



BUSKAID NEWS

HELPING YOUNG BLACK
MUSICIANS IN SOUTH
AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS

2009

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DEAR BUSKAID SUPPORTERS

It's Spring in South Africa and the onset of the rainy season has brought lush growth to Johannesburg – the world's largest man-made forest – and, to a lesser extent, Soweto, where there is growth of a different kind. Rea Vaya, a new, much overdue rapid public transport system, is now fully operational, right next to Diepkloof and just a few hundred yards from our Music School. Throughout the province there is upgrading and construction of roads and highways on a massive scale, resulting in endless, frustrating traffic jams. Another exciting development, also in close proximity to Diepkloof, is the explosive growth of Soccer City, South Africa's biggest new World Cup stadium, whose funky design is based on the calabash (African pot). We can claim a connection with Soccer City, as one of our older students, Punch Sephadi, is now a construction worker on this site. Of the thousands of workers currently employed throughout South Africa in preparation for 2010, I think it is safe to assume that Punch is probably the only one who is also an expert on baroque bowing techniques.



Tuning up in Botswana © Pierre du Toit

Once again, over the past year we have all been exceptionally busy creating some very exciting and positive news for our 2009 Newsletter.

In the last twelve months

- we have accepted more than 30 new pupils (aged from 5 to 13), bringing our numbers up to around 80 students
- our teacher-training programme has expanded, with eight new trainee teachers
- the UK's *Gramophone* Magazine has named us one of the world's top ten most inspiring orchestras
- two of our students, Kabelo Monnathebe and Tiisetso Mashishi, have been awarded scholarships to the Royal Academy of Music, London
- we have released a new CD and our first DVD
- we've hosted the distinguished violinist Ivry Gitlis
- we have once again built up the Ensemble to a very high standard and given some really fine concerts
- we've toured an African country for the first time
- we have welcomed large numbers of guests to Buskaid
- our students have raised significant amounts for the charity through corporate performances
- we have considerably extended our supporter base, both locally and internationally

BUSKAID NEWS 2009: A LARGE INTAKE OF NEW STUDENTS

A LARGE INTAKE OF NEW STUDENTS

Possibly the least glamorous but most important aspect of what we do in Soweto is the ongoing training of our pupils in the highly skilled techniques of teaching both groups and individuals, to ensure Buskaid's sustainability. Long ago I abandoned the idea of 'importing' large numbers of teachers into the township, focusing instead on developing the aptitude for teaching which I observed early on amongst my students. Together with Sonja Bass, our only other Johannesburg-based string teacher, I encouraged as many of our senior students as possible to become part-time teachers, training in the methods which have worked so well at Buskaid. Now we have extended the scheme to involve all but the very beginners, and it is not uncommon to see a child who has been with us for only a year or two involved in helping our new pupils.

This rise in the number of very skilled young teachers has made it possible for us to increase our intake substantially, and in May of this year we enrolled about 30 children, bringing the total number of achievement levels at the school to five. Many of these beginners are very much younger than the children we have accepted in the past; the reasoning behind this decision was partly based on the remarkable progress made by one child, Kgotso Langa, who joined us in 2003 when he was four years old, simply because his older sister brought him with her to Buskaid. At the beginning of this year, Kgotso started playing in the Ensemble and is now a fully-fledged member! In the past, the difficulties of teaching children as young as five, some of whom do not have a great support system at home, seemed insurmountable. Now however there are a few parents who bring their children and then stay to observe; where a child has no family support, one of our older students will visit the home and accompany the child to the Music School.

The progress of Sonja's beginner cello class and our beginner violin class is slow – we see them as a group only once a week for around an hour. But we all enjoy the challenge of keeping them interested and motivated – and of course we are beginning to identify lots of talent! For most of the year Lesego Mokonoto, Keabetswe Goodman, Cecelia Manyama, Kabelo Monnathebe, Tiisetso Mashishi, Simiso Radebe and I have taught the beginner violin group, with further help from a number of trainees. Sonja is assisted by Pule Lekarapa, Nathi Matroos, Keneilwe Modutoane and Kgotso Ramong. Pierre du Toit's evocative photos convey the atmosphere of these classes far more eloquently than my written descriptions.

AN AMAZING AWARD!

