



ANN SINGER

33RD WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION



THE NATIONAL ARTS
COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA

OFFICIAL SPONSOR / FUND

ISME PERFORMANCE
AND CONFERENCE
REPORT

15-20 July 2018
Baku, Azerbaijan

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ABOUT ANN SINGER

I like to think that my musical journey started when I was born. My dad who died when I was 7 was also a singer and even though unfortunately I never got to know who he was because I was separated from my parents at the age of 2, I feel very close to him through my music. I always loved singing growing up but i didnt really understand what i had. fast forward i met Bertholdt Mbinda who gave me voice training when i was 16, recorded my first studio album in 2015 and walked away with 4 NAMA awards in 2016. In 2017 i went on to sign a record deal with South Africa's Mabala Noise Entertainment Label.

The year 2017 was a bit of a hassle trying to balance between being a student, a mum and a musician signed in South Africa. I had to learn the hard way that no one is coming to save me and that if I wanted to grow I needed to start doing things myself. I started searching the internet for opportunities and that was when I came across ISME. They sent me an invite to perform and attend the conference and I was thrilled. I like to think of it as the biggest highlight of my music career. Not only did this trip allow me to fly the Namibian flag on an international stage but it has also changed me not only as a musician but also as an individual.

HISTORY OF ISME

- The International Society for Music Education (ISME) is a professional organization of persons involved with music education. It was founded in Brussels in 1953[1] during the UNESCO-sponsored conference on "The Role and Place of Music in the Education of Youth and Adults" ISME's mission is to build a worldwide network of music educators, to advocate music education globally and across the lifespan, and to foster intercultural understanding and cooperation.
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- ISME holds conferences every two years in a different part of the world and includes workshops, paper presentations, keynote addresses, symposia, and performances. In addition, ISME supports regional conferences in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and the Americas, and has a range of specialist interest groups to nurture particular areas of music education.
- I These specialist groups include seven long-established commissions[7] that are focused on: research; community music activity; early childhood music education; education of the professional musician; policy: culture, education and media; music in schools and teacher education; and music in special education, music therapy and music medicine. Each commission holds a biennial seminar, usually immediately prior to the main conference. In addition, the world conference includes a forum for instrumental and vocal teachers.
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- The society is present in over 90 countries and in January 2012 there were nearly 1,700 ISME individual members, with 21 ISME National Affiliates, as well as 59 ISME Group Members comprising around 100,000 ISME Associate Members

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ISME 2018

This year's conference was hosted in the city of Baku, Azerbaijan with the theme "Life's Journey Through Music" which began on the 15th to the 20th of July. The first day was really just about welcoming everyone to Baku which started with a welcoming session by the president of ISME. I attended most of the presentation that relates more to my field as a musician but most of the presentations were focused on trying to get music into the school system as a subject. They stressed about how all over the world music is regarded as unimportant and just a hobby. Music is art and it should be regarded as important as any other activity. For example what I found very interesting was a research presentation by Mr. Brain Kaufman (SP) which focused on "Music learning as youth development"



Lee Willingham also did a presentation on "Community Music Activity" which focused on "Community Music as a social intervention: a Case study from Canada. Mrs/ss Pamela Burnard gave a presentation on "The Musicians Health" and she focused on "The meaning of success: Theorising the creative life journeys that led to successful careers for a woman working in the music, audio, and sound arts industries" Every presentation was primarily focused on trying to make the world understand the importance of music, how to equip music educators to do better in conducting music education whether in the university or community or even at home and of a cause on equipping the professional musician with skills .

ISME

- Adam Patrick gave a presentation on the importance of music technology.
- As a musician it is very vital that you understand and know what it means to play an instrument, not only does it help your music composition skills but it turns you into an art of work.
- What an event. The African body of ISME "PASME" was very thrilled to have representation from Namibia a very first of its kind and they made me a member of the organization, whose primary focus is music education in the African region.



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MY ISME EXPERIENCE AND PERFORMANCE

People keep asking how it was and i keep giving them the same answer that "Some things can never ever be explained but olny experienced"

What a week, i met so many incredible people and it was rather also very interesting that most of the people i met from Baku have never seen a black person. No rascisom attached to it they were rather vary iterested in taling to me and taking some pictures. My performance was on the 15th of July which was the first day and the response was incredible , never have i ever felt so appreciated as a musician.

My performance went very well and i'm excited to say that performance opportunities come form it.

The network opportunities were endless and i also manged to do a few on site collaborations with artists that play various instruments like a lady from Germany that plays the herp and guy from Georgia that plays the piano.



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THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA

Gratitude and more gratitude to The Arts Council Of Namibia. This showed that Namibia does have organizations willing to help Namibian musicians.

I honestly have nothing to say except for thank you and that may The Arts Council continue to help the arts industry in Namibia. and I am thankful that they see the value in funding such events.

Recommendations :

Are this kind of trips worth it?

Yes, I believe they are very significant. I learned things about music I knew nothing about. I was life changing to be in a space with music professionals and the aims and goals of the conference were met. The networking was widely available and everyone was very interested in exchanging ideas on music education and information and ideas for professional musicians.

I strongly believe that it will be such an amazing idea in Namibia can host events of this nature in Namibia maybe on a regional level and a national level. Artists from small towns can come to Windhoek and attend such events and learn, exchange and network with industry key players and other musicians. Imagine what it could do for an artist from a small town if they could attend a workshop on how to set up a small home studio and start producing music, not only will he go back home and be able to put bread on the table for his family but he could also start producing for artists in that town and artists don't have to travel so far for music production. Or if an artist who wants to get into live performing can attend a vocal lesson workshop could do for her she could even go on to become a music educator, these are some of the few examples of what would come out of such an event.

ISME had an attendance of about 40 representatives from all over the world and the experience was out of this world. The NACN should consider funding more Namibian artists to attend such events so that they can also expose themselves to opportunities outside Namibia. and continue to fly the Namibian flag high.