



MUSIC SCHOOL
OF THE FUTURE

*Welcome to the Kingswood College Music
School of the Future Conference 2026*

28 – 30 August 2026



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Kingswood College, Makhanda, for the 2026 Music School of the Future Conference.

In an ever-changing world shaped by technology, creativity, and connection, the role of music in education is more important than ever. Research continues to affirm that a music-rich education enhances cognitive development, supports academic achievement, and strengthens essential human qualities such as resilience, confidence, and

emotional intelligence.

Beyond these measurable outcomes, music brings something deeper into our schools. It fosters joy, cultivates belonging, and gives pupils a powerful means of expression in a complex and fast-moving world. We must continue to create inclusive environments where every pupil has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of making and engaging with music.

This conference brings together educators, innovators, and thought leaders who are shaping the future of music education. We look to you to explore new approaches, embrace emerging technologies, and reimagine teaching and learning in ways that inspire young people, not only to pursue musical excellence, but to develop a lifelong love of music in all its forms.

My sincere thanks go to all who have made this conference possible, the organising committee, Cathy Braans, our presenters and keynote speakers, sponsors, and delegates. Your commitment ensures that the conversations and insights shared here will have a meaningful and lasting impact.

I wish you an inspiring conference.

Yours sincerely

Leon Grové
Kingswood College Head



Welcome from the Kingswood College Music School



We live in an age of extreme diversity. The range of music that our pupils listen to is more diverse and more easily accessible than ever before. Are we listening to these varied voices in our classrooms? Our pupils are indeed listening, and they are hungry for an education that does not shy away from that which is different, but embraces it.

The Kingswood Music School is excited to host another opportunity for musicians, music teachers and thinkers to get together and talk. We firmly believe that these sessions of communication and forging connections are vital in our daily calling; the noble calling of facilitating music learning.

This year we hope to invite even more diverse conversationalists to share their views, talents and gifts. We trust that you will have an inspiring weekend and that you will dare to step out of your comfort zone and leave refreshed and equipped with the new.

Nici Coleman
Kingswood Director of Music





CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST

12h00 - 13h00	Registration & Lunch (Wyvern)
13h00	Welcome - Leon Grové
13h15 - 14h15	Plenary session 1 - Bridget Harrison: <i>The Power of Partnership</i>
14h15 - 15h15	Plenary Session 2 - David McCoy: <i>All in Music: What musical landscape are we sending our learners into?</i>
15h15 - 16h15	TEA
16h15 - 17h15	Plenary Session 3 - Annalize Hoek: <i>Music Education in Arts & Culture: Making the Most of What Matters.</i>
17h15	Sponsor Talk- ABRSM
17h30	Networking followed by Supper (Wyvern)

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

08h15- 09h15	Plenary Session 4 - Sandile Mabaso : <i>Why Can't They Hear the Notes? Aural Development and the Challenge of the Changing Male Voice</i>
09h15 - 10h15	Plenary Session 5 - Nicky Jansen : “ <i>Can We Play This Song?</i> ”- <i>Turning Pupil Song Requests into Structured Learning</i>
10h15- 11h15	Plenary Session 6 - Elizabeth Retief: <i>Accompaniment- Preparing Piano Students for Collaborative Musicianship</i>
11h15- 11h45	TEA
11h45- 12h45	Plenary Session 7 - Alethea de Villiers: <i>Amplify, capture and perform.</i>
12h45- 13h45	Lunch



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

	BREAKAWAY SESSIONS
13h45 - 15h45	Breakaway Session: <i>Dominic Daula: 'An empowered learner is one who understands: ways to nurture independence in the developing musician'</i> Junior School Discussion: <i>Jenny Brand; Liezel Niesing & Elmarie van der Vyver</i>
OR 13h45 - 15h45	Breakaway Session: <i>Annalize Hoek: Matric Music Unpacked: Teaching, Assessing, and Inspiring Excellence.</i> Senior School Discussion: <i>Matthew Williams, Hilary Mohr and Nici Coleman</i>
15h45-16h15	TEA
16h15-17h15	Plenary Session 8 - Johan Pretorius: <i>The Good, the Band, and the Ugly: (Re)imagining the Ideal Music School in South Africa</i>
18h30	SUPPER AT THE WYVERN (Cash Bar will be available)

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

08h15 - 09h15 - 09h15	Plenary Session 9 - David Bester: <i>Beyond Words: Embodied Knowledge in Music Teaching</i>
09h15 - 10h15	Plenary Session 10 - Gillian Arendse: <i>MUSIC: putting the A4 into STEAM!</i>
10h15	Conference Closure
10h30 - 11h00	Bus departs for (Port Elizabeth) Gqeberha Port Elizabeth)



Indicates Breakaway Sessions (You can choose one)



28TH
AUG
13H15



BRIDGET HARRISON

Bridget Harrison is a teacher at heart with a love of music, live theatre and travel, Bridget began her career with the Cape Town Opera Company as a Stage Manager. She went on to tour extensively through the UK with children's musical theatre company Monster Productions before returning to South Africa and establishing her own piano teaching studio in KZN. More recently she relocated to Makhanda where she holds the position of Project Manager at Access Music Project which offers formal music education to historically disadvantaged school learners in Joza, Makhanda. Currently one of three ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) Regional Coordinators in South Africa, Bridget brings together her pursuit of excellence in music education and performance in this exciting role.