Most of you will know by now that earlier this year we were identified by the UK's prestigious *Gramophone* magazine as one of the world's top ten most inspiring orchestras. The judging panel consisted of a number of leading international instrumentalists. To see the Buskaid Ensemble named alongside such orchestras



BUSKAID NEWS 2008: STUDENT NEWS

as the London Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra was truly thrilling! We feel that this accolade is a tribute to the dedication of all those people – students, teachers, trustees, sponsors, funders, supporters – associated with Buskaid over the past decade.

STUDENT NEWS

As we were about to send out our 2008 newsletter we received the news that Tiisetso Mashishi and Kabelo Monnathebe had both received ABRSM Diplomas with Distinction. A couple of weeks later, in early December, I accompanied both students to the UK to audition for places at the four London music colleges.

We were all made to feel very welcome at these auditions, and when they were both subsequently accepted by all four colleges and offered scholarships to three, we deliberated long and hard about where they should go. The decision to send our students away to a completely different country, culture and environment is never taken lightly – not to mention the vacuum their absence creates at the Music School – but we feel that both Kabelo and Tiisetso richly deserve the opportunities afforded by study at an international conservatory. Ultimately, for a variety of reasons, we decided to accept the two places offered by the **Royal Academy of Music**. The Academy is funding the entire costs of both students' fees in full (in excess of £17 000 per student per annum) for their four year B Mus courses, subject of course to their excellent progress! We greatly appreciate the continuing generosity of the **Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust** which has awarded them substantial scholarships towards their first year's living expenses, and **Jonathan and Teresa Sumption** for their ongoing financial assistance. As both students need a further £10 000 a year each for the next three years, we are continuing our fundraising efforts for the Scholarship Fund.

Kabelo and Tiisetso have now been in London for three months and though understandably still homesick, are thoroughly enjoying this challenging new phase in their lives. We are very grateful to the Academy, not only for their financial support, but also for their concern for the general wellbeing of our two students.

Meanwhile our first graduate Samson Diamond, having enjoyed a couple of very successful years freelancing in the UK, recently returned to South Africa to work as a freelance violinist and teacher. Eleven years ago, when he was just 14, Samson started taking more than a passing interest in Onica Tlhoale, a violin beginner who had just joined Buskaid. On his return to South Africa a couple of months ago Samson and Onica became engaged – further proof that Buskaid is far more than just a string project! Onica was one of our finest teachers for many years until she left Buskaid to pursue a very successful career as a social worker. Further stunning news for Samson is that he has just received one of Standard Bank's prestigious Young Artist Awards for 2010. Samson is the first string player to receive this award since the inception of the programme 25 years ago.



Tiisetso



Kabelo



Samson and Onica at Young Artist Awards Ceremony

BUSKAID NEWS 2009: STUDENT NEWS *ctd*

During 2009 a total of five students benefited from our Learnership Programme, which enables advanced Buskaid students who wish to become professional musicians to study their instruments intensively every weekday morning at the Music School, whilst earning a modest income. We are most grateful to **Siemens** for its contribution towards this programme. We also acknowledge with gratitude the second generous sponsorship we received from **Redefine** which has contributed significantly towards many of the projects mentioned in this newsletter.

GIFT MOLOISANE

A couple of years ago we were celebrating a great Buskaid success story – that of Gift Moloisane, a founder member of Buskaid whom I first came across at a bush workshop in 1994. During his years at Buskaid, Gift, who grew up in extreme poverty, succumbed to the terrible scourge besetting many young township adolescents and became addicted to both drugs and alcohol. In my early days in Soweto I was far less informed about the signs and symptoms of addiction and it was only after Gift left in 2002 that I began to comprehend the full extent of his problems.

We all knew that Gift was ultimately responsible for his own destiny and so were overjoyed when in late 2007 he very hesitantly came to see me at the Music School. A few months later, having successfully rehabilitated himself without professional help, he rejoined Buskaid, started taking lessons with me and began playing with the Ensemble once again. With single-minded determination, he worked towards auditioning for the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, and was accepted. Towards the end of 2008 he sat and passed ABRSM Grade 5 theory and was looking forward to taking his Grade 8 performance examination in 2009.

