

Daniel Johannes Taljaard (Siloam, Soutpansberg, South Africa 1971 –)

Hannes Taljaard is currently studying Masters in MBP/Rhythmik (Music and Movement Education / Rhythmics) at the mdw (University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna), after completing his Bachelors at the mdw in MPB/Rhythmik in June 2024, with majors in Musical Improvisation and Voice & Voice Didactics. Living in Vienna presents opportunities to pursue his interest in the many and interesting relationships between music and movement. He is honing and applying his skills with the aim to be part of various social contexts that have the potential to shape human interactions. The motivation for this stems from his convictions regarding the significance of embodiment

- in our everyday lives – how that part of the mind that we commonly refer to as ‘the body’ is active in every aspect of our lives, and
- in (musical) cognition – how that aspect of the mind that we commonly refer to as the body is active in perceiving, thinking, learning and remembering (music).

Here in Vienna he can participate as artist and as educator in a variety of artistic, artistic-didactic and didactic projects, integrating himself into an established, stimulating and extensive network of people with similar interests and experiences. His interest in multicultural processes and international cooperation has been a constant force during most of his life.

Composing is still the core and foundation of his artistic activities. He also performs as pianist, singer, and movement artist, and works in various capacities (such as organiser, coordinator, consultant, or choreographic assistant) in other projects. In order to structure the organisation of projects, he cofounded in 2024 the **allerdings** society, and **AMBO**, a duo with another pianist who is – like him – a performer, movement artist, composer and singer. Allerdings is currently working on developing four music and movement performances. AMBO presented a workshop in piano improvisation at Artepiano international piano festival in Castelnuovo in July 2024 and will visit four universities in South Africa in February and March 2025. Hannes hopes to continue working on the potential of artistic, artistic-didactic and didactic applications of MBP/Rhythmik in performance and in tertiary education in Europe and South Africa.

Prior to moving to Vienna in November 2019, he worked for more than two decades in South Africa as composer and lecturer at the North-West University (NWU) in Potchefstroom – the city where he lived most of his life, and where he studied music and languages. An important aspect of his work at NWU involved the organisation of several South African Music festivals, some running for a week with a repertoire consisting mostly of works by South African composers. During some concerts he appeared as pianist, and he presented several workshops and seminars for young composers at these festivals and similar events in South Africa. At some of these events international artists, among them the Rubio String Quartet (Belgium), Ensemble Zora (Switzerland), and the Duo Montagnard (USA) performed his compositions. His compositions have been performed mainly in South Africa, and also in Europe, the USA, and Argentina.

Milestones in his academic career were the completion of a D.Mus. in Composition in 2007, an appointment as Associate Professor, and guest lectures (mainly in Composition and Music Education) at tertiary institutions in South Africa, Botswana, Norway, Finland, Sweden, the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama. He facilitated visits by composers Rodrigo Sigal (Mexico) and Lucas Ligeti (Austria/USA/South Africa) to the NWU in Potchefstroom. His two residencies at the *Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras* in Morelia Mexico were stimulating experiences that formed an important part his international activities. He studied composition privately in Antwerp, Belgium, with Wim Henderickx, and attended the Darmstadt Ferienkurse and festivals of new music in Germany and Norway. Research for his masters dissertation in Musicology/Music Education took him to England, France and Belgium where he interviewed composition lecturers.

His music education started in a home environment characterised by singing, musical games and improvisation. Formal training (and composing) started when he was seven years old: at first recorder and music notation lessons, to which piano lessons and the study of music theory were soon added. He also studied church organ for four years. His prolific progress in harmony, counterpoint and music analysis resulted when he was seventeen in his passing with distinction an exam that had the same level as a university degree in Music Theory. He progressed to study piano at the university when he was sixteen. He sang in choirs from an early age until 1992,

notably in the youth choir of his province and in the prestigious university choir at NWU. Both these choirs undertook regular tours through South Africa. During his studies at the University of the North-West he worked for two years as an accompanist in singing classes, also collaborating with students during concerts and scholarship auditions. He collaborated as performer with other musicians on various occasions in order to present his own pieces to the public. A non-musical activity that has hugely influenced his life, his professional activities and his understanding of embodiment was his participation in competitive gymnastics until he was seventeen.