9th National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition

4 - September 2026: Tyger Valley College, Pretoria

The 9th NSPEC was successfully hosted at Tyger Valley College and sponsored by the Rupert Music Foundation and Edumusic.
28 ensembles were adjudicated by Prof Frelet de Villiers (Piano - Bloemfontein), Amanda Low (Recorder - Centurion) and Denise Sutton (Violin – Pretoria). Our jurors shared their wealth of experience with participants and teachers via their reports. Piano, string and wind instruments, marimbas and voice were presented in the various ensembles which provided for a varied program.
During the first round on 4 and 5 September all groups were required to perform three contrasting pieces. Three finalists were announced in each age category, and two finalists in the Open category who all performed a two-piece programme at the Gala Concert on Sunday 6 September. The level of playing was extremely high in all the categories, and the audience was entertained by many outstanding performances.
The prizes for the age categories were R7 000 for the winning ensemble, R4 000 for the runner-up and R2 000 for the 3rd prize. In the Open category the winners were awarded R15 000 with the 2nd prize being R7 500.

The prize-winners in the 2026 NSPEC were

10 & younger

1.Appassionato Duetto

- Eliana Simbini & Ben Vorster (Violin)
- Johannesburg Teacher Engela Scheepers

2.Brillante Duo

- Benjamin Vorster & Sandy Xiang (Violin)
- Johannesburg Teacher Engela Scheepers

3.Trio Armonia

- Benjamin Vorster, Eliana Simbini & Sandy Xiang (Violin)
- Johannesburg Teacher Engela Scheepers

13&younger

1.Yufei & Xiang Duetto

- Yufei Meng (Violin) & Xiang Meng (Piano)
- Johannesburg Teachers Engela Scheepers and Dr Nita Wolff

2. Yufei & Xiang Piano Duo

- Yufei Meng & Xiang Meng (Piano)
- Johannesburg Teacher Dr Nita Wolff

3. Crescendo Duetto

- Xuanxhu Hou & Nashe Simbine (Violin)
- Johannesburg Teacher Engela Scheepers

16 & younger

1. **Pretoria Boys High School Piano Duo**
   - Stefan Fourie & Micah Strydom
   - Pretoria Teacher Gisela Scriba

2.The Chiang Sisters

- Joy Chiang & Mia Chiang
- Pretoria Teacher Gisela Scriba

3.Lebone II College Senior Marimba Band

- Lesedi Katane, Tumalano Nkwe, Matsobane Sekao, Tshireletso Phalatse, Nala Hlapho, Onthatile Maakoe, Reitumetse Mkhize, Reatlegile Letheo, Tlhomamo Bogopane, Katlego Khunong, Reatlegile Pitsoe & Zwonaka Kenaope (Marimba),Blessed Gousse & Reikantse Letsholo (Drums)
- Rustenburg Mutubatsa Tshuma

19 & younger

1.Pretoria Boys High Clarinets & Rhythm

- Chad Donkin, Owen de Jager, Ruan Oosthuizen (Clarinet), Tyler Stanton (Double Bass) & Reabetswe Nkoana (Percussion)
- Pretoria Teacher Lizet Smith

2. G3 Piano Trio

- Alexa Burger (Violin), Christi Knipe (Cello) & Lyuba van Niekerk (Piano)
- Pretoria Teacher Gisela Scriba

3. Bow & Pedal

- Carla Greyling (Violin) & Stefan Fourie (Piano)
- Pretoria Teacher Viara Markova

Open Category

1. ViLé Duo

- Vincent van Schalkwyk (Guitar) & Charmile Strauss (Violin)
- Pretoria Teacher Gerrit Roos

2. Flutti Tutti Trio

- Mienke Albertse (Piano), Talitha Pienaar (Flute) & Gabriella Claassen (Flute)
- Pretoria Teacher Anna-Maria Vermeulen

5th Pretoria SASMT Excellence Award to the SASMT member with the highest scoring ensemble at the NSPEC (R2 000)

Gisela Scriba with the PBHS Piano Duo