Early in the morning of 10th January 2009 Gift's mother discovered his body on the floor of his shack. He had been dragged there and abandoned. Despite all our efforts to discover what happened, nine months have passed, with still no clarity on the cause of his death. We all believe that Gift was 'clean' when he died and that he was the victim of an act of senseless criminal violence.

A few days after his death a great number of Buskaid students, past and present, gathered at the Music School for an emotional memorial service organised by our students and, the following weekend, for his funeral at the church adjacent to our school.

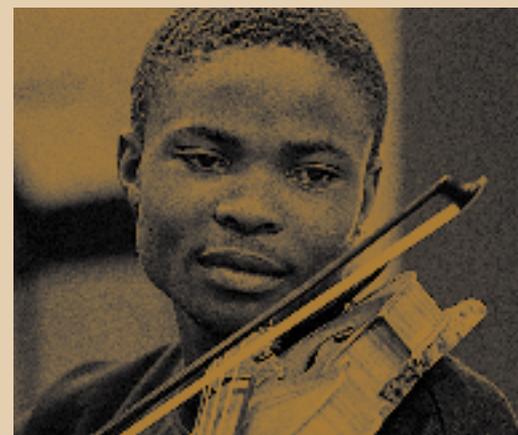
Looking back at very early footage of Gift, I am struck by the extraordinary talent of this unusual, humorous, shy boy, whose greatest passion was the music of Biber, which he would adapt for performance in township shebeens (illegal pubs). We are all devastated by the terrible waste of a talented young life – Gift was just 29 when he died – and we miss him deeply.



Pule - 2009 learnership student



Gift in 1994



BUSKAID NEWS 2009: SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

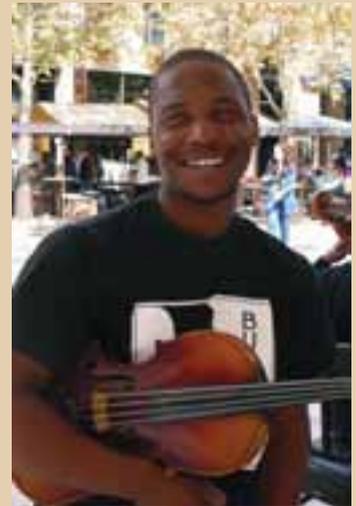
We have now set up a fund in his memory which we have called GIFT, the purpose of which is to assist Buskaid students with addictions or other social and medical problems. A percentage of the sales of *Crazy* will be channelled into this fund.

SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

Over the years we have inevitably become deeply involved in the lives of some of our more troubled students. In some, but not all cases we have been able to support these youngsters, sometimes seeking professional advice and help, but often simply offering stability through music, and a safe haven. Gift's best friend, Bafana Mthembu, who is one of our senior viola players, has also battled with addictions, and in many ways his story is similar. When I offered him the choice of remaining anonymous or being named in this newsletter, he expressed the wish to be identified.

Bafana's membership of Buskaid has been intermittent and fraught with problems, mainly because of his addictions. A year ago (and shortly before Gift's death) he came to me in desperation – I had just suspended him yet again from Buskaid – and begged me to help him get into residential rehabilitation, as he knew that time was running out for him. I made many enquiries on his behalf, but each time the stumbling block was money. And so I did what musicians do when they have a problem – I turned to other musicians! A group of my very generous friends and colleagues in the UK – and some of their friends – rallied around and donated a substantial contribution towards a three-month rehab programme at the **Sharp Addiction Centre** in Johannesburg. Sharp also helped by heavily discounting their charges, and in all Bafana spent four months there. Further generous help has recently come from Germany where Rachel Isserlis, Friederike Dierterle-Terjung and Ike Fleuter organised a productive day of music and art to provide further assistance for Bafana. The surplus from this event has been channelled into GIFT, the fund mentioned above.

Our major concern was that his return to Soweto, where drugs are so freely available, (there are a number of drug houses in Diepkloof, some very near to the Music School) would again put great pressure on Bafana. With huge generosity Sonja and her partner Heather volunteered to have him stay at their home as a 'halfway house' for a further two months until we could sort out accommodation in Soweto. Bafana, who is totally transformed by the help he has received, now lives in a 'wendy house' which we had built for him right next to the site of Gift's shack. He is paying off the costs of his home by freelancing, mainly with the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. Despite an almost inevitable relapse, he is again determinedly back on track, attending meetings at Sharp, practising hard, and bringing his six-year-old son every Saturday to the beginner violin group, where he now helps with the teaching. However Bafana's resolute struggle to cast off the curse of addiction may be his greatest teaching gift to Buskaid.



