

Orchestral manoeuvres in the sky

KZN Philharmonic to accompany show's aerial display

ESTELLE SINKINS

ON Sunday morning, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing the *Dambusters March* accompanied by the closing moments of the Harvard's aerial display in the skies above the main arena of the Royal Agricultural showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg.

The song is just one of the items on the programme themed *London Calling*.

Exploring the idea of London as a cultural centre through the centuries, the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra's performance at the Royal Show will be conducted by visiting New York conductor Daniel Boic.

The programme includes George Frederic Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March*, *Nimrod* and *Salut d'amour*.

Durban singer Shelley McLean and Maritzburg's own Andrew Butler will deliver a selection of songs from classic West End musicals including *Les Misérables*, *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

The concert, which is set to get under way at 10.30 am on Sunday, is hosted by popular broadcaster, raconteur and sports personality Andy Capostagno.

The performance is made possible with the support of *The Witness*.

There is no additional entry fee for the concert. Show goers simply pay the gate fee for the Royal Show of R55 (R35 for children under 12 and pensioners). Tickets are available at the gate.

Limited seating will be provided in the main arena and on the grandstands, but you are welcome to take your own or a picnic blanket. It is also recommended that you take hats and/or umbrellas should it be a warm day.

• Before its performance in the city on



Shelley McLean, one of the soloists in *London Calling*. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Maritzburg baritone Andrew Butler. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Sunday, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic will perform the next in its series of World Symphony Winter Season concerts in the Durban City Hall tomorrow at 7.30 pm.

The concert will feature the virtuosic South African piano duo of Nina Schumann and Luis Magalhaes, who will perform the fiery Concerto for Two Pianos by Francis Poulenc.

The vibrant work features the exotic and sometimes unusual sounds of the early 20th century mixed with romantic and, at times, classical elements of early piano concertos. The orchestra, which will be conducted by Boico, will also perform Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, made famous in the 1940 Disney film *Fantasia*.

It is based on the poem by Johann

Wolfgang von Goethe, which tells the story of a sorcerer leaving his apprentice to do chores in his workshop. The apprentice, bored with the errands, casts a spell on his broom to fetch water for him. Things get out of hand when he breaks the broom in two to stop it from making a mess, only to realise that the two halves are now under the same spell.

The poem and the work escalate to a grand finale when the sorcerer returns to his shop and breaks the spell.

In the second half of the concert, Boico and the KZN Philharmonic present Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64*. The work, which is filled with all the lush melodies and harmonies that the composer is known for, epically depicts the narrative of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony — the triumph of good over evil.

Gert Lötter's fat lambs are winners

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GERT Lötter jnr's trip from Hofmeyr in the Eastern Cape has proved to be well worth it for the White Dorper breeder, who took three of

the top four prizes in the fat lamb competition at the Royal Agricultural Show in Pietermaritzburg.

Two of his lambs won the individual under 40 kg and over 40 kg categories, and his group of four lambs was

named best group on show under 40 kg.

The best group over 40 kg category was won by Regina Harmse of the RCH Ile de France stud in Ermelo.



Bennie Lötter is pictured with the champion fat lamb (under 40 kg), judged on the hoof. The White Dorper lamb was bred by his father, Gert Lötter jnr. PHOTOS: ESTELLE SINKINS



The champion group of four fat lambs (under 40 kg) was bred by Gert Lötter (second from left). With him are (from left) Bennie Lötter, Baby Muller, Koot van den Heever and Roelof Malan.



The champion group of four fat lambs (over 40 kg) was bred by Regina Harmse (far right). With her are (from left), Henri Naude, from BKB, Danie Raath, representing the Royal Agricultural Society sheep section and Wilko Harmse.

Today at the Royal Show

At the River Stage
12.30 pm: interactive entertainment for young children.
1 pm: Sharks Board educational.
2 pm: Family fun with the Minute to Win it Challenges for children and adults and the Burger eating challenge.
2.30 pm: Royal Duck Dash in aid of CHOC.

In the main arena
From 9 am: equestrian events: Showing Section.

In the cattle arenas
9 am: judging in the Brahman, Limousin, Sussex, Braunvieh and Simbra beef breeds.
2 pm: judging of Pinzgauer breed.
9 am: judging of the Jersey and Holstein breeds.
2 pm: dairy interbreed and presentation of the Dairy Gold Cup.

In the sheep arenas
8.30 am: judging in the Suffolk and Border Leicester championships.
1 pm: interbreed and presentation of the RAS Supreme Champions. Followed by Ile de France auction.

Sheep and Wool Expo
4.30 pm: carcass auction.

Rabbit showing is flourishing

THE Royal Agricultural Show Rabbit Section has had its largest entry — 353 animals — in many years.

