



2025

A year of change, growth and courage

19 years ago KMA began in very humble conditions and, over the many years, grew from an infant, to a toddler, to a teenager, and now a young person, with a life of its own. With the unwavering support of countless individuals who have never stopped believing in what we do.

From 1 room and 15 pupils, to various venues and 80 pupils, to a rented house with 10 teachers, 7 full-time staff and nearly 200 pupils... 2025 brought us to a milestone we had been praying for. Thanks to the incredible support of a team of investors, we were able to purchase our Forever Home, a beautiful 11,500m small-holding that exudes peace and calm, healing, light and love. And now, 2026 will bring us 16 teachers and 210 pupils...

From mucking in with packing, renovations, moving in, settling down, to facing challenges with grace and clarity, to heaving a sigh of relief here at the end of this very busy year, KMA is standing proud!

So... lets see what's been going on...

FROM FARM TO FOREVER HOME! In January we signed on the dotted line... In March we renovated, and in April we moved in, “business as usual”! Our deepest thanks goes to everyone who contributed to making the “Beeg Move” - and 2025 - so smooth, happy and successful. ❤️





Our dear friend James Fernie, from Uthando SA, facilitated the donation of a beautiful bright yellow friendship bench, a host of brand new instruments and accessories, as well as 200 new music bags for our pupils. Thank you to Personal Africa, Timeless Africa Safaris, and The Kind Heart Bench Project for these beautiful gifts.

Our percussion pupils participated in the WOMAD Festival's "La Cajoneada" - 100 Cajon Players on stage - and each and every one of them went home with their own Cajon! We also were delighted to welcome a loop artist from Mexico, Last Jeronimo, to share his skills with us in a workshop at KMA. Thank you so much to Dan Chiorboli for including KMA in this year's festival, and for facilitating the donation of new electric and bass guitars!



Congratulations to KMA's "man of the match" in 2025, a peer mentor and role model to our pupils, Zakhiel Davids, who had a bumper year:

He was accepted to perform in the Artscape Youth Jazz Band, auditioned for the National Schools Band in Makhanda, achieved a distinction for his Trinity College of London Grade 5 Trumpet exam and was awarded not only the 2025 KMA African Instruments Ensemble Cup, but also the KMA Nina Simone Trophy 2025. We wish him all the very best for 2026, as he enters his matric final school year.

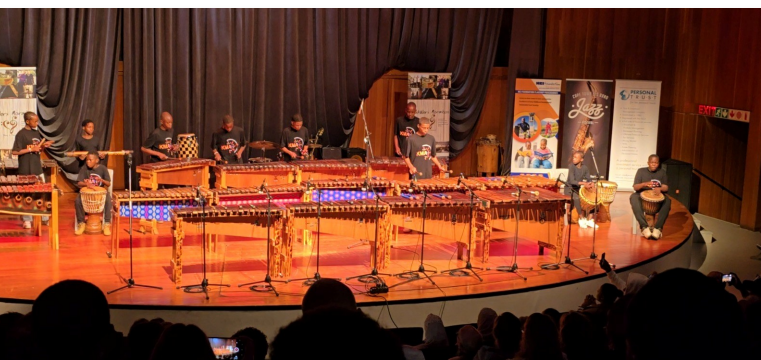
Performances And Workshops Galore! Amongst many during the year, our first workshop in our new home was with our dear friend McCoy Mrubata and special guest Gary Witner (top L). Besides our weekly Lounge Concerts, some of our performance highlights included our Pupil Soiree in March, featuring our Junior Choir (top R). Our children delighted in watching their teachers perform in the Teachers Concert (bottom L) and 13 of our pupils performed in a lunchtime Artscape foyer concert, for our friends at Fine Music Radio (bottom R).



KMA was delighted to host a concert with the Doane University Choir from the USA, and enjoyed some fun collab improv with our pupils. Thank you SW Africa for bringing us together!