Bafana



Rachel Isserlis and friends



Bafana helping his son
Lemogang

VISIT OF IVRY GITLIS TO THE BUSKAID MUSIC SCHOOL

In February 2007 the legendary violinist Ivry Gitlis attended the Buskaid Ensemble's concert at the Cité de la Musique, Paris. Afterwards he came backstage, and with characteristic enthusiasm announced that he was so overcome by the performance he had just heard that he wanted to visit the Buskaid Music School and work with our students. Two and a half years later, and a couple of months before Ivry's 87th birthday, we welcomed him, together with the young violinist Priya Mitchell, to the Buskaid Music School. The Buskaid trustees, teachers and students are indebted to the promoter **Sara Gon** and the **Tararam** organisation for their enlightened and generous decision to support this project and to **Ivor Ichikowitz** for underwriting Ivry's entire accommodation and travel expenses in Johannesburg.

Although the internet is not readily available to many of our students, whenever they are in a position to do so they access any sites where they can listen to great violin performances. They therefore knew quite a lot about Ivry Gitlis and revered his playing, so that when he finally arrived, for them, his was an almost surreal presence.

During Ivry's three-day visit, which took place over the last weekend of June, there were many touching and inspirational moments. Particularly memorable was his emotional response to the performance by the Junior Ensemble of some Negro Spirituals. The poignancy was not lost on him and he asked them to play one of them again, this time joining in. When one of our students, Cecelia Manyama then sang a township gospel song, he was up on his feet, dancing and singing with her, to all our delight. But the most entrancing interaction took place when Ivry sang a very simple song which he had composed many years before, and the Buskaid students instantly picked up the harmonies and accompanied him. I think we all sensed the very special nature of an occasion of which we were privileged to be a part and which none of us will ever forget. And perhaps in years to come one or two of the five-year-olds may remember the violinist 82 years their senior who came to Soweto to dance, sing and play for them!

Over the next two days, 29 and 30 June, Ivry spent several hours at the Music School – wrapped up in blankets, as we had powercuts during his entire visit and it was extremely cold – working individually with a number of our advanced students. They played repertoire ranging from Bloch's *Nigun* to movements from sonatas by Johannes Brahms. This remarkable musician was still able to impart musical and technical ideas which we all found both helpful and inspirational.

In these times of instant gratification and, dare I say, the somewhat shallow values of some of today's 'youth culture', it was quite miraculous to observe the way in which the Buskaid students, in particular the adolescents, were completely mesmerised by Ivry Gitlis and all he had to say to them. After he had left, Simiso Radebe, a young violinist who aspires to become a professional musician, came to me and said quite simply 'I want to thank you for bringing Ivry Gitlis to us. It was an amazing experience and something I shall never ever forget.'



BUSKAID NEWS 2009: VISIT TO BOTSWANA

BUSKAID'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA

Since Buskaid was founded nearly twelve years ago we have travelled internationally seventeen times, but have never performed elsewhere on the African continent. Over the years many Buskaid students have expressed a keen desire to visit another African country, and the obvious first choice, in terms of distance and accessibility, was Botswana.

On July 9th, shortly after Ivry Gitlis' visit, twenty-one Ensemble musicians left Soweto in a large luxury coach, full to overflowing with our usual essential equipment – instruments, music, teaching materials, music stands, CDs, suitcases and much more. Around six hours later, after rigorous border checks on the Botswana side, we arrived at the Gaborone Sun Hotel where we stayed for the next week. With **TOTAL South Africa** as our sponsor we gave two very successful public concerts, one at Maitisong, Botswana's most popular concert venue, and one at the extravagantly named No 1 Ladies' Opera House, a converted workshop out in the countryside which houses an audience of around 50! In between the two concerts we played to a total of about 1500 school children in rural schools and at an after-school feeding scheme called Happy Home. Although the Happy Home children have been exposed to stringed instruments through the enlightened energies of their project coordinator Esther Suh, most of the school children we entertained clearly had not, and their response was ecstatic and deafening. We also managed to fit in a very successful string workshop for around 30 children at Maru a Pula School. We hope to post some video footage of these events on our website.

