



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

ENDLER PRESTIGE CONCERT SERIES

Friday 10 May 2024 | 19:00

A NIGHT AT THE PIANO

with 2023 UNISA National
Piano Competition Winners

Gerhard Joubert (classical)

Brathew van Schalkwyk (jazz)

endler.sun.ac.za

concerts@sun.ac.za



DIE RUPERT- MUSIEKSTIGTING
RUPERT MUSIC FOUNDATION

¹⁶⁹²
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A NIGHT AT THE PIANO

PROGRAMME

GERHARD JOUBERT

CLASSICAL PIANO

From Suite in D major, RCT3: <i>I. Les tendres plaintes</i>	J-P Rameau (1683-1764)
From Suite in E minor, RCT2: <i>V. Le rappel des oiseaux</i>	
Impromptu in G-flat major, Op. 90 No. 3	F Schubert (1797-1828)
Nocturne No. 2 in B major, Op. 33 No. 2	G Fauré (1845-1924)
Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60	F Chopin (1810-1849)
Tristia <i>III. Berceuse</i>	A van Wyk (1916-1983)
L'isle joyeuse, L. 106	C Debussy (1862-1918)

INTERVAL

BRATHEW VAN SCHALKWYK

JAZZ PIANO

District 6	Abdullah Ibrahim (1933*)
Emkhathini	Nduduzo Makhathini (1982*)
Miss Tried'n	Brathew van Schalkwyk (1997*)
Lush Life	Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967)
Hope Spring	Bokani Dyer (1986*)
Nascimento	Barry Harris (1929-2021)

PROGRAMME NOTES (provided by the artists)

J-P Rameau – From the Suites in D major, RCT3 and E minor, RCT2

Mashatile meets with Rand Water leadership to address water challenges Gerhard's first half recital begins with the exquisite keyboard music of Jean-Philippe Rameau, a prominent figure of the French Baroque period. The two selected works from his Suites for harpsichord, *Les tendres plaintes* (Tender Complaints) and *Le rappel des oiseaux* (Birdcalls), are a perfect showcase of Rameau's gift for mood painting and storytelling through music.

F Schubert – Impromptu in G-flat major, Op. 90 No. 3

In his *Impromptu in G flat major, Op. 90 No. 3*, Schubert's lyrical melodies and rich harmonic palette are deployed to balance introspection with moments of turbulence. Pianist András Schiff refers to this piece as "The Singer and the Brook", with the right hand melody representing a singer and the flowing accompaniment figures representing a brook. The term "Impromptu" means "composed on the spur of the moment", hence the improvisatory nature of this well-loved work.

G Fauré – Nocturne No. 2 in B major, Op. 33 No. 2

Gabriel Fauré's 13 *Nocturnes* and 13 *Barcarolles* are generally regarded as his greatest piano works. The *Nocturnes* (or Night Pieces) can be lyrical and elegiac, but also impassioned and even anguished in spirit. In his relatively early *Nocturne No. 2 in B major*, dating from 1883, he is already experimenting with the use of non-traditional modes and scales, in this case the octatonic scale.

F Chopin – Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60

The majestic *Barcarolle* (a composition inspired by Venetian gondola songs) by Frédéric Chopin, written three years before his death, is one of his last major compositions – and also one of his most demanding works, both technically and musically. Chopin's love of the 'Bellinian' operatic style is evident, with the double notes in the right hand and the arpeggiated accompaniment in the left hand imitating the melismatic style of Italian bel canto singing. The writing for the right hand becomes increasingly complex, with multiple lines being interwoven without the music ever losing its emotional directness and power.

A van Wyk – Berceuse from Tristia

In 1972, Arnold van Wyk chose the title “Tristia” for a set compiled from three earlier piano pieces. This title refers simultaneously to Ovid’s set of elegiac poems written in exile from Rome to Tomis from AD 8 to 12, and the Afrikaans poet, NP van Wyk Louw’s 1962 volume, *Tristia, en ander verse, voorspele en vlugte*, written while he was professor at the Gemeentelijke Universiteit van Amsterdam. The *Berceuse* (Lullaby) is the third of Arnold Van Wyk’s set, and is his last piano composition. The idea of being in exile, or being an outsider, permeates the whole set, and one can argue that Arnold van Wyk only felt “at home” in his art.

C Debussy – L’isle joyeuse L. 106

Claude Debussy’s virtuosic masterpiece, *L’isle joyeuse* (The Joyful Island) is said to have been inspired by the painting *L’embarquement pour Cythère* (Embarkment to Cythera) by the Rococo painter, Jean-Antoine Watteau. Debussy’s kaleidoscopic palette of colors and textures transports listeners to the mythical island of Cythera, birthplace of Venus, where joy, love and celebration abound.

Abdullah Ibrahim – District Six

The music of the iconic Abdullah Ibrahim reflects many of the musical influences of his childhood in the multicultural port areas of Cape Town, ranging from traditional African songs to the gospel of the AME Church, and Ragas, to more modern jazz and other Western styles. Ibrahim is considered the leading figure in the subgenre of Cape jazz. Within jazz, his music particularly reflects the influence of Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington. He is known especially for “Mannenberg”, a jazz piece that became a notable anti-apartheid anthem. “District Six” reflects the memories of the area where Ibrahim grew up.