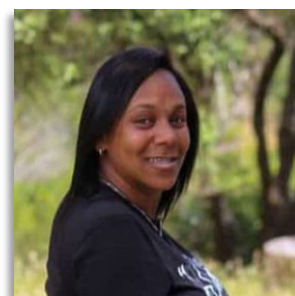
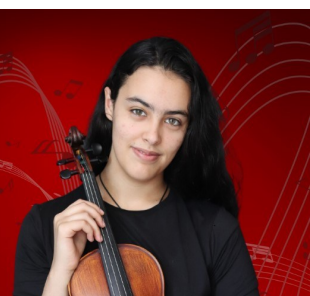


Documentary filmmakers, "Movies Move Us" selected KMA as their outreach program for an upcoming documentary called "Sonata for Seven Cities", featuring Italian pianist Filippo Gorini. We had an extraordinary week of interactive filming interviews and performances. Watch this space! You can find the trailer [here](#).



Our African instruments ensemble excelled this year: They received a standing ovation for their performance at the Cape Town Marimba Festival and were invited to participate in the Artscape Schools Festival. But the children will tell you their highlight for the year was forming part of the Guinness World Record for the largest marimba gathering ever. 1,177 marimba players set a new world record and KMA was part of it!

We welcomed 3 new teachers this year (below L - R), Kezia Dawson (violin), Grant Brasler (piano), and Jaydon Martin (brass and recorder).



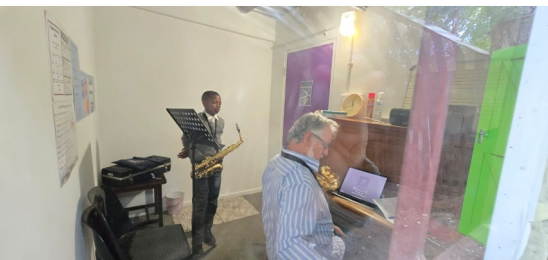
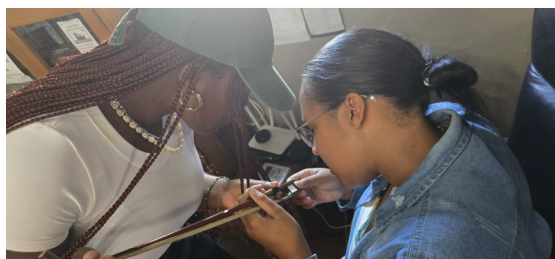
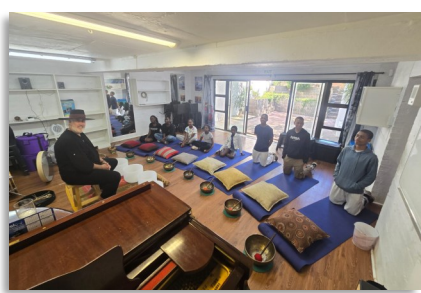
Kamva Maxesibe and Shivonne Anthony joined us to help supervise the children in the afternoons: lunch, play, lesson, home... repeat! (above R)

