



WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons

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World Federation of Music Therapy
Federación Mundial de Musicoterapia

Music therapy is certainly growing and expanding all over the world. In some areas it grows faster than in others, but even where it may appear to take a slower pace, the steps can be firm and solid. An example of this is the African region, a huge continent with many countries, each with its social and cultural characteristics.

In this monthly buzz you will find information on how music therapy is developing in Africa, at the training, clinical and professional levels. You will also get some preliminary information about the 16th World Congress of Music Therapy, which in 2020 will be held for the first time in history in South Africa. As you read more about it, I hope you will be inspired and encouraged to attend.

I am happy to present the November Monthly Buzz which features the African region of the World Federation of Music Therapy, represented by its Regional Liaison **Dr. Carol Lotter**

Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, PhD, MT-BC, SMTAE
President WFMT



Dr. Carol Lotter
Africa

Music therapy on the African continent is in its infancy, but sparks of activity indicate a growing awareness of and interest in the profession. Examples of this are: The *Music and Health project* in Uganda and Rwanda which includes music therapists working with Musicians without Borders. It is hoped that this project will be extended to Kenya; a music therapy project in Zimbabwe initiated by Ms. Chiundiza. This work has published in the *Music Therapy Today* journal; Interest in a music therapy training program in Rwanda. Discussions are in the embryonic phase.

The music therapy training in South Africa recently trained its first ever student from Zimbabwe and we currently have a student from Zambia in the student cohort. It is hoped that music therapy will be extended into these countries upon their return.

In 2010, the first ever student from Namibia trained at the University of Pretoria. She returned to her country and formalised music therapy as a profession through the Namibian Health Professions Council.

The only formal academic training program in Africa is the Masters Music Therapy training programme offered by the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The course was co-founded by Dr. Mercedes Pavlicevic and Ms Kobie Temmingh-Swart in 1999. Music therapy is a registered health profession in South Africa, with graduates registering with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Music therapists work in different parts of South Africa, with the greatest concentration being in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and the

Mpumalanga province. MusicWorks in Cape Town, directed by Sunelle Fouche, is a cutting edge community music therapy organization focusing on children and youth. MusicWorks offers group and individual music therapy, community music-centred programmes and training in a variety of settings in the Cape Flats and surrounding communities.



World Congress of Music Therapy 2020

South Africa is delighted to be hosting the World Congress of Music Therapy in 2020. SAMTA, the South African Music Therapy Association, in partnership with the University of Pretoria and MusicWorks invite you to the first ever World Congress to be held on African soil. The theme for the 2020 congress is "Polyrhythms of Music Therapy" which hopes to engage music therapists from around the world in exploring the diversity of our profession as expressed in many different cultural contexts globally. The Congress aims to offer a culturally rich and diverse programme through dialogue, presentations, workshops and performances. The schedule will include other Arts Therapy modalities.

A special feature of the World Congress 2020 is a package tour to Cape Town which will include workshops, visits to various community music therapy projects and exciting tourist outings such as Cape wine farms, Table Mountain and exploring the beauty of the Cape Peninsula. The Tshwane School of Music, an innovative community based music school, will host a variety of events for delegates interested in community based programmes. Children from the school will perform their jazz magic as part of the Congress program.

Watch this space for details of the Congress website which will provide regular updates.

Come and experience the vibrancy and soul of Africa in July 2020.



Africa calls you...Woza!

Dr. Carol Lotter

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