We greatly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of peace and tranquility we encountered in Botswana, a marked contrast to our far more stressful South African urban lives! We are indebted to **TOTAL South Africa**, the sole sponsor of this highly successful tour, which demonstrated the powerful inspirational impact which our students can have on all sorts of different communities.

We made many new friends in Botswana and are grateful to all those who worked so hard to make our stay there run smoothly – warm thanks to our chaperone Hanneke van der Merwe, our photographer Pierre du Toit, Ros Beukes, David Slater, Caiphaz Mokgethi, Esther Suh, Ghaddra Gonzalez, Faye-Marie Cloete and all the support staff at **TOTAL SA**.

We were however somewhat bemused a few days after the Maitisong concert to read a report by one enthusiastic reviewer complimenting us on our fine playing of flutes and guitars.....!

(This review is reproduced with a number of others at the end of the Newsletter.)



Rehearsing Kwela for Maitisong concert © Pierre du Toit



No 1 Ladies' Opera House



Concert in rural school



String workshop

BUSKAID NEWS 2009: PUBLIC CONCERTS

PUBLIC CONCERTS

In early August we presented two public concerts at Holy Trinity Church Braamfontein, Johannesburg, with support from **Classic fm**, **Business and Arts South Africa**, **TOTAL SA** and the PR company **Total Exposure** which is currently assisting Buskaid as part of the **Barloworld Artworks Mentoring Programme**, run through BASA.

The programmes were almost identical to those we had performed in Botswana and included music by Henry Purcell, to mark the 350th anniversary of his birth, a bracket of Fritz Kreisler encores, movements from JS Bach's third and sixth Brandenburg concertos, two Gymnopédies by Eric Satie and much more besides. Both concerts were warmly received by capacity audiences and the Ensemble's playing was of an extremely high standard. A number of talented musicians were showcased as soloists throughout the programme; the second concert also marked the final appearance of our two scholarship students before they set off for the UK. Paul Boekkooi's glowing review is reproduced on the last page.

A couple of weeks previously – this was indeed a busy time! – we presented a recital at one of our favourite Johannesburg venues, the elegant Herbert Baker residence, Northwards, in Parktown. We are grateful to the **Northwards Trust** for donating the venue, and we warmly thank our very loyal sponsor **Leaders Unlimited** who underwrote the costs of this concert as part of their 2009 sponsorship of Buskaid. The intention of this recital was to feature a brief 'performance' by our new beginners alongside our most senior and highly accomplished students, of whom two were preparing for their departure to the Academy and two more for their ABRSM Diploma examinations. The enormous contrast was a source of great fascination to the audience, who – like all of us – found it hard to believe that the four older students, who presented sophisticated programmes including movements of Brahms sonatas, had started out less than ten years ago sounding just like these little beginners! We were most fortunate that the distinguished South African pianist and Chair of our Board of Trustees, Jill Richards, was available to play with our students.

In October we held a short recital in the Music School about ten days before the ABRSM Diploma exams. A small but supportive audience gave Simiso Radebe and Cecelia Manyama a warm reception as they played through their half-hour recital programmes. Throughout 2009 both students have worked very hard indeed for this demanding examination, receiving much detailed instruction for the viva voce and its written aspect from two part-time teachers, Hester Beukes and Paul Boekkooi. Their exam took place on October 14th and we hope to receive the results before Christmas. For Cecelia this was a particularly big achievement as she has suffered a great deal of muscular pain this year and was often unable to play for very long. Although we are very aware of correct body usage and have the support of our Alexander teacher Nanette Andersen, who offers regular lessons to our students, some still do experience the type of



Kabelo and Jill Richards performing at Northwards



The beginners playing at Northwards
© Pierre du Toit



Simiso's recital

BUSKAID NEWS 2009: CRAZY AND SOWETO STRINGS

pain that can result from long periods of intensive practice. We are really grateful to Debbie Davidson, a wonderful physiotherapist who has treated Cecelia free of charge throughout 2009.

CRAZY AND SOWETO STRINGS

This year we have released two important new Buskaid recordings - our fifth CD, *Crazy* and our first DVD, *Soweto Strings*.

