



## CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL

**Esthea Kruger**

*Cum Laude, Master of Music, 2009*

ESTHEA KRUGER, WHO OBTAINED THE MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREE, CUM LAUDE, IN MARCH 2009, WAS AWARDED THE UNIVERSITY'S CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL DURING THE YEAR IN REVIEW. THE MEDAL IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A FINAL-YEAR STUDENT FOR EXCELLENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

Throughout the four years of study preceding Ms Kruger's graduation in 2009, she maintained an academic percentage of 87,23% and received the Rector's Award for Excellence in that year. In 2006 she scored the best average percentage in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This is also the year in which she graduated with her BMus degree, cum laude. What makes Ms Kruger's success so exceptional is that she specialises in the performing arts – a field in which achieving high distinctions are unusual and even extraordinary.

Ms Kruger's path of academic excellence started at high school in Stellenbosch. She was named as the Dux scholar of Bloemhof Girls' High from 2001 to 2003. Some of her other academic achievements include securing second place on the Western Cape Merit List for the Matric Senior Certificate Examination and Best Achiever in Additional Mathematics in the Western Cape.

Her academic accomplishments continued when she enrolled at Stellenbosch University in 2004. In 2005 and 2006 she was the recipient of the Merit Bursary for an academic average of 85% and 90% respectively. In 2007 she received the FAK Senior Bursary as well as Academic Colours for obtaining the highest academic average (88%) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Ms Kruger also received the Medal for the Best Master's Student of 2008 within the Faculty.

Her exceptional talent, dedication and academic achievements have been acknowledged outside the sphere of Stellenbosch University. In 2008 she was the overall winner of the ATKV-Muziq Competition for Classical Musicians and in 2007 she was placed second in the Unisa National Piano Competition. In 2006 she was named the Most Promising Student at the Stellenbosch International Piano Symposium and won the Lionel Bowman Beethoven Competition.

Apart from her academic activities, in 2006 Ms Kruger was also the student organiser of the Stellenbosch International Piano Symposium as well as the main organiser of the Stellenbosch Ensemble Competition.

Her supervisor for her MMus said Ms Kruger had worked largely independently on her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Prialux Rainier's Barbaric Dance Suite for Piano*. Her research required her to master a complex analytical system and apply it to a piece of music that had never been subjected to analytical scrutiny. Ms Kruger's command of this complex method, her presentation of it in accessible language and the original and sophisticated conclusions she made, has resulted in the thesis representing a discernible disciplinary contribution.

Ms Kruger is currently studying towards her Doctorate in the Arts at the University of Northern Texas in the USA.