Nduduzo Makhathini – Emkhathini

Born in Pietermaritzburg, Makhathini focuses on the spiritual side of jazz, combining modern sensibilities with ideas inspired by his Zulu heritage. He completed his Diploma in Jazz Piano at the Durban University of Technology in 2005, and obtained a PhD in Music from the University of Stellenbosch in 2023. Among numerous other awards, he is the recipient of the 2015 Standard Bank Young Artist Award in the category of Jazz.

At the 2017 All Africa Music Awards, Makhathini won the Best Jazz Artist award. Due to his musical output, which includes recordings made for the famed Blue Note label, he has been described by Seton Hawkins of *All About Jazz* as "a truly singular pianist, an astonishingly gifted composer, and a deeply nuanced thinker on the music... one of South Africa's most remarkable talents."

Brathew van Schalkwyk – Miss Tried'n

This is the middle piece of Brathew's three-part suite *Tried and Missed*, about all kinds of opportunities missed for a variety of reasons. The suite will feature on his debut album, to be released later this year.

Billy Strayhorn – Lush Life

Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life" is well known as a harmonically intricate and melodic masterpiece. Less well known is the complex, often dramatic story behind the song. Strayhorn first conceived the song while still a precocious teenager, but he remained adamant that "Lush Life" was a private project and only something to perform at intimate gatherings. This was a personal song and as an openly gay man, alluded to his sexuality.

Bokani Dyer – Hope Spring

Born in Botswana, Dyer studied jazz in Cape Town and graduated with distinction. Since then, he has become a well known jazz presence both locally and abroad. Dyer has recorded five albums under his own name. His debut album, *Mirrors*, was released in 2010, and provides a strong indication of the style and artistic trajectory he continues to pursue. *Emancipate the Story* (2011), was recorded during his tenure as Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year and as a part of the award. Dyer continues his musical journey, exploring the tradition and furthering the contemporary landscape of SA jazz through his compositions.

Barry Harris – Nascimento

Barry Doyle Harris was an American jazz pianist, bandleader, composer, arranger, and educator. He was an exponent of the bebop style. Influenced by Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell, Harris in turn influenced and mentored bebop musicians including Donald Byrd, Paul Chambers, Curtis Fuller, Joe Henderson, Charles McPherson, and Michael Weiss. His recording catalogue is extensive, and his influence continues to this day.

THE ARTISTS



GERHARD JOUBERT

Gerhard Joubert began piano lessons at the age of 9 under Alta du Preez (2011) and continued his studies under Bea de Wit (2011-2014), Hanneke Zwamborn (2015-2016) and Ruthette du Toit (2017).

Later in 2017, he began studies under Prof. François du Toit, of whom he is currently a student, having just completed his 4th year BMus Performance degree at the University of Cape Town. For the second half of 2023, Gerhard had the privilege of studying under Dr. Esthea Kruger while Prof. du Toit was on sabbatical.

Gerhard is a laureate of many national music competitions, including first prizes in the Pieter Kooij Competition (2018), Johann Vos Senior Piano Category (2019) and Open Category (2022), and the Atterbury National Piano Competition (2021). He received the Laura Searle Prize for Piano Concerto Playing in November 2021 (and again in 2023) and in December 2021 Gerhard received the first prize and other special awards at the National Youth Music Competition after performing Liszt's First Piano Concerto with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) under the baton of Brandon Phillips. He also recorded the Schumann Piano Concerto in 2021 with maestro Bernhard Gueller and the CPO.

In July 2023 Gerhard received the first prize and a special award for the best performance of a classical sonata at the 7th Unisa National Piano Competition in Pretoria. He frequently collaborates with singers from the UCT Opera Department, and he received the first prize and other special awards with singer Janice van Rooy at the inaugural Neues Lied Competition for Art Song Duos held in August 2022. He has also received masterclasses from pianists Albie van Schalkwyk, Kate Liu, Emanuil Ivanov, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Florian Uhlig, Henri Sigfridsson and Jan Jiracek von Arnim.



Brathew van Schalkwyk

Jazz pianist, composer, and band leader, **Brathew van Schalkwyk**, is a true rising star who hails from Cape Town. Having started playing on his mother's keyboard at the tender age of seven, Brathew has gone on to play at numerous jazz venues and music festivals across the country.

He now holds a BMus degree from the University of Cape Town and in 2023, he won the UNISA National Piano Competition in South Africa. Furthermore, he was placed as a semi-finalist (top

6) in UNISA's international edition of this piano showcase in 2024.

Currently, Brathew is in the process of preparing his debut album whilst performing in various projects, namely: The Pebble Shakers, The Blue Shoes Swingtet, Lady Felicity and the Trumpets, Def Eff, his own trio/quartet projects, as well as hosting a weekly Jam Session in Cape Town CBD at Openwire.

