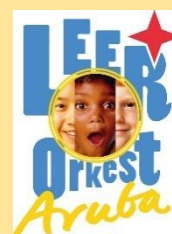


# STICHTING LEERORKEST ARUBA

## ANUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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## FOREWORD

First of all, Stichting Leerorkest Aruba, the Minister of Justice and Security in the Netherlands, would like to thank Stichting Leerorkest and Stichting Instrument depot Leerorkest, again for their donations to make the pilot project Leerorkest in Aruba possible.

Despite the COVID-19, the past two years have been an educational, creative and experience-rich period for Stichting Leerorkest Aruba (hereinafter "S.L.O.A").

The government of Aruba, in particular the Minister of Justice, Security and Integration, mr. A.C.G. Bikker in 2020, and Dr. Mr. Rocco Tjon in 2021, and the Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development, Mr. dr. R. Lampe in 2020 and mr. Endy Croes in 2021, have offered their support from the start.

The schools involved in the pilot project are extremely enthusiastic and more schools have expressed the wish to participate in the Leerorkest.

The goal of S.L.O.A. is to eventually expand the program of the Leerorkest in all schools in Aruba, thus giving all students the opportunity to learn to make music.

After all, music is for everyone, but partaking in music lessons or music education is not affordable for all.

This is also why for S.L.O.A., the objective is to make all efforts to introduce the Leerorkest at several schools in Aruba. However, the reality is - in order to reach out to several schools and in the future perhaps the entire Aruban school community - this requires manpower and financial resources.

S.L.O.A. is highly motivated and will be fully committed to embracing several schools with the Leerorkest in the coming period.

The chair of S.L.O.A hereby presents the annual account of the 2020-2021 activities of the Leerorkest, as required for submitting the subsidy application for the Leerorkest Aruba for the 2021-2022 school year, to the Ministry of Justice and Security in the Netherlands, the Government of Aruba and institutions willing to financially support this beautiful endeavor.

## PREFACE

On April 30, 2019, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between the Minister of Justice and Security of the Netherlands, Mr. mr. F. Grapperhaus, the minister of Justice, Security and Integration Aruba mr.mr. A.C.G. Bikker, and the Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development Aruba mr. dr. R. Lampe, in which the intention was expressed at the time to appoint a working group to make recommendations in the short term regarding the concept for a Learning Orchestra in Aruba (Appendix 1- LOI).

On 29 July 2019, the aforementioned working group was appointed by the Ministerial Decree (MB) which came into effect on 1 June 2019. This working group set out to work with great enthusiasm and submitted a report containing the guidelines for setting up the Leerorkest. in Aruba to the Ministers, in July 2019 This document was also the basis for the pilot project.





## Foundation Leerorkest Aruba

The decision was to set up a private entity, in the form of a foundation to implement the pilot project, to ensure sustainability of the Leerorkest.

The Stichting Leerorkest Aruba was founded on October 7, 2019. The board at that time consisted of Mrs. G. Maduro as chairman, Mr. S. Looman as treasurer, Ms. J. Poeran as secretary, and Mrs. D. Arends and Mr. J. Croes as board members.

The Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development arranged for Mr. J. Croes and Mrs. J. van Romondt to be appointed as project managers of the Leerorkest Aruba,

The board executes its tasks on a voluntary basis, Aruba Music School cooperated by putting Mr. Croes. on 'loan,' for Leerorkest Aruba and Mrs. J. van Romondt, was tasked with coordination of this project. Her salaries are covered by the Direction Public Schools Aruba, DPS.

Unfortunately, our chairwoman, Mrs. Grace Maduro passed away in 2021. Her job was taken over by Mrs. Dilma Arends. Mr. Stanley Looman stayed on as treasurer. Mrs. Poeran stepped down as Secretary and Mr. Croes also stepped down from the board and from his position of Director Leerorkest Aruba in 2021. Two new board members were recruited, Mrs. Thais Franken and Mr. Johnny Scharbaay. There is a vacancy for the remaining position on the board.



## DONATIONS, GRANTS AND GIFTS

S.L.O.A. has received a sum from the Minister of Justice and Security for the pilot project.

