

Annual report 2017 – Engels

The SVT board proudly presents its first annual result online, encompassing the year 2017.

In **November 2016**, the SVT board members and the Netherlands Wind Ensemble (Nederlands Blazers Ensemble NBE) organized a 'house concert' for potential donators and other guests. Former Children's Ombudsman Marc Dullaert spoke about his experience with children in need, which became the starting point of SVT.

The SVT board took until February 2017 to research the needs and opportunities of refugee children with musical aspirations in the Netherlands. In doing this, the board was assisted by two volunteers: Marc Stoffer and Ilaha Muhseni. The SVT team – the board and two volunteers – also set up the foundation's website, the secretariat, and other administrative duties.

SVT cooperates with professional organizations that are at home with the foundation's goals and activities, making sure that SVT does not reinvent someone else's wheel. SVT is grateful for its cooperation with the NBE, not only for spotting children with musical talent for us, but also for providing them with a platform to perform. The SVT supports these children by providing them with (additional) training in the Netherlands.

In July 2017, the SVT and NBE sat together with Jawa Mania. Jawa is a young, highly talented musician from Syria, who has been living in the Netherlands since 2015. She has also obtained permanent residency here, so her future lies in this country. Jawa sings and accompanies herself with the Ud, a popular string instrument in the Middle East. In order to encourage her dreams and ambitions, the SVT has decided to support her financially. Together with Jawa, the foundation has made a tailor-made plan which would help her further her musical career. Since Jawa is the first talent supported by the SVT, considerable time was needed to streamline her plans. In 2018, Jawa will carry out this plan, and SVT will post her experiences online through blogs and photographs.

The SVT also worked hard in 2017 to gather enough funds by looking for more donators, both from individuals as well as businesses and organizations such as De Kinderpostzegels. It also aims to raise contributions from other funds. The annual financial statement shows the results from these efforts. Not all the contacts made and the hours of discussions conducted in 2017 would immediately bear results, but would rather come to fruition at a later stage.

2017 also saw the third edition of NBE's Home NOT Sweet Home (Oost West Thuis NIET Best OWTNB) concert ([click here for programme](#)), with musicians from various parts of the world taking part in the show. It was touching to see how music pulls people from different cultures together, and gives them a chance to build new lives in a new country. Our first 'candidate', Jawa, also gave an impressive performance during the concert. Jawa had already performed with the NBE in 2015, and two years later she was on stage again with the ensemble.

SVT also maintains ties with the Vrolijkheid Foundation, which has consistently and enthusiastically worked with refugees in the Netherlands for many years. Together with the NBE, Vrolijkheid suggests possible candidates whose musical talents may be further developed with the support of SVT.

Stichting Vluchtelingen Toverfluit Board