

Legacy Project Choral Programme Report Term 1 2020

2020 heralds a new season of handing over choirs to local Champagne Valley residents Charlotte Bower, Lynne Sclanders, Gill Green and Mark Wallace. An initial meeting at the beginning of the term proved fruitful as each of the above committed to assisting in class music and training choirs in our 5 schools. Despite their initial hesitance and some reluctance, they've grown in confidence and are now very enthusiastic about their work.

Lynne has taken on the Gr 3's at Meadowsweet, a new group for the Legacy Project. The large class of 50 students has been split into 2 groups. Lynne then assists Charlotte with the choir at Meadowsweet.

Charlotte has taken over the choir at Celimfundo, whilst continuing to take the 3 Grade 3 classes there. She is still taking the Gr 3 classes at Inkosi Mjwayeli. Her initial hesitance last year, has made way for a desire to work with more choirs. She is learning to deal with the staff in these schools, and engaging with them in a diplomatic way.

Mark Wallace has taken on the choir at Inkosi Mjwayeli with Gill Green's assistance. Mark is willing to travel to our 2 furthest schools, Emadolabheni and Sofisosethu, but rainy weather delayed us starting, due to the condition of the road. On Friday 14th February I travelled up to take Mark to these 2 schools. Unfortunately, Sofisosethu contacted me whilst I was on the road to warn us not to come due to a local community strike. We successfully visited Emadolabheni where I observed Mark taking the choir. I offered some advice and will need to follow up on how he approaches the teaching. Bill Carter will take Mark to Sofisosethu next week. Mark is very keen to take weekly rehearsals without remuneration, in order to get going and up to speed.

I will continue to offer support, advice and encouragement to these staff, and on my trips will endeavor to get to as many schools as possible. I'm hampered by my availability being limited to a Friday.

Dates for the choir workshops at DBCS are confirmed, and all staff have been notified. Charlotte cannot attend due to her work commitments, but I've encouraged her to attend a regular morning rehearsal at DBCS to observe Bernard at work.

I have selected Meadowsweet to attend Festival in the Hills this year. The date is Friday 29th July and Charlotte will prepare the choir, and attend the Festival with them. I'm not available on that date, but it isn't necessary for me to be there. I will liaise with the FITH committee on all arrangements.

I met with Nathi Ndlovu of the DOE at the start of the year and he has committed to providing the transport for FITH, for the Siyacula concert as well as for any school wishing to enter the ABRSM Choral Exam. I have given him these dates.

Concerning the ABRSM exam, I have not had an indication of interest from any of the schools. The pressure on our fairly new and inexperienced staff to prepare these choirs would possibly deter them, so it is just as well. This can be a goal for the future.

In summing up, I strongly believe that we are moving forward with the involvement of these new staff. They are inexperienced and need some supervision, but they are enthusiastic and there is the potential to grow them in both their abilities, as well as their capacities to take on more groups and schools. I look forward to working with them during the year.