



BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Report to the Synod 2025

Introduction

The Brass Band Association has been busy in the past two years celebrating the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Church Services.

The brass bands of the association serve not only in church services, but also at funerals, congregational festivals and important birthdays.

We continue to uphold the tradition of our fathers that founded the church with a brass instrument in their hands.

Brass Band Festivals

100. Brass Band Festival Hermannsburg 9-11 August 2024

We celebrated the centenary of the Brass Band Association from 9-11 August in Hermannsburg with a long weekend filled with music.

The successful festival started with a concert on Friday, where brass bands had the opportunity to show their talents, followed by meditative music in the church. The church in Hermannsburg was packed to the rafters and we played from everywhere, even the sermon lectern.

On Sunday the festival concluded with a festival service and wonderful lunch.

We were wonderfully hosted by the Hermannsburg Congregation to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

Deutscher Evangelischer Posaumentag Hamburg 3-5 May 2024

The Evangelischer Posaundienst in Deutschland (EPiD) hosts a country wide brass band festival every 8 years. The first two festivals were held in Leipzig in 2008 and Dresden in 2016.

The 2024 festival was held from 3-5 May 2024 in Hamburg. The members of our association awaited the festival with anticipation and, in the end, we had a group of about 80 visitors from South Africa attend the festival.

We visited Hermannsburg in Germany as part of the 175th Anniversary of their brass bands and spent the weekend in Bienenbüttel, a small town south of Hamburg, where we held a concert on Thursday 2 May with the brass bands of Bienenbüttel.

We had the privilege to participate in a concert on Saturday afternoon with the band of well known and loved composer Traugott Fünfgeld in front of the Michaeliskirche in Hamburg with many South Africans living in and around Hamburg in attendance. A truly special experience.

The festival was a wonderful experience with over 15 000 instruments in attendance. The Sunday service in the city park of Hamburg was an experience that will not be forgotten.

We look forward to the next festival in 2032. Save the date!!

175 Brass Band Festival Hermannsburg Germany

The brass bands in Hermannsburg, Germany, celebrated their 175th Anniversary on the same weekend as our centenary.

To mark our connection with Hermannsburg in Germany we sent our Chairman, Mark Meier, to represent us at the festival.

Regional Festivals

This year we celebrated festivals in each of our regions as follows:

- Northern Region, 27 July at the Johannesgemeinde Pretoria led by Mark Hansen
- Central Region, 22 June in Piet Retief, led by Henning Reinstorf
- Southern Region, 15 June in Pietermaritzburg, led by Manfred Kuhn

Thank you to the regional directors for their hard work.

EBBASA Festival

Every 5 years the Evangelical Brass Band Association of Southern Africa (EBBASA), an umbrella association of the NELCSA, FELSISA, BBSA and Namibia, meet for a joint festival to praise the Lord together. It is a wonderful celebration of our common faith.

On 78&28 September we will hold our festival in Johannesburg and we invite all who wish to attend the festival service to feel welcome.

The festival service will be at the Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg on 28 September starting at 08h30.

Education

Conductor Training

We concluded the latest round of certified conductors trainings (D-Prüfung), an initiative started in 2008.

This training is led by our association on behalf of EBBASA and provides conductors training according to the D-Level of the German Church Music system. The course takes place every two years and is an intensive training for prospective brass band conductors.

We are proud to announce that Hugo Ottermann from Kroondal and Karsten Hinze from Augsburg successfully passed the training.

Thank you to Udo Lutge for your tireless efforts in managing this training effort.

We also held two introductory weekends for aspiring conductors in Elandskraal, KZN, and Northrand Congregation, Gauteng. Both weekends were attended by players from various brass band associations with an interest in conducting. It was especially encouraging to see young aspirant conductors participating.

Thank you to our Training Director, Siggie Prigge, for his efforts.

Support of ELCSA growth

We continue to support the growth of the brass bands in the ELCSA Western and Northern Dioceses with workshops and organisational aspects.

Michael Knake Visit

As part of our continuing co-operation with the brass band movement in Germany we invited Michael Knake, a director from Berlin, to visit our bands in preparation of the centenary festival in August. He conducted training in Johannesburg, Augsburg, Wartburg and Hermannsburg, and also conducted some pieces during the brass and festival in Hermannsburg.

Kailager

We are happy to report that we are planning a Kailager Brass Holiday for beginners during the winter holidays in 2026, led by Siggie Prigge and a brass band teacher from Germany..

Rüstwoche

Brass music is a regular feature of the Rüstwoche held by the youth missions of the Southern and Eastern Circuits. We appreciate the continuation of this wonderful tradition with our youth.

Co-operation with other associations

The co-operation in EBBASA is going well, especially the conductors training that is held under our leadership. It is clear that music, especially brass music, is the key bridge that joins the different churches of our Lutheran Confession. It eliminates the differences that keep us apart and, for that one moment when we play together, we are of one mind and soul.

We continue to work to assist the brass bands of ELCSA to organise into an association and for them to join EBBASA.

Further we are extremely thankful for our association with the Evangelischer Posaundienst in Deutschland (EPiD). Our Brass Band Director regularly attends the annual training days (Studientag) of the EPiD in Germany.

Close

The Brass Band movement in our church remains a cornerstone of worship and a key mission field. It is a wonderful way for new congregants to connect into the life of a congregation.

I encourage all congregations without a brass band to start one with the support of the Association.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edmund Otteman". The signature is written in a dark ink on a white background.