

Neil Bennett – Musical Director



Born and raised in Springs, east of Johannesburg, Neil Bennett began his formative music training at an early age, under the mentorship of international concert pianist Steven van Staden and continuing after matric with BMus studies at Wits University, under the late Peggy Haddon.

In 1989, after completing two years of military service at the 7th South African Infantry Battalion in Phalaborwa, Neil settled in Johannesburg and began forging a career in education, performance and choral direction that has spanned 36 years. During his Trinity College studies in keyboard performance, he earned a Performer's Licentiate Diploma in Piano (LTCL) with honours and the Queen Elizabeth II Award for Excellence in Keyboard Studies. He currently teaches primary school Music at De La Salle Holy Cross College in Victory Park.

Neil's varied musical theatre experiences include directing music for his alma mater, Springs Boys' High School, numerous other school and repertory companies in Gauteng and the prestigious Northcliff High School major productions. His appearance at Pieter Toerien's Montecasino Theatre in 2015, alongside Jonathan Roxmouth in STAGE BY STAGE, was a highlight of his career. More recently, as accompanist to the sensational YouTube father-and daughter duo Adrian & Emma-Jean Galliard, Neil toured the UK in 2023 and made his London theatrical debut in STRIKING A CHORD.

As Musical Director and arranger for the Welsh Male Voice Choir of South Africa, a post he has held for 21 years, Neil has a special affection for Welsh culture and was made a Life Member of the Choir in 2022.

Following a 40-year involvement in music ministry in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Neil currently holds the post of Organist and Choir Director at Trinity Methodist Church Linden.

Neil's leisure activities include playing and teaching the ukulele, photography, model railways, collecting fine books and Rolls-Royce memorabilia, model building, military figure painting and English history. He is an authority on the Titanic and gives regular lectures on the subject.



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