



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## School of the Arts: Music



### **Jaco van Staden**

Jaco van Staden was born in Cape Town and grew up in Pretoria, South Africa. He obtained his MMus degree in Performing Arts at the University of Pretoria and holds a Teacher's Licentiate in French horn (Unisa). He pursues a career as a French horn player, conductor and brass instrument teacher. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in chamber music performance at the University of Pretoria.

During his years of study, he was the recipient of the SICMF (Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival) French horn scholarship, where he was fortunate to study with World-renowned French horn soloist Abel Pereira and performed as a guest with the Orquestra Simfonica da Porto in Portugal. He also had lessons in Vienna from Austrian horn player Volker Altmann (formerly Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra) through the MIAGI Orchestra.

Jaco is currently a freelance horn player for several orchestras around South Africa, most notably with the JPO, MNPO, JFO, GPO, KZNPO, and MIAGI. Jaco performed at numerous international music festivals such as the Verbier Festival, Young Euro Classic Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, and Toblach Mahler Festival during several concert-tours with the MIAGI Orchestra. He is currently the head of music at the Mamelodi Magnet School for Music and lecturer in ensemble performance, and orchestral conducting at the University of Pretoria.

As a conductor, he studied conducting with Dutch conductor Gerben Grooten between 2012 and 2017 and received masterclasses from Daniel Boico and Victor Yampolsky. In collaboration with MIAGI, he attended conducting master classes of Prof Mark Stringer at the University of Music and Arts in Vienna and received private tuition from Prof Georg Mark at the Vienna Volksoper. He was the runner-up in the 3rd Len van Zyl National Conductor's Competition in 2016, held at the Cape Town City Hall and conducted the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra at final round. He is the principal conductor of the Pretoria Symphony Orchestra since November 2018. Jaco often appears as guest conductor for the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Gauteng Philharmonic Orchestra.