

A SUCCESSFUL 1ST SESSION AT PRETORIA EISTEDDFOD

The Pretoria Eisteddfod is presented by the Pretoria branch of the SASMT and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023. Approximately 2600 items in twelve sections were adjudicated during May.

The ten adjudicators were very impressed with the exceptionally high standard in the various sections. During the awards ceremony on 29 May 2026, the Overall winners performed at a Gala Concert and various awards were presented to the Category winners. During this event tribute was paid to the former patroness of the Eisteddfod, Dr Mimi Coertse, who passed away on 27 April 2026, at the age of 93.

OVERALL WINNERS (1st Session 2026)

Section	Winner	Teacher
Choir	Affie-koor	AJ Maree
Classical Vocal (Junior)	Yixin Isaaca Ko	Marina Botha-Spies
Classical Vocal (Senior)	Martinus van Rooyen	Dr Tinus Spies
Piano (Junior)	Hanna Marais	Prof Tessa Rhodie
	Lia Kleynhans (Runner-up)	Hannelie van Sittert
Piano (Senior)	Nicole Gutu	Gisela Scriba
	Micah Strydom (Runner-up)	Chanie Jonker
Popular Vocal (Junior)	Leah Gieselbach	Marina Botha-Spies
Popular Vocal (Senior)	Mickayla van der Merwe	Martie Cloete
Orchestra	Affies Swing Ensemble	Braam van Tonder
Percussion	Reinhardt Snyman	Ronel du Plessis
Recorder	Salomé Oosthuizen	Marleen Boshoff
Woodwind	Micah Strydom	Lizet Smith
Brass	Morné Erlank	Braam van Tonder

Entries for the second session in August/September can be submitted from 13 - 31 July. This includes participation in Strings, Classical and Contemporary Guitar as well as Fine Arts (online participation). Please visit www.pretoriaeisteddfod.co.za to obtain the various syllabi.



Huldeblyk

Ons bring vandag hulde aan Mimi Coertse (12 Junie 1932 – 27 April 2026), 'n merkwaardige kunstenaar, mentor en inspirasie vir generasies musikante.

As internasionaal gevierde sopraan het sy Suid-Afrika se naam met trots gedra, en met haar besondere stem en onwrikbare toewyding 'n blywende nalatenskap geskep. Haar bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van klassieke musiek in Suid-Afrika was onskatbaar – nie net as uitvoerende kunstenaar nie, maar ook as 'n passievolle ondersteuner van jong talent.

As beskermvrou van die Pretoria Eisteddfod het sy 'n diepgaande invloed gehad op die lewens van ontelbare jong kunstenaars. Haar aanmoediging, wysheid en liefde vir musiek het lig gebring waar onsekerheid was, en moed gegee waar drome nog broos was.

Mimi Coertse se lewe was 'n getuigenis van uitnemendheid, dissipline en 'n diepe geloof in die krag van kuns om mense te verbind. Haar stem mag stil geword het, maar haar invloed sal nog lank weerklink in elke noot wat met passie gesing word.

Mag haar nalatenskap voortleef in die harte van almal wat deur haar geraak is.



**SAVMO/SASMT
Pretoria**

**PRETORIA
EISTEDDFOD**

Mimi Coertse

12 June 1932 – 27 April 2026

BESKERMVROU (PATRON)
VAN DIE PRETORIA EISTEDDFOD



Tribute

Today we honour Mimi Coertse (12 June 1932 – 27 April 2026), an extraordinary artist, mentor, and inspiration to generations of musicians.

As an internationally acclaimed soprano, she carried South Africa's name with pride, and through her exceptional voice and unwavering dedication, she built a legacy that will endure for years to come. Her contribution to the growth of classical music in South Africa was profound—not only as a performer, but as a devoted supporter of young talent.

As patron of the Pretoria Eisteddfod, she played a vital role in shaping the journeys of countless young performers. Her encouragement, insight, and love for music brought confidence where there was doubt, and hope where dreams were yet to be realised.

Mimi Coertse's life reflected excellence, discipline, and a deep belief in the power of the arts to uplift and unite. Though her voice has fallen silent, her influence will continue to resonate in every note sung with passion.

May her legacy live on in the hearts of all she inspired.



Photos:

1. Overall Winners
2. Tribute to Mimi Coertse
3. Gala event