

### **Danré Strydom (clarinet)**

South African born clarinetist, Danré Strydom, started music tuition from a very early age. She joined her first clarinet teacher, Jenny Truter Brand, in the Namibia National Symphony Orchestra as second clarinetist at age 15. During High School she won numerous awards and scholarships, including the R. Muller award for highest achievements in music and academics, the First National Bank Prize of excellence and various College for the Arts best student awards. After completing High School she started her studies at the University of the Free State under the guidance of Heinrich Armer. Here she completed BMus and BMusHons degrees (cum laude).

While completing her studies here, she was principal clarinetist of the Free State Youth Orchestra, the Odeion Chamber Orchestra, the Free State Chinese Orchestra and second clarinetist of the Free State Symphony Orchestra. During this time she was also selected as the leader of the South African Youth Wind Orchestra which also took part in the WASBE conference. She had the honour of working with some of South Africa's best conductors and also various internationally known conductors such as Lazlo Marosi, Christopher Bell, Jeremy Silver and Jon Robertson. The FAK music award, ATKV cultural diversity award, Old Presidency award and an invitation to attend the Clifford Benson Summer Academy in the UK are some of the awards she received during her years in Bloemfontein.

On completion of her degrees in Bloemfontein, she was accepted as a student of Eli Eban at the Jacobs school of Music, Indiana University, USA to complete a solo diploma (cum laude). At this prestigious school she had the opportunity to take classes with Howard Klug, James Campbell, Michael McCraw, Reiko Neriki and Csaba Onczay. In Bloomington she attended several master classes, including some of Alfred Prinz (retired principal clarinetist of the Vienna Philharmonic) and Eddy Vanoosthuysen (solo clarinet – Brussels Philharmonic). It was during one of these masterclasses where she met Eddy Vanoosthuysen that she decided to continue her postgraduate studies under Vanoosthuysen's tuition. She completed her master's degree and played as ad hoc for the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra.

Danré is has been appointed junior lecturer for woodwinds at the Odeion School of Music (University of the Free State) in January 2014.

Danré is not only a very keen orchestral player, but also very active as a chamber musician. She has performed as soloist with several orchestras including the Namibia National Symphony, Free State Symphony and as a concerto winner with the Kwazulu Natal Philharmonic Orchestra.