

**WOODWIND SECTION**  
**YEAR-TO-DATE OVERVIEW**

June 2025

**HIGHLIGHTS**

During the first part of the year our main focus has been to learn new repertoire for orchestra performances. This effort culminated in two concerts:

- An evening of music on 25 April 2025 where our orchestra performed works such as Let's get Loud and The Entertainer. The recorder students also performed at this concert.
- An outdoor sunset music program on 18 May 2025 where our woodwinds also took part and even had the chance to play solos.

We have received much appreciation and congratulations from our audience and all our students enjoyed the exposure to perform in front of audiences tremendously. We believe these kind of music performances build immense pride and dignity among our students and further inspire them to improve there playing skills.

Our current project is to learn and prepare the music for our Orchestra Festival which is taking place on 20 & 21 June in the National Theatre. We are so privileged to have this opportunity which includes having professional and extremely skilled musicians from Europe work for 9 days.



**INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE**

We recently had to send two of our oboes to Johannesburg for repairs, so we are now ready to take in two new oboe students. We also had two of our Clarinets and three Saxophones serviced at the beginning of the year.

**STUDENT NUMBERS**



- Clarinets: 6
- Flutes: 5
- Saxophones: 4
- Oboe: Unfortunately, both of our oboe students have decided to stop. The one due to academic pressure in grade 12, and the other one to rather focus on the violin (which she has already been playing), as the physical challenges of playing the oboe proved too much for her.
- Recorders: 90
- Piano: 5

All the children also receive lessons in music theory once a week.

### LESSON AND PRACTICE SPACE:

YONA main centre: Thanks to the three new Wendy Houses installed on our premises in January, we have enough space for lessons, and usually there is also some space for children to practice.

Katutura: The new arrangement with the City of Windhoek to use space at the Katutura Community Hall was unfortunately not yet finalized by January. For this reason, our teachers continued to teach at the Bernard Nordkamp centre. However, from July this year YONA will be allowed to start teaching at the Katutura Reading Room (adjacent to the Community Hall). The children who are already in CoW's after school classes will also be able to join YONA's lessons there, together with the children from the BNC and Beautiful Kidz.

### WHAT WE DO TO IMPROVE OUR STANDARD

Since we have been fully focused on orchestra repertoire and repetitions lately, the strategy is to practice many scales and a variety of technical work, as well as solo pieces next term. We want to ensure that each student keep improving in order to become greater assets to the orchestra and also excel as solo performers. It is a joy to observe the increased self-confidence and personal growth of our students as they develop their music performance skills.

We are also very fortunate to have Annika Paulus, who has done fantastic work on our woodwind ensemble and taught our oboe students until March this year. Annika is a music teacher at Deutsche Höhere Privatschule Windhoek, but unfortunately, she would have to return to Germany in December 2025.

Our kids thoroughly enjoy being part of the YONA community and performances. Without the continued support of our loyal sponsors, none of this would have been possible.

Yours truly

Sonet Grobler  
Head of Woodwinds