

# Music Academy for Rural Youth (MARY)

Reg. nr: 2019/181068/08 NPC



*Music Education for All!*

## ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

Period: 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

Submitted to the Board of Directors



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**Executive Chairperson**

**5 April 2021**

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## **Introduction**

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021. This report will cover the following:

- *Our achievements for 2020*
- *Challenges experienced*
- *Feedback from beneficiaries*
- *Partnerships forged*
- *Funding*
- *Conclusion*
- *Appendix: List of members*

The Music Academy for Rural Youth (MARY) successfully launched in June 2019 and hosted a number of events which culminated in our successful graduation of members on 14 December 2019. The management team met on 6 January 2020 to review the progress of 2019 and plan for 2020. .

Plans designed for 2020 included the recruitment of more members, hosting of parent meetings, road tours in the Overberg Region, visiting farms, music exhibitions, hosting Open Days and special events with certain themes and performing at various invited functions.

However, from 27 March 2020 the government declared a national lockdown to respond to the Covid-19 crisis which engulfed the country. This development had a serious disruptive effect on our planned programme. Between 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020 no work could be carried out due to the lockdown level 4 and 5. The lockdown level was reduced to level 3 from July 2020 when our team was allowed to resume music training.

### **1. Achievements for 2020**

#### **Music training**

From 1 July 2020 our music team was able to resume music training on a one-on-one basis with MARY members. Members were divided into various groups of two members each and trained over 1 hour sessions from Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 12 members were trained on this basis per day split between two music trainers. Since no public was available, the homes of the director senior music trainer were utilised.

#### **Informal parent engagements**

Since minimal contact was allowed, no formal parent meetings took place. However, the director visited parents on a regular basis to update parents about member's progress. A parent WhatsApp group was also formed for continuous updates with parents on developments within the organisation and future plans.

#### **Food distribution due to Covid-19**

MARY volunteers led by the director and senior music trainer, coordinated food distribution in partnership with YoungPeopleWork who provided food donations for local distribution. Members of MARY were also beneficiaries of this food distribution which happened on a weekly basis. About 120 meals were distributed on a monthly basis. This programme is still continuing and will end on 30 July 2021.

#### **Marketing**

The director of MARY was invited for radio interviews on Radio Disa, a local radio station and our presence on Facebook was intensified. Articles also appeared in the local print media.

#### **Partnerships and sharing of resources**

Before the lockdown started, a strong partnership with the local church existed where free training space was accessible. This changed during the lockdown which started in March 2020. Various schools where members attended were also visited to provide pamphlets and brochures about the work of MARY. YoungPeople@Work also provided a donation of one laserjet printer, paper and a free Wifi router for Internet access.

Overall the members, parents and community at large benefited through the music training. Since formal schooling was also interrupted during the lockdown, parents appreciated that their children was occupied during that time. They are also appreciated the food donations provided by YoungPeople@Work and distributed by the volunteers of MARY.

## 2. Challenges experienced

### **The following challenges were experienced:**

**Covid-19 – level 4-5 :** As mentioned earlier, the lockdown under the above levels disrupted all our plans for 2020. Food distribution started in April 2020.

**Lack of training space:** Our usual training space at the local church was not available and the homes of the director and senior music trainer had to be utilised.

**No shows:** Our plan to host various shows with different themes like drug abuse and women abuse had to be abandoned.

**Annual graduation:** We were not able to proceed with our annual graduation in December 2020.

**No road tours and no public exhibitions:** This plan also had to be abandoned except for a live performance on 27 March 2021 during the FRASA rural outreach.

Since some parents lost their normal income during Covid-19, they appreciated the food support provided. We also scrapped the donations parents used to make and all training was presented free of charge. The academic performance of our members was also enhanced due to their music training. The volunteers of MARY and their food distribution were well received in the community and on social media.

## 3. Feedback from beneficiaries

### ***Feedback from a parent:***

*“My son, Auben Adams, started with MARY in 2020 and as a child knew nothing about music but was eager to play the keyboard. He was only in training for one month then I heard him play on an old half broken keyboard at home whose notes were really false. But to my surprise I could hear something decent was coming through sounding interesting! I am so proud of my child because thanks to MARY he now plays in church and he is only 10 years old!*

*Thank you MARY for your patience and for your hard work with Auben. He was a very hyperactive child but his music makes him relaxed. I have no idea how you achieved this? Thank you Earl and Liano! You guys rock! (Audrey Adams)*

## 4. Partnerships forged to maximise impact

### **MARY Dance Crew, Choir Group and Belly dancing**

These 3 groups were recruited by our director in August 2020. They approached MARY to become part of our activities. They practice twice per week and will become part of our future performances.

### **Ordinary People – NPO**

This organisation offered free access to sound during our annual graduation in 2019 and committed them to support the organisation in future.

### **Living Word Ministries**

This church provided free training space and committed itself to continue with this partnership once the lockdown is terminated. Various functions were already hosted at the church before the lockdown was imposed. Life skills workshops were also hosted in February 2020 before the lockdown was imposed, hosted by MARY but facilitated by the YoungPeople@Work. We have since moved to the Moravian church for weekly classes and also received an offer from Pastor Booysen for free training space as well as the use of music instruments.