The largest part of this amount has been used to pay for the services of music teachers. Attached is the financial overview of S.L.O.A. (see annex - 2021 financial report).

In addition, Stichting Instruments Depot Leerorkest Amsterdam donated 144 instruments in 2019 for the first 2 pilot schools, and another 80 in 2021 for the 3 new pilot schools. In total, S.L.O.A. has received the following instruments: violin, cello, double bass, trumpet, trombone, horn, clarinet, flute.



S.L.O.A. The Minister of Justice and Security in the Netherlands and the Stichting Instrumentdepot Leerorkest are very grateful for this donation. In addition, a small number of instruments have been received from Rotary Club of Aruba, and from private donations.

In 2020, the PANA Foundation donated 15,000 florins.

In addition, S.L.O.A. has received a donation of AWG 10,000 from WEB and a donation of AWG 5,000 from SETAR, two local companies that support the Leerorkest in Aruba.

S.L.O.A. and TeleAruba reached a collaboration agreement at the end of 2021. The National Television company indicated it wants to support the Leerorkest, which resulted in the production of virtual music classes in line with the Leerorkest curriculum geared toward elementary school children.

Throughout the year, the coordinator, together with the treasurer, drafted sponsorship request letters for various service clubs in Aruba and other potential sponsors.

S.L.O.A. also started with secondary practical education in Aruba (SPO Pariba) in 2021, for the production of rhythmic instruments, such as woodblocks, maracas, etc. Leerorkest got a donation of CEDE Aruba of Awg.5000,- for this project.

The project serves two purposes, namely to provide these students additional skills and also provide elementary school children who follow the online lessons with the required instruments. A great project by children, for children in Aruba.



## PILOTSCHOOLS 2020-2021

S.L.O.A started the instrument classes at two pilot schools in February 2020, thanks to the loan of musical instruments by the Leerorkest Amsterdam. The Leerorkest Aruba has since been expanded to 5 pilot schools in school year 2021-2022, with classes in nine different instruments. These are:

1. Violin lessons
2. Cello lessons
3. Trumpet lessons
4. Trombone lessons
5. Clarinet lessons
6. Flute lessons
7. Drum Lessons
8. Double bass lessons
9. Horn Lessons



The five pilot schools are:

- Prinses Amalia basisschool (DPS) (since 2020)
- Colegio Laura Wernet (SKOA) (since 2020)
- Paulus basisschool (SKOA) (since 2021)
- Graf Von Zinzendorf (SPCOA ) (since 2021)
- Aruba Adventist Academy (SOAZA) (since 2021)

The children were encouraged to choose the instrument they wanted to learn to play, after an introductory lesson at the beginning of the school year. They will continue to specialize in the instrument they choose for the following years. The lessons are given by music teachers, mostly musicians who want to transfer their love for their instruments to the children. The music teachers simultaneously provide the classes in small groups per year level, in different classrooms and multifunctional rooms in a primary school. ( f.e. the teachers-coffee room, copy room, media room, computer room, etc. ) Leerorkest Amsterdam developed an accredited teaching method that serves as support for the instrument lessons. The structure of the instrument lessons is of a social and preventive nature. The objective is for the children to learn to work together, listen to each other and enjoy the joint rehearsals and performances through discipline and respect for each other.



## Online General Musical Education Lessons

The online or virtual classes, (General Musical Education Lessons) of Leerorkest Aruba originated during the corona pandemic, and are being further developed. The 2021 virtual lessons were recorded and edited in home-setting, by the project team of Leerorkest Aruba. The program used was the Leerorkest Amsterdam curriculum, adapted to online education and Aruban culture. Some songs for the virtual lessons were translated into Papiamentu.

Jaderick Croes, first-degree qualified music teacher, is seen in photos being taped while he is teaching these classes.



The accredited preparatory teaching method developed by Leerorkest Amsterdam is used for the virtual classes. The method developed according to the legal education frameworks and learning progression line of Dutch education, that is similar to that of Aruba.