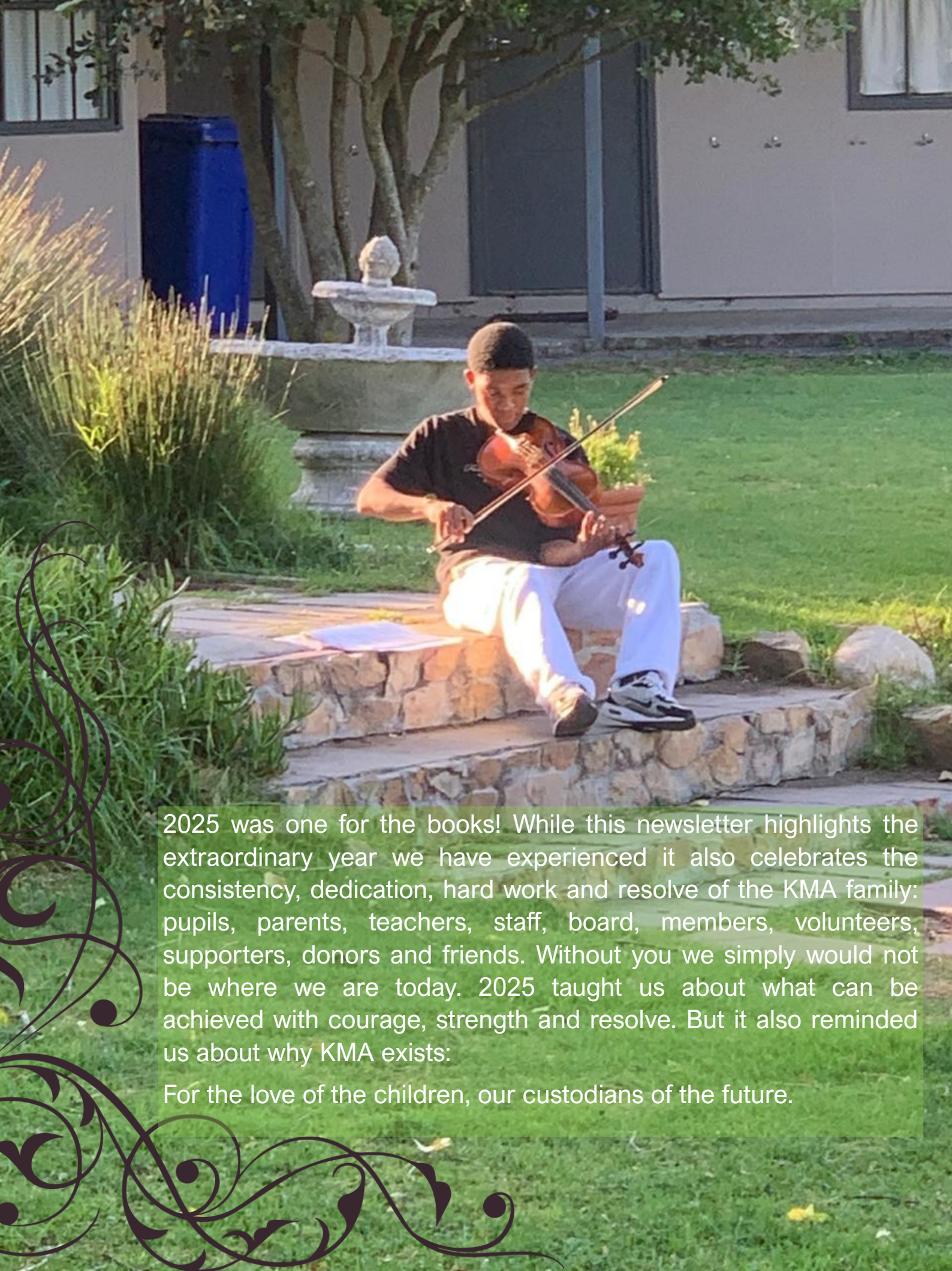
KMA Kids Are Happy Kids! Our Zero Dropout Program and the Psycho-Social department continued to flourish in 2025. A total of 26 pupils received school remedial support and Ms Marchane continued weekly Music and Arts therapy including focus groups involving every one of our children.



Once again the KMA Jazz pupils flew the flag high and proud at the National Youth Jazz Festival in Makhanda in July. Ms Dwyn conducted one of the festival bands and Mr Renaldo performed in the teacher band. We are always proud to hear comments from the band leaders on how well mannered and enthusiastic the KMA pupils behave. Zakhriel and Imanage auditioned for the National Schools Band, up against some of the country's top youth players!

The Year In Colour!





2025 was one for the books! While this newsletter highlights the extraordinary year we have experienced it also celebrates the consistency, dedication, hard work and resolve of the KMA family: pupils, parents, teachers, staff, board, members, volunteers, supporters, donors and friends. Without you we simply would not be where we are today. 2025 taught us about what can be achieved with courage, strength and resolve. But it also reminded us about why KMA exists:

For the love of the children, our custodians of the future.