

Entertainment

ERYO performs at festival

The Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company (JYOC) recently hosted its annual Youth Orchestra Festival in the Linder Auditorium, where the East Rand Youth Orchestra and other groups featured.

The JYOC is a city-based music organisation in Gauteng, formed in 1998 in response to the closure of government music centres.

It has grown from one to 10 different ensembles, orchestras and music groups, providing a musical home for almost 1 000 children representing over 100 schools, educational institutions and community groups.

The festival featured six orchestras and they each played three pieces.

The grande finale consisted of a massed orchestra performance by 206 young musicians, conducted by the Dutch guest conductor Gerben Grooten.

The orchestras included The East Rand Youth Orchestra (ERYO), St Andrew's Senior School Orchestra, Pretoria High School for Girls Orchestra, The Northwest Youth Orchestra, the Tshwane Youth Symphony Orchestra and many more.

The ERYO was formed in 1978 to serve the communities of the East Rand.

More than 40 per cent of the orchestra members that performed at the concert are from previously disadvantaged communities on the East Rand.

Historically, the ERYO has

special functions, including the opening of the terminal for domestic flights at the OR Tambo International Airport, in 2008.

The orchestra won the Mayoral Achievement Award for the best musical production in 2008.

The orchestra has toured nationally as well as internationally, visiting places like Mozambique, Madagascar and

Namibia.

The ERYO was the first orchestra to visit Madagascar in 35 years and audiences in excess of 1 000 people attended the concerts and joined in singing the Halleluja chorus.

The ERYO has an educational programme whereby children from previously disadvantaged communities are identified by

Pienaar Fourie (the conductor of the orchestra) and provided with lessons.

The programme was previously sponsored by the Lotto Fund, but at present the orchestra itself is funding the lessons.

For information about the players from the East Rand Youth Orchestra contact Marlize Schwer on 083 680 1308.

