



## **ROLAND THOMPSON**

**LRAM CT ABRSM FRSA**

**Roland studied and qualified at The Royal Academy of Music in London.**

**He returned to South Africa and held senior posts as Head of Music at Gill College and Paul Roos Gymnasium/Eikestad Primary School for many years. On invitation by the late Prof. Hennie Joubert, Roland was**

**appointed an examiner for UNISA – Music Examinations.**

**In 2000 he left Stellenbosch to take up a position as Director of Music in the UK and worked in both the Comprehensive and Independent sectors. Here his children's choirs achieved national and international success, notably in the Sainsbury's Competition, The National Choral Competition of the UK at the Festival Hall, and the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. His award-winning choir was selected to perform at the prestigious Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod in Wales. He also worked closely with the then Prince Charles' Prince's Trust.**

**On his return to South Africa, he identified the need for music at pre-school level.**

**The programme Roland implements is not a method, but it contains a sequence designed to help bring about a process of learning. It essentially aims to develop the musicianship of children by increasing aural awareness, encouraging 'inner ear' response and enabling musical thinking. It makes substantial use of the voice, but at the same time acknowledges the value of movement and the use of instruments.**

**It is gratifying to recognise increased confidence in the young children engaged in this creative activity. The development of numeracy and literacy also enjoys much attention in this programme.**

**Roland believes that a child with an undiscovered voice, is a deprived child. Every effort should be made to offer all children an opportunity to experience Music.**