

THE ALLAN AND NESTA FERGUSON CHARITABLE TRUST

2024/25 SCHOLARS

Jewel Lasrado (Vocals, India)

Dear Trustees,

Hello, I'm Jewel Lasrado, I hail from a city called Bangalore in India. It was a huge desire of mine to pursue a career in music and the Royal Northern College of Music was one of my primary choices to study in the field. I want to thank the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust from the bottom of my heart for helping me bring this dream to life.



Apart from music, I love sketching and creative writing. These skills are conveniently very helpful to my journey in music and give me access to new avenues as an artist. In my free time I like to watch movies and stand-up comedy. It was my parents who supported me and inspired me to take up opportunities to expand my musical talent, being music lovers and not having similar opportunities growing up. Which is why I'd like to thank the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust for providing me with one such opportunity to pursue my dream career. I will do my best to bring it to fruition.

Kind regards,

Jewel

Links to performances and social media:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxLGcJdENV4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu8P6q6SwJI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZID1YJqZCRs>

<https://www.instagram.com/jewellasrado/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JewelRheaLasrado>

Kamogelo Maraba (Cello, South Africa)

Dear Trustees,

I started playing the cello at the age of eight with the Principal Cellist of the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (JPO) Susan Mouton, and later with Carel Henn Principal Cellist of The Johannesburg Festival Orchestra (JFO). I was a music student at The National School of The Arts (NSA) from 2015-2019 in Johannesburg where I received lessons from another member of the JPO, Wessel Beukes. In 2016 I began to have music lessons at The Morris Isaacson Centre for Music (MICM) with Daliwonga Tshangela, and in 2017 I joined the ARCO Project studying the cello with Peggy Nolan, cellist of The Eblana String Trio.

I have been involved in many exciting festivals, courses, collaborations and chamber music concerts both in South Africa and the UK, including *Wakkerstroom*, Rand Symphony Orchestra Concerto Festival, East Rand Youth Orchestra, South Africa House (London), and most recently with violist Garth Knox during the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition held at RBC. In addition, I have attended the South African National Youth Orchestra, Pro Corda North Chamber Music Course and Cadenza International Summer School for Strings and Piano, and I am the former principal cellist of The Johannesburg Youth Orchestra (JYO). In August 2024 I was part of The Africa United Youth Orchestra as part of a The World Orchestra Week taking place in New York Carnegie Hall.

I graduated from my BMus Degree with first class honours from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) studying the cello with Ben Davies and am now delighted to be studying at the Royal Northern College of Music under Eddie Pogossian, thanks to the financial support of the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust.

In my free time, I enjoy long walks, watching football and mixed martial arts. I like snakes and if it were possible and not dangerous, I would get a gaboon viper and a burmese python and possibly 100 dogs.

Thank you so much for your support of my studies this year.

Best wishes,

Kamo