"The interest in showing and commercial breeding is flourishing," said spokesperson Judy Stuart.

"Most breeds were well represented at the show.

"This was a very competitive environment and it found the breeders supporting one another, exchanging rabbits for breeding and generally working together with a spirit of enthusiasm and excitement about where the breeds are going. We are all looking forward to a similar show next year!"

Judge Karoline Steenekamp awarded the prize for best on show to Ivory Satin, an under six months doe owned by Heather Heron.

The first reserve was a Silver Fox adult buck owned by Linda Baney and the second reserve an Ermine Rex adult buck owned by Heron.

- The best of breeds prizes were:
- Netherland Dwarf — Gary and Sandy Grant from Amanzimtoti;
 - Dutch Siza Valley Rabbits in Richmond;
 - Tri-Colour Dutch — Heather Heron from Queensburgh;
 - Harequin/Maggie — Sister Ludmila, Marianhill Convent;
 - English — Sally Dickens;
 - Belgian Hare — Heather Heron;
 - Flemish Giant — J.S. Toth, Umkomas;
 - Hotot — Heather Heron;
 - Jersey Woolly — Heather Heron;
 - British Satin — Heather Heron;
 - Silver Fox — Linda Baney;
 - Frosted Pearl — Heather Heron;
 - Cinnamon — Heather Heron;
 - Chinchilla Giganta — Clair Rudd, Curry's Post;
 - New Zealand Red — Linda Baney;
 - New Zealand White — Sally Dickens;
 - Californian — Gerald and Yolande Bühr, Paddock;
 - Ermine Rex — Heather Heron;
 - Black Rex — Heather Heron;
 - Otter Rex — Liandie Barnes, Paddock;
 - Broken Rex — Liandie Barnes, Paddock;
 - Satin Rex — Heather Heron;
 - Doe and Litter Fox — Linda Baney.
- Winners in other categories were:
- Angora Crocheted Item — Yolande Bühr;
 - Angora Woven Item — Yolande Bühr;
 - Best Processed Pelt — J.S. Toth;
 - Best Junior Exhibit — Tri-colour Dutch owned by Emmalyn Benhamin Passero of Cato Ridge;
 - Runner Up to Best Junior — Flemish Giant owned by Marc and Sarah Barber of Greytown. — Witness Reporter.

Tri-colour Dutch. PHOTO: JUDY STUART



The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) Grand Champions in the SA Mutton Merino competition at the Royal Show 2015



Pictured with the RAS Grand Champion SA Mutton Merino ewe on show are (from left) handler Simon Twala, Henri de Jager (stud adviser), owner Johann de Jager of Wihaan Kinder Trust in Reitz and judge Henri Naude.



Pictured with the 2015 RAS Grand Champion SA Mutton Merino ram on show are (from left) handler Sabelo Mfuphi, Mike van den Berg of BKB, owner Adam Vermaak of Nuutbegin Stoet in Winterton and Danie Raath of the RAS Sheep Section. PHOTOS: ESTELLE SINKINS

Expo hosts Macs' wool-spinning experts

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VISITORS to the Sheep and Wool Expo at the Royal Agricultural Show can treat themselves to woolen garments, watch some sheep being sheared, enjoy fashion shows and learn about South Africa's indigenous sheep, goats and pigs.

The expo, which is situated at the Sheep Section, also plays host to members of the Midlands Arts and Crafts Society (Macs), who will be showcasing their skills with the spinning wheel.

In their daily workshops at 10.30 am, they share their wealth of knowledge on

how to spin, dye, knit and felt to produce items of amazing colour, texture and variety.

Traders at this year's expo include Free Range Clothing, Open Door Soft Shoes, Annette Oelofse Mohair Products, Nimble Fingers, Die Wollhuis and The Mad Hatters.

The variety of products on sale include wool slippers, women's clothing, knitting yarns, scarves, hand-knitted jerseys, pullovers, hats, mohair blankets, shawls, socks and much more.

And for those wanting a break from the crowds, there is Ba'lonkas coffee

shoppe, which is serving tasty German cuisine.

Cedara Agricultural College and the Agricultural Research Council are holding an interactive display of their diverse sections, along with livestock and some of the projects being undertaken at these institutions. The Indigenous Veld Goat Club will represent the goat fraternity, and the South African Police Service Stock Theft Unit's stand will allow members of the public to see the effects of stock theft and wildlife crimes on the community in general and the animals themselves.



Among the attractions at the Sheep and Wool Expo are indigenous sheep, goats and pigs. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Sheep-shearing demonstrations take place every hour and the fashion shows are at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



The innovative sign greeting visitors to the Sheep and Wool Expo. PHOTO: ESTELLE SINKINS