SEASON 1 | Feb–July

— FEBRUARY —

Fri 23 Feb 19:00

Intertwined: Dvořák and Brahms

David Bester (violin), Aristide du Plessis (cello),
Nina Schumann (piano)

— MARCH —

Fri 1 March 19:00

Jazz Chronicles of a German in Cape Town

Martin Zenker, Ramon Alexander, Sima Mashazi and friends

Sat 2 March 19:00

Winelands Philharmonic Orchestra

Summer Harvest Concert

conducted by Reghardt Kühn

Fri 8 March 19:00

IMAI TRIO

Annelize de Villiers (clarinet), Brandon Phillips (bassoon),
José Dias (piano)

Mon 11 March 19:00

SU Vocal Division & Opera UCT: *Canciones españolas*

Fri 15 March 19:00 &

Sat 16 March 19:00

Schola Cantorum & Stellenbosch Camerata: Mozart Requiem

Wed 27 March 19:00

USSO & Stellenbosch Youth Orchestra

conducted by Liam Burden

— APRIL —

Mon 1 - Sun 7 April

Stellenbosch International Piano Symposium

Hennie Joubert Piano Competition

Sat 13 April 16:00

SU Saxophone Symposium

In Concert: Liam Burden & Kurt Bertels (sax)

Fri 19 April 19:00

Amici Quartet

ft Shane Woodborne (cello)

Sun 21 April 16:00

Tygerberg Children's Choir: Autumn Concert

conducted by Karina Erasmus

Wed 24 April 19:00

Acáma Fick 80th Birthday Celebration Concert

Sat 27 April 16:00

Band Extravaganza: Freedom Day Concert

conducted by Pamela Kierman & Reghardt Kühn

— MAY —

Fri 3 May 19:00 &

Sat 4 May 16:00

Stellenbosch University Choir

conducted by André van der Merwe

Fri 10 May 19:00

A Night at the Piano

2023 Unisa National Piano Competition winners:

Gerhard Joubert (classical), Brathew van Schalkwyk (jazz)

Sat 11 May 19:00

SU Jazz Band

Fri 24 May 19:00

Voces Cordis

conducted by André van der Merwe

— JUNE —

Sat 1 June 19:00

Winelands Philharmonic Orchestra

conducted by Reghardt Kühn

Fri 7 June 19:00

Duality: Jazz Saxophone & Classical Piano

Karén Devroop (sax), Megan-Geoffrey Prins (piano)

Sat 8 June 16:00

Tygerberg Children's Choir: Prestige Concert

conducted by Karina Erasmus

Mon 24 Jun 19:00

IAML Congress

Africa, my Love – An evening with Louis Mhlanga & friends

Louis Mhlanga (guitar), Schalk Joubert (bass guitar),

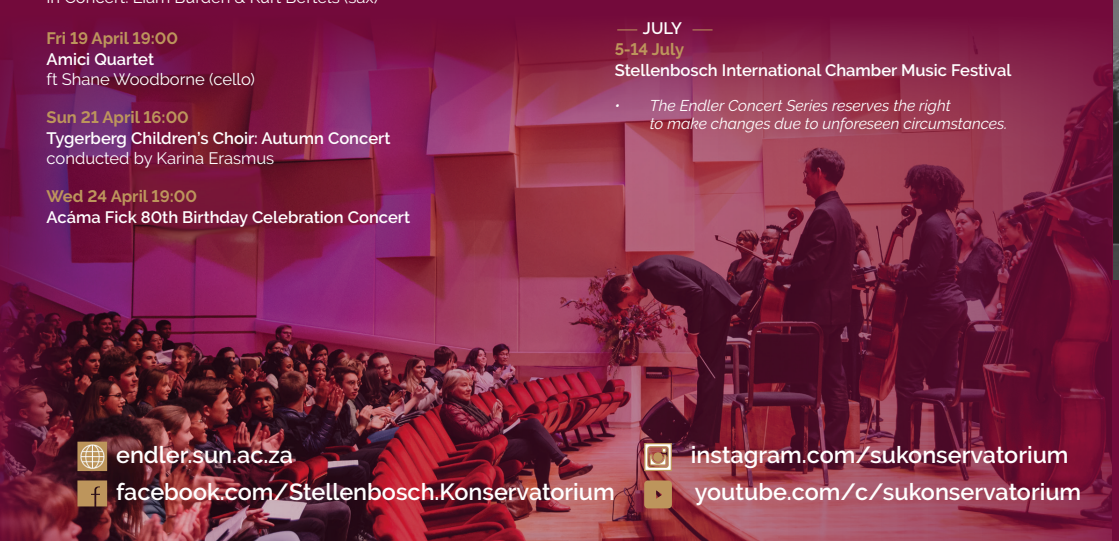
Sima Mashazi (vocals), Kevin Gibson (drums)

— JULY —

5-14 July

Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival

• *The Endler Concert Series reserves the right to make changes due to unforeseen circumstances.*





Private Bag X1, Matieland,
7602, South Africa
+27 (0)21 808 2358
concerts@sun.ac.za