When the KMA Jazz Band re-grouped at the start of 2010, the pupils were already chomping at the bit to “play out”. The first few weeks were all about getting to know new members and settling into a tight group dynamic.

As we gradually started taking on “once-off” performances the band got a feel for what it was like to play as one voice, supporting one another and creating a unified, well rehearsed sound.

We approached DUNES restaurant in Hout Bay to “try us out” on a Saturday afternoon and, after a false start thanks to the ever unpredictable Cape Town weather, we finally had our first professional restaurant gig on the 4th of September!

Well attended, the afternoon was an even mix of fun and learning how to deal with the usual gig gremlins. But, most importantly, the band was invited to return—on a regular basis!

The trusty ol’ MadHatter’s Hat was passed around amongst patrons and the gig yielded enough to pay for the sound engineer (with some generous help from the Dunes owner, Quentin) and add a few rands to the pupils’ pockets.

Many thanks to the parents for their support and help, to DUNES for such valuable enthusiasm for what we are trying to achieve at KMA, and to Tristan Nebe for providing top quality sound for us at an incredible 40% discount!

View a clip on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9JYRPj7GTE

KMA Jazz Band Debut’s At DUNES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- KMA Jazz Band heads into the professional music scene...
- Advanced Pupils’ Concert highlights pupil’s dreams...
- KMA Youth Choir delights on Heritage Day...
- A chance for KMA Pupils to attend Brazilian Summer School...

KMA Jazz Band Gig Dates 2010

- October 16th
- November 13th
- December 4th
- December 18th

TIME: 4pm to 6pm
WHERE: DUNES Restaurant, Beach Road Hout Bay

Contact Tristan Nebe at “Sound Solutions” in Hout Bay, for your event’s sound equipment needs. Find him on 083 432 0223 or at tristannebe@gmail.com

KMA Pupils in Brazil?

In 2009 KMA was honoured to host a workshop by Brazilian musicians, “Quarteto Raiz”, which was a great success and led to an ongoing relationship with the Brazilian Consulate in Cape Town. In 2011 we will be running a Batucada course (Brazilian percussion) with Afro-Acoustico, which would be open to all of our pupils and the Hout Bay community. This will include quarterly workshops with visiting Brazilian musicians and, also in the pipeline, is full sponsorship from Escola De Musica De Brazilia for 4 of our advanced pupils to attend an international 2 week summer course with that Academy. KMA hopes to build on this relationship to encourage exchange programmes between the two schools in 2012 and 2013 with the greater vision of involving our pupils in 2014 World Cup celebrations in Brazil in 2014…. WATCH THIS SPACE!
KMA Youth Choir Re-Ignites and Celebrates Our Heritage!

Lester Mposelwa is a young man with endless energy and enthusiasm—and a beautiful voice to boot! He is also our choir leader... Lester gave renewed hope to the floundering Hout Bay High School choir in early 2010, just before KMA proposed to the school that we adopt the group as the foundation for our KMA Youth Choir. The 28 pupils and force the choir’s voices displayed. Choir leaders, Bonga and Zikhona took the choir onto the stage in a colourful and exuberant show of vocal prowess. KMA has been invited to include more of their ensembles next year and we hope to combine a Heritage Day Concert with the organizers, James House, of Hout Bay.

Thank you to the choir members for their enthusiasm and beautiful dress, and to Nomazmu for including us in the programme.

Every year Imizamu Yethu holds a Heritage Day Concert in the Iziko Lobomi Christian Centre and this year our choir took part in this traditional African Culture Celebration. Our committee members were blown away by the sheer power of the songs and force the choir’s voices displayed. Choir leaders, Bonga and Zikhona took the choir onto the stage in a colourful and exuberant show of vocal prowess. KMA has been invited to include more of their ensembles next year and we hope to combine a Heritage Day Concert with the organizers, James House, of Hout Bay.

Thank you to the choir members for their enthusiasm and beautiful dress, and to Nomazmu for including us in the programme.

Our Advanced Pupils Show Their Talents

For this term’s concert we decided to showcase our more advanced pupils. Each pupil spoke briefly of their time at KMA and what their dreams were for their musical future. The newly formed Chamber Orchestra performed under the leadership of Bergitta Lamprecht and our Jazz Band finished off the evening with some rockin’ tunes! A hearty well done to Jade, Lucia, Aiden, Ondela, Denecia, Ella, Thomas, Toby, Kiara, Aimee and Leanne. We were also very lucky to have in attendance the Assistant Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Lindsay Jeptha who has been a long-standing supporter of KMA. Thank you to Woolworths for their contribution to the snacks, and to the parents for their help. Thanks also to James and the Cultural Community Centre for the venue. Many thanks to Picardi-Rebel for their donation of much welcomed sherry on a chilly evening.

This term, KMA was blessed and delighted to receive a score of instruments ranging from trombones to flutes to guitars to clarinets, including a drum kit, from donors in Germany and the UK—facilitated by our dear friend, Prof Denis Goldberg. With so many beautiful instruments, we will continue to work hard to see one of Prof Goldberg’s dreams come true: that every child in Imizamu Yethu and Hangberg have an opportunity to play a musical instrument... Many thanks to Ilse Speck and Hans Well for their generous help and assistance in Germany ♥
A Story To Inspire

50-year-old blind violinist and father of two, Romel Joseph, was pulled from the rubble of the school where he taught in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 18 hours after an earthquake sent the building tumbling to the ground. His young, pregnant wife, Myslie, died in the disaster only two floors under him. Romel escaped with two fractured fingers, fractured legs and deep cuts.

The Julliard graduate may never be able to play his instrument again, but he is determined to continue teaching children the beauty of classical music. While he was pinned under the rubble, Romel says he recited every concert that he had ever performed during his career, struck by the determination to continue his teaching mission if he survived.

Growing up in Haiti, in poverty, Romel relied on the help of scholarships and a Fulbright grant, which eventually led him to University and the Julliard School of Music, where he earned degrees in violin performance. Romel, who also trained with the Boston Symphony, founded his own, private non-profit music school where, he notes, 100 of his students have thus far gone on to receive degrees from American Universities.

The irony of this disaster is that it occurred exactly 10 years after the school he founded burned down due to a short-circuit. Romel says, "The secret is that you can’t save the whole country. You have to do it one person, one child, one situation at a time and hope that one person will help another". Romel’s gift of music to each impoverished child will hopefully raise them out of poverty and give them a fair chance at making a success of their lives, just as he has...

Coming Up in Term 4

October
KMA’s Annual General meeting 12th
Jazz Band at Dunes 16th
Latin Vibes at Dunes 23rd

November
Trinity College of Music Exams
Jazz Band at Dunes 13th
Internal KMA exams 15th to 19th
Reports handed out 29th

December
KMA End-Of-Year Concert 2nd and 3rd
Jazz Band Concert featuring Selected vocalists from KMA and the community 9th

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