The majority of the tracks on *Crazy* were recorded back in 2004 in Potton Hall, Suffolk, and the intention was that the CD should be released soon afterwards. Time pressures in bringing all the necessary components together delayed the release, but this allowed us to add some really exciting new tracks, which we recorded in South Africa in 2008. The production of just one CD involves a huge amount of work, not only around the actual musical content, but also on the design and content of the booklet. Three-way contact between our producer Nick Parker, designer Aubrey Kurlansky (both of whom live in the UK) and myself took place intermittently over nearly six months before we were finally satisfied with the result, which we feel is in every respect of professional quality.

Crazy is a compilation of favourite classic pops, including *Mamma Mia*, *Sweet Dreams* and many others, brilliantly arranged by Timothy Kraemer. It also includes several witty arrangements by Bill Thorp, of Broadway hits such as *Let's Do It* and *Makin' Whoopee*. It was launched on July 18th at Stuttafords, a luxury department store in Johannesburg's Sandton City Mall, and our appearance there attracted quite a crowd. We were delighted that Mike Mills from Classic fM could join us to welcome the public and enthuse about Buskaid. We have already sold around 500 copies locally and internationally, and we hope that as Christmas approaches sales will continue to rise.

Soweto Strings, Mark Kidel's brilliant and highly successful documentary which has been shown extensively around the world, is now available for purchase online; the DVD also includes *The Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble in Performance*, a film of our acclaimed concert in the Cité de la Musique, Paris. The programme includes works by Mozart, Grieg, Rameau and Bartók as well as some popular encores, with vocals by the project's young singers, and the Buskaid musicians' own string arrangements of traditional South African township kwela. It can be purchased in South Africa from our offices in Johannesburg (contact details on page 15) as well as via the Buskaid website, and will make a most unusual and inspirational Christmas gift. We are very grateful to **Ivor Ichikowitz** for generously underwriting the entire production costs and donating the proceeds of all sales to Buskaid.



Crazy launch



Mike Mills from Classic fM



BUSKAID NEWS 2009: SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

GENERAL NEWS

Early in April I travelled to Vienna to give a talk at the International Conference of the European String Teachers Association (ESTA). Using very old footage of my first visits to Soweto, I tracked Buskaid's progress right through to our performance at the BBC Proms in 2007. The talk was very well received and was subsequently reported in Sweden's ESTA magazine, which also bore a rather unusual photo on its front cover! The conference was particularly nostalgic for me as I was able to go to a masterclass given by the distinguished Italian viola player Bruno Guiranna, whose courses in Siena and Prussia Cove I had attended in the 1970s.

Later in the year I was very fortunate to be invited to play in Sir John Eliot Gardiner's *Israel in Egypt* concert tour of Europe, in the company of old friends and colleagues, some of whom I see very rarely. This was a chance to recharge my personal musical batteries and experience some really inspirational moments such as playing under John Eliot's baton in Pisa Cathedral with one of the finest baroque orchestras and choirs in the world. In my absence my assistant teachers very ably took over the entire teaching of all our upper strings.

During 2009 we received many emails of support (and pledges of donations) from people who had seen *Soweto Strings* in Australia, Canada, the USA and Germany. An article about Buskaid was published in the Chinese edition of *Marie Claire* magazine! We also welcomed numbers of visitors to the Music School, including the Eton College Chapel Choir, a large contingent of guests from Sidmore College, USA and a group of bushmen from the Kalahari, with whom our students enjoyed a cross-cultural musical interaction. In August our double bass students worked with Catrin Dowd, a talented young bassist from Michigan. Another August visitor was the American-based photographer Luca Zordan whose book *Children of South Africa*, to be published next year, will include photographs of some of our beginners. Our most recent guests (November 2009) were members of a folk ensemble from the Czech Republic with whom a group of our students spent a couple of very enjoyable hours playing both traditional folk music from Southern Moravia and township Kwela – despite a serious lack of any common spoken language!

A brief mention once again of the film *Skin*, part of whose soundtrack we were invited to record in 2008 by its producer Tony Fabian. Since its release earlier this year *Skin* has won numerous awards including several for the score and its composer, H el ene Muddiman. We are very proud to be a part of this great success story.