28TH
AUG
14H15



DAVID MCCOY

David McCoy studied a BMus Music Technology at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and graduated in 2011. David taught for 11 years at Alexander Road High School in Gqeberha, then a year at Crawford International College in Pretoria, and is in his third year teaching full-time at Pretoria Boys High School.

A jack of all trades and master of none, David has taught lower brass, lower strings, music production, arranging and composition, FET subject music and has conducted wind bands, big bands and orchestras, as well as being in charge of live-streaming or recording concerts and other school events.

With a keen interest in the intersection of technology and music, David has recently completed a BSc in Computer Science through UNISA and hopes to use these skills and knowledge to create and improve music tools particularly for music education.

David's first instrument is trombone. Some of his achievements are being a finalist in the Christopher Bill Trombone Composition Competition, creating a series of YouTube tutorials for MuseScore notation software, and orchestrating and mixing orchestral compositions for the Norwegian composer, Michael Keihl.





ANNALIZE HOEK

Annalize Hoek is the Director of Music at Cornwall Hill College, leading a vibrant department of over 600 music students. She holds a BMus and MMus and PGCE from the University of Pretoria, is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, and serves as the IEB Music Examiner.

Annalize began her career in the United Kingdom as Head of Music at St Angela's Ursuline School, a role she held for fourteen years. Her passion for music education and its ongoing development led her to Jyväskylä University in Finland, where she researched the use of music technology and its integration into the curriculum. She has also studied a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and completed the Graduate Teachers Programme in the UK.

As a musician and educator, Annalize is committed to instilling a love of music in every child. Her school choirs and orchestras have performed at prestigious venues such as the O2 Arena, Westminster Abbey (London), Salzburg Cathedral, St Mark's Cathedral (Venice), Monserrat Abbey (Barcelona), Strasbourg Cathedral, St Nicholas Church (Prague), and Beijing.

Annalize has adjudicated several eisteddfods and competitions and has presented research papers at the International Society of Music Educators (ISME) conferences. She has also served as Vice-President of the Pan African Society of Music Educators (PASMAE).





SANDILE MABASO

Sandile Mabaso is a South African singer, vocal coach, and music educator. He began his musical journey at the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School under Christian Ashley-Botha and earned his Bachelor of Music at the University of Pretoria. He has performed internationally with Cape Town Opera's vocal ensemble and in productions ranging from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* to Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, and has presented lieder and Baroque programs at festivals across South Africa. Alongside his performing career, Sandile is deeply committed to teaching and mentoring young singers, focusing on vocal technique, musicality. He has guided students through solo repertoire, ensemble work, and competition preparation, combining practical performance experience with pedagogical insight



29TH
AUG
09H15



NICKY JANSEN

Nicky Jansen holds a BMus degree from the University of Stellenbosch and a PGCE from UNISA. She has performed nationally and internationally, with appearances in New York, London, Finland, Germany, Australia and Israel, and remains an active performer.

She taught piano and saxophone and served as accompanist at Reddam House Constantia for 17 years. From 2014 to 2021, she was Head of the College Music Department.

Nicky is Director of The Music HQ, a specialist music school based in Cape Town, which she co-founded in 2022. Alongside her leadership role, she teaches IEB subject music, as well as piano, flute, saxophone and music theory.

A returning presenter at the Music School of the Future conference (2024), she is passionate about evolving music education to meet the needs of today's students. She finds particular joy in teaching repertoire that students genuinely connect with and is especially interested in bridging strong pedagogical foundations with music that learners find engaging, relevant and inspiring.



29TH
AUG
10H15



ELIZABETH RETIEF

Elizabeth Retief holds an Honours degree in Piano Performance from the University of Stellenbosch and is currently pursuing an MMus in Piano Accompaniment at the same institution. She began her career as a répétiteur with Dimpho di Kopane, a community opera company. Elizabeth has held Head of Music positions at Epworth Independent School for Girls in Pietermaritzburg (2010–2013) and Elkanah House in Sunningdale (2013–2021).

In 2022, she co-founded The Music HQ, a private music school in Cape Town, where she currently serves as Director and teacher. She has extensive experience teaching and assessing the IEB Music syllabus, regularly leads national examination revision workshops, and has served as an adjudicator at eisteddfodau. Passionate about music education, Elizabeth works as an educator, accompanist, and chamber musician.



