, she said it was amazing to see how people were often able to play music at a level far beyond the theory and music reading level they were being taught at.

Each student had come to music through a different route, she said, from jazz players who learnt how to play at back yard shebeens, to science students who maintained a love for music.

Thus the teaching at the institute was very “one-on-one” rather than slotting them into a “mass programme”.

“We need to be relevant in a changing educational environment.” – **Steve Kretzmann**

CITY VISION 15/09/2013

Young violin learners welcome master classes from USA



The members of the Arianna String Quartet (ASQ), one of America's finest string chamber ensembles, were welcomed by jubilant violin learners at the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra's (CPO) Masidlale Music Project in Nyanga recently.

This was the ASQ's second visit to South Africa to work with young musicians at the University of the Western Cape.

About 25 children aged six to 10 filled the makeshift Music Room with harmonic sounds produced by "baby" violins. The Arianna String Quartet's John McGrosso, Felicia Moya, Joanna Mendoza and Kurt Baldwin, joined in the performance that demon-

Felicia Moya one of the violinists of Arianna String Quartet who presented master classes to violin pupils at the Cape Philharmonic's Masidlale Project in Hengisa Primary School, Nyanga performing with the young violinists.

strated enormous success of more than three years of intensive string instrument training. The project, which started in 2009, provides the learners with string instrument training irrespective of participants' financial means or background.

The ASQ musicians, impressed by the children's improvement since last heard two years, gave master classes to the violin learners and in return were entertained by angelic voices from the Hengisa School Choir, one of the Masidlale project schools.

Many of the children are attending the ASQ recital for the Cape Town Concert Series at the Baxter Concert Hall on August 24. The ASQ also visited a second Masidlale satellite in Gugulethu.

The Masidlale Project also includes satellites in Langa and Atlantis. Each school/satellite centre has a violin teacher who trains the students weekly, assisted by the Suzuki project leader Maria Botha.

Lloyd Cele walks in aid of disabled

Lloyd Cele, the award-winning pop artist, will be performing Bidvest Unity Walk on Sunday, 18 August, at Bellville Velodrome.

The gates open at 07:00 and the event starts at 08:00. Over 50 000 Bidvest employees

and their families will be uniting across four cities as they walk for those who can't.

For every 75 employees who will take part in the event, Bidvest will donate one wheelchair to the Quadriplegic Association of South Africa

(QASA). Last year 217 much-needed wheelchairs were donated to QASA.

For every seven media/celebrities that participate in the walk, one wheelchair will be donated to QASA on their behalf.



Join Blaah Society

This year's Blaah Social intake will be held on 18.

All people wishing to join may kindly contact Mr DT Makhahla on 072 360 5940 for more information.

Die Burger (The Citizen) August 18th, 2013

(translated from Afrikans)

CAPE TOWN -The Arianna String Quartet from the USA expertly performed three magnificent works for the Cape Town Concert Series on Saturday. The well-balanced program began with Mozart's Quartet K.387, followed by Shostakovich Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73, and ended with Schubert's Quartet in D minor (Death and the Maiden).

The four players names were not in the printed program, and the violist introduced herself and her colleagues to the audience eloquently. As was the case with their previous visit in May 2011, the quartet's playing was characterized by flawless ensemble and excellent balance.

The sound of the 4 instruments blended beautifully, although there were passages where one instrument or another came to the fore with more important melodic material. These moments gave each individual the opportunity to demonstrate their technical proficiency and beautiful sound control.

The highlight of the evening was the Schubert Death and the Maiden quartet. This profound work in which death is such an important element is always an emotional experience that one is not likely to forget in a hurry, particularly if it is performed in as outstanding a manner as the Arianna String Quartet did on Saturday night.

Original:

Sondag 18 Augustus 2013

KAAPSTAD. - Die Arianna-strykkwartet van Amerika het Saterdagand drie pragwerke vir die Kaapse Konsertreeks meesterlik uitgevoer.

Die goed gebalanseerde program het met Mozart se Strykkwartet no.14 in G majeur, K. 387 (Lente) begin, daarna Sjostakowitsj se Strykkwartet no. 3 in F majeur, op. 73 en ná die pouse Schubert se Strykkwartet in D mineur (Der Tod und das Mädchen).

Die vier spelers se name is nie in die program aangedui nie en die altviolis het haar kollegas en haarself vlugtig aan die gehoor voorgestel. Soos met sy vorige besoek aan Kaapstad in Mei 2011 het die kwartet se onberispelike goeie samespel en uitstekende balans tussen die vier spelers weer sterk opgeval.

Die klank van die vier instrumente bind pragtig saam, maar daar is tog passasies waar een van die instrumente die belangrikste melodie dra. En hier is elke speler se sterk tegniese vaardigheid en mooi klankbeheer belang.

Net soos in die Jupiter-simfonie wat vroeër die week deur die orkes uitgevoer is, bevat die Lente-strykkwartet ook opvallende kontrapuntale passasies in die finale. Daarby kon ons ook weer na 'n werk van Sjostakowitsj luister. Dit is nie dikwels dat twee van hierdie Russiese komponis se belangrike werke hier in een week gehoor word nie.

Maar die hoogtepunt van die aand was nietemin Schubert se Der Tod und das Mädchen-kwartet. Hierdie diepsinnige werk waarin die dood so 'n belangrike aspek is, is altyd 'n emosionele belewenis wat 'n mens nie ligtelik vergeet nie.

Veral as dit so voortreflik vertolk word soos die Arianna-strykkwartet dit Saterdagand gedoen het.