Visit of Moravian folk musicians



With Lucas Radebe at Hospice fundraiser
 Shireen Arbuthnot

BUSKAID NEWS 2009: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

And finally – our small ensemble, consisting of seven or eight senior students (sometimes joined by Kgotso as a trainee), has been very busy this year performing at numbers of corporate gigs and, in doing so, raising both our profile as well as much-needed funds. All these musicians receive fees for their playing. Some of them have also started freelancing in Johannesburg’s two main professional symphony orchestras, and, as they are all employed by Buskaid as teachers, they are kept well occupied.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT - AND SOME GOOD NEWS!

There is no doubt that fundraising for Buskaid over the past couple of years has become a far greater challenge. Both last year and this we have had to fall back on our reserves, as some sources of sponsorship are simply no longer available. Meanwhile a few of our very loyal South African sponsors continue to support us through these financially constrained times; we are very aware of our good fortune in receiving this support, as some other arts projects have been forced to close because of the recession. Early in 2009 we were also fortunate to have acquired - through the tireless pro bono assistance of **KPMG** - the much coveted “Section 18A” status. This allows tax deductions to our South African donors, corporate and individual, for their generous contributions.

Very recently we have received some excellent funding news here in South Africa, from the UK and from the USA.

SOUTH AFRICA

A few weeks ago we were notified by the **South African National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF)** that our 2009 application was successful and that we have been awarded a very substantial grant for a wide spectrum of specific projects over the next three years. We are absolutely delighted to have just received the first tranche of this grant and we acknowledge with gratitude the NLDTF’s generous support, which not only brings huge relief from the considerable burden of fundraising we’ve experienced over the past few years, but will enable us to embark on many exciting new projects.

UNITED KINGDOM

This year we were delighted to have been selected for The Big Give’s ‘Million Match’ matched fundraising challenge. By the end of September we had built up a fund of £10,000 through a number of very generous gifts, giving us the potential to unlock a further £10,000 from **The Reed Foundation** in December through matched funding of donations made at www.thebiggive.org.uk

Earlier this year the **London International Orchestra** presented a Gala Concert featuring two rising young South African opera stars, in aid of Buskaid. We are extremely grateful to the founder and chairman, Sarah Aaronson who, as a former South African, chose Buskaid as the beneficiary. This concert raised a substantial donation for Buskaid.



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BUSKAID NEWS 2009: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

USA

For the fifth time running (no pun intended) our stalwart supporter Jim Halliday, who is one of our Buskaid USA trustees, has completed the New York Marathon in aid of Buskaid USA. Over the years Jim's efforts have raised a magnificent \$24,928 for Buskaid and we warmly thank him for his dedicated and affectionate commitment to our students.

INSTRUMENT DONATIONS

Over the years we have built up an impressive collection of instruments, the majority of which have been donated to us from all corners of the globe. Whilst all these instruments are not in use all the time, the scope of our collection means that we can usually find exactly the right instrument for a particular child whenever we need to. Although we'd like to, we cannot acknowledge every donor individually, but mention should be made of a few special cases. Last year we received a violin which belonged to Mimi Hutchings, who died very tragically at the age of 23 in a boating accident three decades ago. The donor was a great friend of Buskaid, John Sidgwick, who himself died earlier this year. We recently received a lovely 3/4 size violin donated by the Salford Symphony Orchestra in memory of their former violinist colleague, the late Ian Mackay. In the same shipment we received a magnificent gift of eight violins from David and Margaret Leather. A beautiful cello, from an unusual source came via our great supporters J & A Beare in London who suggested to the generous donor Anthony Phillips, founder member of the band Genesis, that Buskaid would be a worthy recipient. There are many such stories of friends, acquaintances and supporters who have given us an instrument which already has a history and is now embarking on the next phase of its life.

Instruments coming to us from the UK are collected by **Grahams Hi-Fi** and immaculately packaged, before being air-freighted to South Africa, a service for which we are deeply grateful. All violins, violas and cellos donated to Buskaid are carefully looked after and maintained, and very greatly valued.

OTHER WAYS OF GIVING

Some of the support we receive can range from donations made in memory of a supporter, or in lieu of a birthday present, or the offer of practical help such as catering for a Buskaid event.

In Memoriam – Mary Sheppard

Mary Sheppard was a staunch and generous supporter of Buskaid right from its early beginnings. When she died last year we were very touched to receive a handsome donation in her memory from her daughter Sue, who wished to mark her mother's passing by giving to a charity which was close to her heart.