In addition, the children are encouraged to use their Orff instruments (rhythm instruments, such as glockenspiel, woodblocks, triangle, boomwhackers, sound shapes, etc.), and also learn how to use their own body as an instrument (body percussion).

The Leerorkest Aruba has created a page on their website where schools can log in and view the manual, the online lesson and a closing video and show it in the classroom.

The link is "plug and play", the primary school teacher should only supervise the class during the lesson.

The lesson duration is the same as that of a normal music lesson, approximately 30/45 minutes per lesson.

## Collaboration with school boards

S.L.O.A signed a cooperation agreement in 2021 with various school boards, The intention was to set up an annual subscription to the online AMV lessons.



The purpose was to expand the virtual program by increasing revenues. The subscription project was canceled in 2022 as many schools did not have the financial means necessary. S.L.O.A, through the support of TeleAruba, was able to continue the production of virtual lessons which are now available to all schools and even the general public.



We are now offering the online classes for free for the 2022-2023 school year, to all schools in Aruba, but also on the other Caribbean islands.

## Parents

The involvement of parents plays an important role within the vision and goals of the Leerorkest. As it was the case in the past year, parents of the students are also involved in the project.

Every year, the parents of the students who participate in the Leerorkest are informed by the schools on the program of the Leerorkest at that particular school. In addition, the parents are always asked for permission to photograph their children for publication purposes.

Parents and caregivers can follow the progress of their children through consultations with school, or by following the Leerorkest's Facebook page and website, which are regularly updated with activities of the Leerorkest.

Due to the strict Covid-19 measures, it was not possible for the parents to attend the performances of their children at the end of the school year in 2021, but by the end of 2022, parents were able to attend the closing concert of Leerorkest at each participating school.

## Workforce and Development

S.L.O.A. entered an assignment agreement with the music teachers associated with the above-mentioned schools for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year.

In March 2020, musical instrument lessons started at the two pilot schools, but unfortunately these were stopped early due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Classes did not resume until the fall of 2020. But, the various waves of infections required the postponement of in class instrument lessons until January 2021.

The number of hours worked per month is controlled by the project coordinator. The music teachers submit a monthly statement for their hours worked, and are paid accordingly upon administrative checks and balances.

The number of teachers for the first school year was 13.







Teachers receive an hourly fee, which is paid with the funds received by the Ministry of Justice and Safety of The Netherlands through intermediation of Leerorkest Amsterdam.



All work done to ensure the program can be implemented in Aruba is covered by said subsidy.

The teachers are:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| - Roderick Albus,     | trumpet, trombone, horn                 |
| - Dennison Abrahams,  | trumpet, trombone, horn                 |
| - Reno Steba,         | double bass                             |
| - Jeremy Bonarriba,   | drums                                   |
| - Lazaro Barizonte,   | clarinet, flute                         |
| - Alfred Ruiz,        | clarinet, flute                         |
| - Joselyn Trimon,     | flute                                   |
| - Samantha Hankovszky | cello                                   |
| - Hester Matthijsse   | violin, cello                           |
| - Ryan Maduro         | violin                                  |
| - Dailien Dijkhoff    | violin                                  |
| - Jaderick Croes      | online teacher AMV at Leerorkest Aruba. |



## Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic presented many challenges, including in 2020-2021.

Many parents who worked in the catering industry, for example, lost their jobs, with all the consequences that entailed. The impact was also in schools. Not only were school staffers personally affected by the disease but public health measures also created additional blocks, including the fact our music teachers were not allowed into the schools. There were delays in the progression of the program.

S.L. O. A therefore decided not to resume instrumental lessons until January 2021. The resumption of classes during the pandemic was carefully orchestrated, for instance with the use of extra mouthpieces for the wind instruments, and by providing the teachers with face masks.





## Shows 2020-2021



Despite the pandemic, we managed to organize a performance at each of the five schools at the end of the school year.

Every school has approached this differently, but one thing was central: the children had a lot of fun and proudly showed what they had learned on their instruments over the past year!



In addition, the children from the second class (group 4) also participated in the performance, with songs they learned during their online lesson, thus were able to proudly sing along with the other students at school, who played on their instruments.





