

Dear Friends of YONA,

We have come to the end of a busy and fruitful year, and we have much to be thankful for. Our students have progressed as musicians and they have also shown so much personal growth. Please watch this video to get a glimpse of life at YONA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

This would not have been possible without our sponsors Stichting Horizon, B2Gold, Gondwana Care Trust, RMB, through the Firstrand Namibia Foundation Trust and DNG (Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft). There are also many individual sponsors who give funds monthly to support a YONA child or a teacher. We are grateful to every individual who has donated instruments and accessories, and to every person who has given time and expertise to YONA. Your contribution makes life at YONA possible!

NEW VOLUNTEERS

During the last quarter of the year, our new volunteers; Elea Lohkemper, Marieke Frank, Katharina Denk and Hannah Jehle have settled into their work at YONA with remarkable ease and enthusiasm. It seems that we have known them all for a long time already!

PERFORMANCES

Some of our strings students also participated in the Concerto Festival of the Namibian National Symphony Orchestra. Some of them were part of the orchestra, and we also had a violinist perform a movement of a concerto as soloist.

Another highlight this quarter was a performance of our senior strings students at an fundraiser for the One Economy Foundation, in the presence of His Excellency President Hage Geingob and First Lady Monica Geingos.

Equally important is our community outreaches, such as a performance by our woodwinds students at the Oude Rust retirement home and a strings performance an event organised by one of our sponsors, B2Gold.

YEAR-END CONCERTS

YONA has grown so much since the pandemic lifted, that we are now unable to fit everyone together on one stage! Therefore, we presented three concerts in November: one for recorders, one for orchestral woodwinds, and one for strings. There were ensemble items for the different levels, some solo items, and some items where everyone, from beginner to advanced, could participate. It was so inspiring to witness the growth in the individual children as well as in the group dynamics.

HOLIDAY TIME!

After our strings concert, which was on 18 November, we closed for lessons, although the centre stayed open for the 'crafts weeks' in which the volunteers had some fun activities prepared for children.

The final event for the years was a Christmas service, followed by a party, organised by the student monitors and our volunteers.

YONA's office will be closed from 15 December to 8 January, and we will open again for lessons on 22 January.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful time together with family and friends:

“For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon his shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:5

Merry Christmas!

Gretel Coetzee

Director of YONA