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BUSKAID NEWS 2009: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Editors' royalties

We recently received the first instalment of an imaginative donation in the form of the editorial royalties from the sales of *South African Economic Policy Under Democracy* (OUP March 2009).

Auction proceeds

In Johannesburg we were delighted to have been chosen as the beneficiaries of an unusual auction held in October. A collection of intricate and beautiful paper cut-outs by Hazel Buchan and other fabulous items as featured in *Business Day's Wanted* magazine reached excellent prices, and a substantial donation has now been made to the Trust. We are indebted to *Wanted's* Editor Gary Cotterell, Antoinette van Wyk and Estelle Cooper, Stephan Welz & Company, all the generous bidders and the companies who donated lots for auction.

Throughout this very busy and productive year there has been a steady stream of support from many people, both here in South Africa and internationally. In the UK, our Trustees chaired by Andrey Kidel have been extremely proactive in fundraising, networking and general support, particularly for Kabelo and Tiisetso, whilst our administrator Cathy Boyes was very successful in generating the necessary funds to reach our September target for The Big Give.

In South Africa we were delighted that Nicola Danby, the former CEO of BASA agreed to join our Board of Trustees earlier this year. Nicola has brought a wide range of skills and much wisdom to the Board and we feel most fortunate to have her as part of our team. I am personally very grateful for the support I receive from this team, in particular Sonja Bass, Nicola Danby, Nomvulo Nzimande, Jill Richards and Jabulile Zondo, all of whom attend our monthly EXCOs whenever they can. In Soweto, Sonja's formidable contributions as a teacher and her considerable instrument repair skills are a vital part of our continuing success, whilst it is our great good fortune to have as our 'resident pianist', one of South Africa's finest artists, Jill Richards, who most generously donates all the time she gives us. The extensive administration involved in running the Johannesburg office has been managed with great efficiency by Anne Bull, and Lesego Mokonoto's skills as violist, teacher, kombi driver, video editor and computer buff are without parallel!

On behalf of everyone connected with Buskaid – students, teachers, parents, trustees and helpers, I wish you Compliments of the forthcoming Festive Season and thank you all very warmly for your continuing support.

Rosemary Nalden



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BUSKAID NEWS 2009: WEBSITES AND CONTACT DETAILS

WEBSITES AND RELATED INFORMATION

Buskaid – www.buskaid.org.za

Mark Kidel – www.calliopemedia.co.uk

Aubrey Kurlansky – <http://www.aubreykurlansky.co.uk>

Pierre du Toit – <http://www.mylensandi.com/>

Jill Richards – www.jillrichards.com

Skin CD – <http://www.helenemuddiman.com/shop>

South African Economic Policy Under Democracy (OUP)

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/South-African-Economic-Democracy/dp/0199551464>

Key Issues in Early Education (Routledge) ed Sandra Smidt is dedicated to Gift Moloisane and includes a chapter written by Rosemary Nalden about the impact of classical music on the lives of township children.

http://www.amazon.com/Key-Issues-Early-Years-Education/dp/0415465257/ref=dp_ob_title_bk#noop



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CONTACT DETAILS

South Africa

The Buskaid Trust (IT4749/99)

Director: Rosemary Nalden

Administrator: Anne Bull

Tel: +27 11 442 9676

Fax: +27 11 788 4461

Email: bull@buskaid.org.za

rosemary@buskaid.org.za

PO Box 1598

Parklands 2121

Johannesburg



United Kingdom

The Buskaid Trust (1015089)

Administrator: Cathy Boyes

Tel: +44 (0) 1420 86267

Email: cathy.boyes@buskaid.co.uk

Elmdon, Southwood Road

Shalden, Nr Alton

Hampshire GU34 4DX

United States of America

Buskaid Inc

30-0248523

Chief Operating Officer: Brenda Shick

Tel: +1 330 524 4143

Email: chefveggie@centurytel.net

2503 Village Court

Vermilion, OH 44089

USA

DONATIONS

The Buskaid Trust has been awarded Section 18A status in South Africa.

Donations are therefore tax exempt. Donations worldwide can be made online at www.buskaid.org.za or by post to the addresses above.

If you would like to donate to GIFT please email our South African office for further information.