SCHOOLS OUTREACH CONCERT:
GOOD HOPE SEMINARY HIGH
SCHOOL, Cape Town



Arianna String Quartet (ASQ)



ASQ with Good Hope Seminary music
teachers & Henriette Weber (UWC)



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WORKSHOP : ALEXANDER SINTON HIGH SCHOOL, ATHLONE



Arianna String Quartet performing for music learners

John McGrosso (violin) and Kurt Baldwin (cello), passing on some useful tips to some learners.



WORKSHOP: BEAU SOLEIL MUSIC CENTRE,
WYNBERG



THE ARIANNA STRING QUARTET IN ACTION





PERFORMANCE AT VERONA LODGE, THREE ANCHOR BAY



STUDENTS ATTENDING THE ARIANNA STRING QUARTET CONCERT AT THE BAXTER CONCERT HALL – CAPE TOWN CONCERT SERIES



Kurt Baldwin and Felicia Moyer with the Ifidyoli Quartet (from Beau Soleil Music Centre) after the concert at Baxter Concert Hall.



John McGrosso & Kathleen Garrity (Beau Soleil Music Centre) with Ifidyoli students after the concert.



Kathleen Garrity & Joanna Mendoza with Concert attendees.

REHEARSALS: UWC Chamber Music Institute String Orchestra



The composer, Allan Stephenson (standing), oversees the rehearsal of his piece, *Concerto Grosso No. 2*, commissioned by UWC.



The cello section with Kurt Baldwin



Felicia Moye and the second violins



John McGrosso and Felicia Moye with violin section



Joanna Mendoza leading the viola section



MASTERCLASS : University of Stellenbosch String Quartet at the Ender Hall, Stellenbosch.



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JOANNA MENDOZA



SCHOOLS OUTREACH CONCERT:
PHANDULWAZI HIGH SCHOOL,
Lower Crossroads



Phandulwazi High School Choir
conducted by Mr. Mpumelelo
Tsewu, the schools' Deputy
Principal and Choir director.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE FROM UWC CMI STRING ORCHESTRA

On Tue, Aug 27, 2013 at 3:55 PM, Nobuhle Mazinyane <nobuhle.mazinyane@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Kurt,

This is Nobuhle - Nobby for short - from Cape Town, South Africa. I attend Beau Soleil Music Centre. I don't expect you to remember my face but i played first violin in the orchestra. Which was great fun! I hope you, Felicia, John and Joanna had a comfortable trip back to the USA and arrived home safely. And just another big thank you to the Arianna String Quartet for the opportunity, we all really do appreciate it. I hope to see you all in future sooner than soon!

God bless, and keep well!

Kind Regards,

Nobuhle Mazinyane

On Sun, Sep 22, 2013 at 5:36 PM, Nobuhle Mazinyane<nobuhle.mazinyane@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Kurt,

I really hope everythings great on your side of the world! I have been enjoying orchestra a lot more now. We always sing before we play, and Marina makes us waltz around if we have to.

When we rehearse together as an orchestra, it feels as if were all feeding off one another. We're not playing in our own little bubble anymore, but were making music together. We are BREATHING and MOVING and ...

SMILING when we play!!

Its so enjoyable and awesome!

Kind Regards,

Nobby

On Sep 24, 2013, at 2:34 PM, Mia Björkman <miahollyb@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Miller

I am the leader of the University of Stellenbosch String Quartet in South Africa, and would like to convey to you our excitement over our recent interaction with the Arianna Quartet. Our quartet was fortunate enough to have masterclasses with the Arianna Quartet during their tour to South Africa and we are not exaggerating when we say that our lives were changed. They opened our eyes to the possibilities of chamber music and transformed our playing.

We are the graduate quartet of our university in South Africa and have all had masterclasses with many international musicians from all over the world throughout our years of study. We can honestly say that the way that the Arianna Quartet engaged with us was unique and their teaching was incredibly powerful - their years of experience as chamber musicians and the way in which they were able to share their knowledge with us was truly inspirational.

My colleagues and I all plan on furthering our studies once we have finished in South Africa and were disappointed to find out that the University of Missouri does not offer a graduate programme in music performance. We realise that what the Arianna Quartet has taught us is just the tip of the iceberg, and know that we could learn so much more from them as individual players and as a quartet. All four members of the Arianna Quartet have a wealth of musical knowledge regarding their own instrumental playing, but it is their expertise as quartet players that proved especially invaluable to us as young professionals. Music students don't often get the opportunity to work with a quartet that has been playing together for as long as the Arianna Quartet has, or one that performs and records as regularly as they do. In the Classical music field it is rare to find musicians who can teach as well as they perform, which is why we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with a group who are exceptional in both fields. They have changed the way that we work - as a quartet and individually - and we would welcome any opportunity to be able to work with them again.

It has only been a few short weeks since the Arianna Quartet toured South Africa but we have definitely already been able to see the difference they have made in our approach. We recently competed in the National Ensemble Competition of South Africa and were not only awarded the first prize in the quartet category but were also named as Overall Winners of the competition. We were elated and know that we are largely indebted to the Arianna Quartet for what they taught us during the couple of days that we spent with them.

The Arianna Quartet's work is of an exceptionally high standard in all aspects. They have changed the way we as a quartet approach our work and any young musicians would be priveleged to work with them.

Thank you for finding the time to read this email, words will never fully express just how moved we were by the Arianna Quartet but I hope this email offers an indication of our admiration and appreciation of the Arianna Quartet.

Yours Sincerely

Mia Björkman

(1st violinist, Stellenbosch University String Quartet)