

ISME National Affiliate (INA) organizational profile

Name and 'nation' of ISME National Affiliate organisation

The South African Society of Music Teachers (SASMT). Southern Africa.

Membership

Currently, the society consists of 7 ordinary centres and 33 institutional centres with more than 900 members in total.

Membership categories comprise professional members (individual) in the following regions: Durban and Pietermaritzburg in the province of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Johannesburg and Pretoria in the Gauteng province, Kroonstad in the Free State province, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province and Tygerberg in the Western Cape province. Teachers who live in areas far removed from main centres, become independent members. Teaching staff at schools and Universities join as institutional members while music students may join at a reduced membership fee.

Teachers applying for professional membership are persons with academic and professional music qualifications and /or relevant practical experience in music teaching. Individuals or corporates who support music teaching, join the SASMT as supporting members.

Centres may, from time to time nominate deserving members for life membership; honorary membership is bestowed on members who have served the society in a special capacity over many years.

The SASMT is governed by 3 Directors, Council, an Executive Committee and a Standing Committee.

Affiliation/relationships with other partners, for example provincial/territorial/regional partners

The SASMT has for many years liaised with most of the South African Universities that support the aims of the society and had been represented at a committee of the Directorate of the University of South Africa, but sadly this relationship ended a year ago because of a change in the structure of the system of the music examinations at Unisa.

An important partner of the SASMT, SAMRO (South African Music Rights Organisation), regularly sponsors the SASMT's annual magazine, and music competitions under the auspices of the SASMT.

The South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation (SANYOF) was initiated by the SASMT and one of our longstanding honorary members still represents the society on the Board.

The annual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival, South Africa, attracts participants from most African countries as well as from countries as far as the USA.

Other stakeholders in South Africa are:

SASRIM (South African Society for Research in Music), Pretoria Ensemble Competition, Pretoria Eisteddfod, Pretoria Afrikaanse Kunstwedstryd /Arts Festival, Centurion Kunstefees/Arts Festival, Noorderkruin Kunstefees/Arts Festival, Il Vento

Blaserkompetisie/Winds competition (Pretoria), Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music, Kempton Park Kunswedstryd/Arts Festival, Monument Instrumental Eisteddfod (Krugersdorp), RACA = Randfontein High kunswedstryd/Arts Festival, Phillip Moore Competition (Johannesburg), Roedean – Yamaha Competition (Johannesburg), Hoëveldrif Eisteddfod (Secunda), Rustenburg Platinum Eisteddfod, Nelspruit Eisteddfod, Kroonstad Eisteddfod, Vrystaatse Kunswedstryd/Free State Arts Festival (Bloemfontein), National Grahamstown Music Competition, Tygerberg International Eisteddfod, SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition, Paarl Vallei Eisteddfod, Worcester Eisteddfod, Cape Peninsula Eisteddfod, Stellenbosch Eisteddfod, SASMT Pietermaritzburg Eisteddfod, Knock on Wood Arts Festival (Woodridge Port Elizabeth), SASMT Music Competition (Port Elizabeth), Mini Maestros Music Competition (Port Elizabeth), Despatch Eisteddfod (Eastern Cape), Sondagsrivier Eisteddfod, Pearson High School Eisteddfod, Tygerberg Eisteddfod, Johann Vos Klavierkompetisie/Piano competition, Paarl Eisteddfod

Brief history and operational/organisational context

The South African Society of Music Teachers was formed in 1919 in Johannesburg.

One of the important aims of the Society was realised in October 1931 with the publication of the first issue of *The South African Music Teacher*, serving as the Official journal of the Society for the publication of information of interest to music professionals and educators. Currently the journal is published annually and distributed to all members and stakeholders. Four scholarships are available to students of SASMT members for a variety of instruments. The bursary funds are administrated by the SASMT annually.

Regional Conferences are organised by Regional Vice-Presidents, including lectures, workshops, music festivals and concerts. The SASMT elects its President annually at the National Conference and AGM which is held in different regions. The President convenes the society's Executive Committee which is responsible for the annual conferences.

National competitions include the SANLAM Music Competition for Primary School pupils presented by the Tygerberg Centre of the SASMT, and the National Youth Music Competition for High School pupils, known as the SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Competition. Recently, a successful national ensemble competition was launched in Pretoria.

Relations between *The South African Society of Music Teachers* and educational and examining bodies such as Unisa, ABRSM and Trinity College of Music have always been cordial. The SASMT is open to liaise with Education authorities and institutions regarding the interests of music education role players.

The vision, mission and aims of the SASMT include the following:

To abide with the Constitutional values of non-racism, non-sexism, non-discrimination and promotion of human rights; to bring Music Education and our rich and varied culture to as many people as possible throughout all areas of Southern Africa and to work for the good of music in any way concerning the music teaching profession in Southern Africa. The SASMT aims to promote the unification of the music teaching profession; to further the interests of the profession collectively and individually and to maintain a high standard of professional competence and dignity.

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