29TH
AUG
11H45



ALETHEA DE VILLIERS

Alethea de Villiers is a full professor of music at Nelson Mandela University and a NRF rated researcher. She is a reviewer for national and international journals and serves on the editorial board of IJME. She is an external examiner and moderator at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and a reviewer for the NRF. She is a past commissioner of ISME, past president of SASMT, Director of SASMT, treasurer of the Gqeberha branch, a member of NATS, SASRIM, Pasmae, HETL and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

She has worked as a piano teacher, college lecturer, district curriculum advisor and academic. She has spearheaded curriculum renewal at tertiary level and follows an eclectic teaching and learning philosophy inspired by John Dewey and Paulo Freire. She developed materials for classroom use and has published over 30 accredited academic texts. Her research is grounded in the philosophies of multiculturalism and democratic citizenship.



29TH
AUG
13H45



DOMINIC DAULA

Dominic Daula is a Lecturer in Musicology in the Department of Music and Musicology at Rhodes University, where he has received the honour of being made an Andrew W Mellon Early Career Scholar. He is also the recipient of an NRF Thuthuka Grant for a creative project on the piano music of Hubert du Plessis. Dominic is secretary to the editorial board of *Muziki: Journal of Music Research in Africa* (Taylor and Francis) and is also a member of the Journal's editorial board. Dominic is active as a pianist and harpsichordist, and has recently performed Bach's Goldberg Variations in Cape Town (as part of Welgemeend Art Month and at the UCT Summer School) and Makhanda. He studied at the University of Cape Town under James May and Franklin Larey, and at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester under Richard Ormrod.



29TH
AUG
16H15



JOHAN PRETORIUS

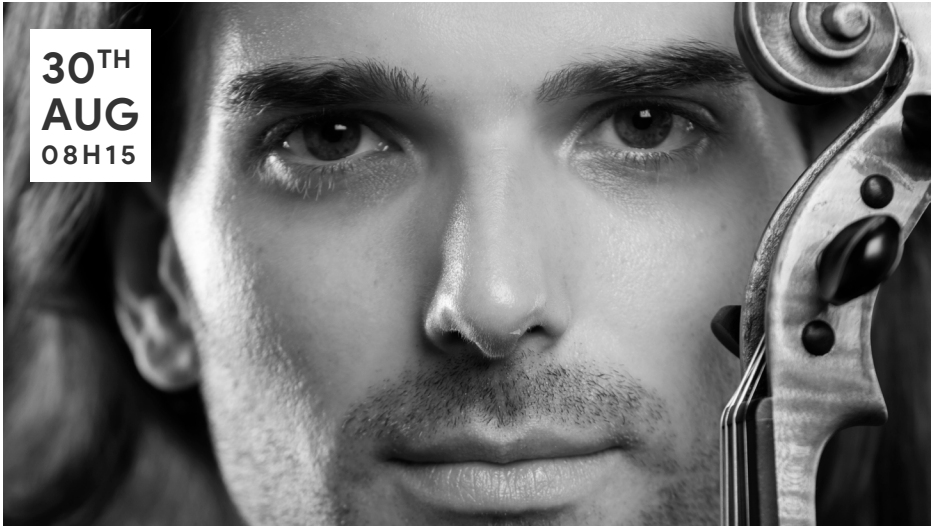
Johan Pretorius is a South African trumpet player, conductor and music educator, born in Bloemfontein. He studied under Dr Sean Kierman and was appointed principal trumpet of the South African National Youth Orchestra at the age of fifteen.

He completed his BMus at the University of the Free State in 1984 and later received the South African Airways Award for Performing Arts. In 1992, he was appointed Head of Brass at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Cape Town, where he also conducted and adjudicated internationally.

After further conducting studies in the United States, he returned to South Africa and became closely involved in youth orchestral development in the Eastern Cape.

From 2010 to 2023, he was Director of Music and Head of Department at St Andrew's College in Makhanda, where he founded the St Andrew's College and DSG Music Festival. He currently teaches at Graeme College, lectures part time at Rhodes University, and is Artistic Director and conductor of the Makana Community Orchestra.





DAVID BESTER

David Bester is an award-winning violinist, academic, and arts leader. He serves as Concertmaster and Artistic Director of the Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra (ECPO), where he champions new South African music. As a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist, he has performed with the Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestras, and collaborates with ensembles such as the Chamber Orchestra of Namur and the Amici Quartet. He has received multiple Creative Output Awards and funding from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, the National Arts Council of South Africa, and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (2025) Award for Best Public Performance).

At Nelson Mandela University, David is Head of Strings and Chair of the Faculty of Humanities' Internationalisation and Engagement portfolio. He also drives regional capacity-building for music education. David is founder and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Southern Africa Strings, a peer-reviewed academic journal published by the South African Strings Foundation.

David holds BMus and MMus degrees (both cum laude) from Stellenbosch University, and a second MMus (cum laude) from the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp under Alissa Margulis.



30TH
AUG
09H15



GILLIAN ARENDSE

Gillian Arendse is a well-known and loved presenter at many an Educational event; whether a school, conference or symposium. He is an experimental nuclear physicist (by training), motivator (by choice and conviction), and a general all-rounder committed to use his gifts and talents to impact the lives of every person with whom he interacts. His passion to leave people better than he found them is fuelled by a need to be challenged on a daily basis. He is currently employed by the NRF-iThemba LABS





KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