### **Food Fund from YoungPeople@Work**

MARY partnered with YoungPeople!Work to distribute food during the lockdown. As mentioned, this partnership will continue until 30 June 2021.

### **Free online training via WhatsApp**

MARY members partnered with YoungPeople@Work to reach unemployed youth affected by the lockdown to sign them up for free life and computer skills. Pamphlets were provided by YoungPeople@Work and distributed by

MARY volunteers. The director of MARY also volunteered to assist unemployed youth with their CVs for future job search purposes.

### **Free performances at FRASA launch and rural outreach**

MARY members performed at the launch of the Food Relief Alliance of South Africa (FRASA) on 27 November 2020 together with Makena Sounds International (the trainers of MARY). The feedback from the guests was extremely positive. They also performed at the rural outreach of FRASA to Grabouw on 27 March 2021. Over 200 people attended this event where food, party packets and masks were distributed.

### **ITEC Printing Company**

As a beneficiary of the Food Fund of YoungPeople@Work, the above printing company in Cape Town has committed to provide a free laser-jet printer with paper and toner to MARY from February 2021.

### **Christian Anointed Ministries**

This group based in Strand (about 20 minute drive from Grabouw) has requested music training over weekends which will be facilitated by the MARY music trainers. This started in March 2021. A request was also received from the Fisantekraal Music Academy for music training.

### **Funding**

King Baudouin Foundation		<b>110 828.70</b>
YP@W loan	Towards salaries in Feb 2021	10 000
Parent donations	Between Sept 2020 - March 2021	8010
Fundraising event	Weekend braai plates @ R60 per plate.	750
Individual donations		150
<b>Total</b>		<b>129 738.70</b>

King Baudouin Foundation renewed funding for 3 years from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2024 with R150 000 per annum (depending on the foreign exchange rate).

### **Conclusion:**

This has been a challenging year for many organisations. MARY was no exception. We can only thank our donors, supporters and staff for their dedication and commitment to MARY which allowed us to survive this period unscathed. In fact, MARY is now growing so fast, we had to close membership in February! The future for MARY looks very bright. It is because of the hard work of executive director, Earl Cornelius, supported by Liano Cloete, music trainer, that MARY is inundated with requests for partnerships and new membership. As chairperson, I am proud to be part of MARY, giving hope to the hopeless and changing lives!

**Thank you**

**Frank Julie**

**5 April 2021**

## Project photos



### *Photos from left to right:*

- *MARY members busy with food distribution; The new group in Strand busy with music training; MARY members performing live at the rural outreach in Grabouw; MARY and Makena Sounds members during the FRASA launch; MARY members performing at the FRASA launch; Parent volunteers during the rural outreach on 27 March 2021.*

### *Front cover photos from left to right:*

- *MARY members performing at the FRASA launch on 27 November 2020; Children queuing for food, party packets and masks at the rural outreach in Grabouw; MARY members performing at the rural outreach of FRASA; Parent volunteers assisting with food distribution during the rural outreach.*

- **List of MARY members**

<b>Name and surname</b>	<b>Male or female</b>	<b>Age</b>
1) Delicia Pieterse	Female	10
2) Alicia Pieterse	Female	10
3) Johnrick Julius	Male	8
4) Angel Dyani	Female	14
5) Ashwill Williams	Male	14
6) Faith Willams	Male	16
7) Gregory Williams	Female	10
8) Anjo Theunissen	Male	11
9) Kirsten Koen	Male	15
10) Kurdley Hendricks	Female	15
11) Xavier Gelant	Male	9
12) Annestine Cortjie	Male	11
13) Zhyron Hendricks	Female	37
14) Jade Booysen	Male	18
15) Jode Booysen	Male	10
16) Code Booysen	Male	10
17) Yunay Booysen	Male	10
18) Mandy De Klerk	Female	17
19) Perisseuo Damon	Female	18
20) Roger Hartzenberg	Male	11
21) Elrick Cupico	Male	8
22) Cairo Manuel	Male	5
23) Auben Adams	Male	9
24) Alicetine Fortuin	Male	10
25) Zureldo Fortuin	Male	19
26) Amber Wyngaard	Female	17
27) Laure Moagi	Female	16
28) Zhara Xhendary Pillay	Female	12
29) Jeanno Theunissen	Female	15
30) Jayden Zimmri	Male	14
31) Damiren Morkel	Male	15
32) Keenan Horne	Male	15
33) Canolia Hoofdt	Male	14
34) Natalie Nyamakazi	Female	7
35) Maurice Dyk	Male	17
36) Dayard Andews	Male	10
37) Timothy Leandeers	Male	9
38) Waylain Van Rooiyen	Male	11
39) Omar Abrahams	Female	8
40) Kelvin Sterry	Male	12
41) Joshua Jacobs	Male	13
42) Linn Truter	Male	11
43) Brilyn Qiman	Female	9