Dignitaries and public executives were invited to the performances along with parents, and the overall reactions were extremely positive, for S.L.O.A., the school principals, teachers, music teachers and particularly for participating children.



f.l.t.r. Minister Endy Croes, Education and Sport, Marco de Souza, director Leerorkest Amsterdam, Minister Rocco Tjon, Justice and Social Affairs

## Promotion and Publicity

S.L.O.A. has undertaken various actions to promote the pilot project.

For example, the website of the Leerorkest Aruba is used for information about activities, but also to view the online lessons. (see <https://www.leerorkestaruba.org/>). In addition, the Facebook page of the Leerorkest is maintained by the project leaders, see <https://www.facebook.com/leerorkestaruba/>. Articles from the press about the Leerorkest are regularly shared, as well as photos and videos of the schools themselves. In addition to the Leerorkest's Facebook page, the Minister of Justice, Security and Integration and the Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development also post articles about the Leerorkest on their own Facebook pages.





## Resolutions 2021-2022

### Instrument Lessons:

In order to maintain and further develop quality, the Leerorkest working on the following:

Music teachers will receive support in different ways and areas:

1. A curriculum for instrument lessons for the four years (class 3 to class 6,), is being developed so that all music teachers will do the same, and as a result the orchestra rehearsals will also run better.

2. The music teachers are offered monthly peer reviews, during which they exchange ideas and best practices; they also participate in workshops on pedagogical issues (e.g. Conscious Discipline), to ensure everyone is staring at the same goal, namely to achieve substantive quality improvement.

3. Online workshops in subject teaching will be organized in collaboration with the Leerorkest Academy in the Netherlands, e.g. through a buddy system with fellow music teachers from the Netherlands and the other Caribbean islands that have the program as well.



4. A PDG (Pedagogical Certificate) training will be offered to music teachers, which will give them the skills to facilitate them in working with and teaching children.

5. Participating teachers will attend two-week workshops on didactics and pedagogy in The Netherlands and Belgium, through an exchange program with conservatories in The Hague and Ghent, among others.

6. Exchange program for students of said conservatories to participate in the instrument classes and provide space for internships.

7. For music teachers who want to study and expand their knowledge further, S.L O.A is currently investigating the options for promoting and covering the costs of the online post-undergraduate training as a music specialist for participating teachers.



### After school activities

The Leerorkest also wants to do further research on after-school activities in which children are given the opportunity to take lessons on instruments after school.

This could be organized in the various community centers in Aruba.

Recent studies by, among others, Atha (the Aruba Youth Foundation) and Cede, show that children no longer want to stay at their schools for extracurricular programs but prefer a special room in their neighborhood.

### Cost of compensation music teachers:

In order to be able to grow further, and to further stimulate the local musicians to pass on their love for their instrument to children, Leerorkest Aruba needs more funds. The proposal is for the Government of Aruba to provide labor contracts to the teachers in order to ensure the continuation of the program.

Salaries of teachers at The Aruba Music School are subsidized by the Government and Leerorkest teachers can fall under that construction. As the program grows, Leerorkest teachers can provide services to the Aruba Music School which can then expand its own program. This multi functionality will benefit all parties. Teachers can then be deployed:

1. In the morning DURING school time for the instrument lessons,
2. The first-degree teacher can assist during school for "live" AMV lessons at the different schools and can also provide support to his fellow music teachers,
3. For after school programs in the community centers as music teachers for the group instrument lessons,
4. or as instrument teacher for individual students at the music school.



Research into the effects of the music lessons of the Leerorkest in Aruba:

Student(s) at the University of Aruba will start a study into the impact of music on the social-emotional development and behavior of children within the Aruba Learning Orchestra, in order to quantify in scientific terms, the importance of music as an educational, formative and social tool.

## Conclusion

The past year was a major challenge for the board and management of the Leerorkest, which had to find creative ways to ensure that music lessons to children would continue.

And the reaction of the community is uplifting as many recognize the value of the program not only for the children, but also for society as a whole.

The Leerorkest strives for children's happiness and well-being in life. S.L.O.A is working towards reaching out to more schools in the coming school year and to continue expanding this fantastic project.

