



Legacy Project Choral Programme Report Term 4 2019

The Legacy Project has had an exceptional year with the Siyacula Concert this term highlighting remarkable progress. Every school was conducted by their own staff, and the movement of children off and on stage was polished and slick. I was thrilled that the concert came in under the 2 hour mark after running badly overtime last year, and every child and teacher worked to ensure the programme ran smoothly.

Musically and linguistically, some ground has been lost over the second half of the year, due to the reduction of visits to schools, and with teachers taking over training and rehearsing their choirs. But this is offset by the progress in empowering staff to take on a bigger role in conducting their choirs. There is a marked shift in the responsibility of staff to take ownership of their choirs, and they were all greatly encouraged by their success at the concert. I trust that regular workshops with DBCS will materialize in 2020.

Celimfundo's result of a B+ in the ABRSM Choral Examination was an excellent achievement considering I had wanted to withdraw from the exam the week before, due to inconsistent attendance at rehearsals, and a general lack of preparation. After engaging with the Principal and Ms Majola, an agreement was undertaken to ensure the choir was sufficiently prepared. The regular choir rehearsal time after school hours (2-2:45 each Wednesday) proved to be unworkable. However, the success of their participation in the exam has drawn considerable attention from ABRSM, the Department of Education, and other schools around the country. This is due to the accessibility of this International Exam qualification to under-resourced and rural schools. I hope that all our partner schools will be able to enter this exam in 2020.

Charlotte Bower's participation in teaching the Grade 3's at Celimfundo and Inkosi Mjwayeli and the choir at Meadowsweet has been a great success. Despite being somewhat reluctant, she has grown in confidence and staff are happy to work with her. She is not willing to take on more responsibilities, due to her piano teaching schedule and family commitments, but she is a great asset to the Project.

Attempts to draw in Lynne Sclanders unfortunately were fruitless, despite her initial enthusiasm. With her young family demanding greater attention than she expected, I have not managed to engage with her further.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to Bill Carter and all the Legacy Project role players for their vision and support. I'm also extremely grateful to Bernard Kruger for his mentorship and encouragement. I have learnt more in these last 3 years than in all my previous teaching – a very steep learning curve! At times it has been very hard, but it has also been extremely rewarding. I am happy to continue to support and mentor the Project, but the travelling and grueling schedule have been overwhelming, and my health has suffered this year as a result. My prayer is that the Legacy Project will grow from strength to strength and will continue to impact many more young children and their teachers.