

# MUSIC VOYAGE MISSIVE

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF MUSIC VOYAGE

Dear friends and supporters of Music Voyage,  
 We send this newsletter with happy hearts as recently three of our Lions River Primary violin players took part in the South African Suzuki Association's Annual National Concert at the Linder Auditorium in Johannesburg. What an extraordinary achievement.



“ *Nawe Lions River Primary School  
 awumncinyane* ”  
 - Principal Slondile Mhlongo

Directly translated from isiZulu, this phrase means, ‘You, Lions River Primary School, are not small’. It’s a beautiful sentiment that perfectly sums up how eagerly these three pupils embarked on an epic journey to Johannesburg, and with a little trepidation and a lot of enthusiasm took to the stage to perform with other violin students from across the country.

These Lions River learners lived large, experiencing a flurry of firsts in addition to their debut on the Linder Auditorium’s sensational stage.

This special trip is part of a much longer musical journey that has been playing out at the school for a number of years thanks to Music Voyage, their school principal, Slondile Mhlongo, and their dedicated violin teacher, Carol Solomon.



**Music Voyage**

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“Whether we're on a Marimba Tour to Cape Town or taking a talented trio of violin players to Johannesburg to celebrate their skills at the Linder Auditorium, we are so appreciative of the opportunities we can provide as Music Voyage and we hope to continue working with the talented children in our communities for years to come. - Katherine McClelland”



Music Voyage has been supporting the school with the provision of music lessons and instruments, and it's this consistent care that allowed the children to be transported to Johannesburg in the Music Voyage bus.

Following a fantastic send-off from their supportive community at 4am, the children went straight to the Linder Auditorium for a group rehearsal. 'They didn't know what to expect and they were nervous,' says Mhlongo who travelled with the children, 'but by Sunday's concert they were fine! I encouraged them by telling them they shouldn't let anything stop them.' And after their initial bout of cold feet, they didn't! They confidently informed their principal that they planned to learn all the new musical pieces so next time they're invited to the concert they can join in with every performance.

The children spent the night at the Holiday Inn, they went swimming in the hotel pool despite the weather, and then enjoyed a bit of free time marveling at the Joburg Zoo.

**This trip saw the Music Voyage violinists enjoy a rehearsal with the The Wykeham Collegiate strings players before the big event which was a lovely learning experience for both schools. Coming up, they have been entered into the SASMT Eisteddfod in August. Watch this space!**

In other news, the original Music Voyage marimba band is going strong, with a recent gig day, playing at both St John's Lifestyle Centre in Howick and The Quarry Centre in Hilton. This is a testament to their professionalism and independence - something we take great pride in at Music Voyage.



We are also very excited to announce that Music Voyage is nurturing a new primary school marimba band, and this has taken off with a bang. The children are enjoying lessons with Justice Hakata on Fridays after school, and throughout the school holidays.



***Our Marimba Band is available for bookings in 2023! We love performing at local events to give our hardworking young musicians the chance to show off their skills. Please contact Katherine on 0824139843 to make a booking!***

*If you've received this newsletter and think someone else might be interested in our project, please feel free to forward it to your friends and family. While we are grateful for the support received already, we are always hoping for more.*

***Take care,  
Katherine and the Music Voyage team***

**Partner with Music Voyage today, and change lives through music.  
We are a registered NPO and Section21 Company and can issue  
Section 18A tax certificates**