



Qden Blaauw (15) started playing the piano at the age of eight and showed an interest in classical music from an early age. Under the guidance of Shane Goodall, he has won many awards over the past few years.

In 2016, he was a first prize winner of the Great Composers International Competition. He was a participant and performed at the Stellenbosch International Piano Symposium. At the Stellenbosch Eisteddfod he won seven trophies, including the

JB Collins Shield for the most promising piano contestant. He won first prize in the Little Maestros and Johan Vos music competitions.

At the 2016 SAMRO Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition he won the first prize as well as the following category prizes: Piano, Best Baroque Piece and Best Performance by a student of a SASMT member.

In November 2016, Qden was one of ten children (and the first from Africa) selected from more than 500 applicants worldwide to attend the prestigious Allianz Music Camp in Warsaw, Poland, where he received a master class from acclaimed pianist Lang Lang.

In 2017, he performed as a soloist with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, the Free State Symphony Orchestra and the Hugo Lambrechts Orchestra. He also performed in the Suidoosterfees with the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. In the same year he was a guest artist at the Sun City Superbowl during the gala concert evening of the International Insurance Association.

In 2018, he won third prize in the 2018 Hennie Joubert Piano Competition, first prize in the junior category of the Johann Vos Music Competition and second prize in the National Youth Music Competition. He also performed in the 2018 Suidoosterfees where he was awarded a trophy for best classical performance. In March 2018 he was invited to Saarlouis, Germany, where he performed in three concerts including a concerto performance with the German Police Orchestra.

In February 2019, he performed as a soloist with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra in the Cape Town City Hall, and participated in the Wolfram Schmitt-Leonardy Masterclasses in Cape Town. He was one of six international young prodigies who had daily masterclasses and who performed in three concerts, including one at the Woordfees in Stellenbosch.

Locally he has been featured on television, including Espresso, eCNA, SABC2 and SABC3 news as well as local newspapers. Internationally, he was interviewed on Polish television.

He has had master classes from international pianists, including Valentina Lisitsa, Gloria Campaner, Martina Bauer, Wolfram Schmitt-Leonardy, Motoki Hirai, Spencer Myer, Nina Schumann, Luis Magalhaes, Liezl-Maret Jacobs and Jan Hugo.

Qden loves composing classical music and also plays the violin. He performed one of his compositions at the Oude Libertas Amphitheatre in March 2017. His hobbies include playing cricket, building electric circuits and playing computer games.