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# In tune to *a new season*



Karin Krige of Hartbeespoort is a multifaceted woman that believes in serving her community, whether with music or word. She and husband Carel are embracing their new life season, even if it is not going to be all song and dance.

**D**espite boxes that have hardly been unpacked in the Kriges' new home in Xanadu, it's already warm and inviting. A table laden with refreshments and fine attention to detail bade a heartfelt welcome. The cello and piano in the corner of the living room are tell-tale signs that a musician lives there.

Karin and Carel were the founders of the Doxa Deo schools. They joined the Doxa Deo group in 1997, with the first school opening its doors in Faerie Glen in 1998, followed by Doxa Deo College East in 2003 and the Doxa Deo School/College Xanadu in 2008. "At the time private schools were still a novel idea, but we had faith in our concept." Doxa Deo Xanadu was sold to the PLG Group last year and that brought to an end an era in formal education for the couple. "Saying goodbye to friends and colleagues isn't always easy, but seasons surely come and go. This is a brand new chapter in our lives."

Karin was born in Namibia and grew up near Etosha. Music featured in her life since she can remember. "In fact, I

sang melodies before I could say a full sentence." She completed her training as piano teacher at Unisa, sang in various choirs, including the Windhoek Youth Choir, Gauteng Youth Choir and the Jubilatum gospel singers.

Karin relocated to South Africa with her family when she was in Grade 10. "We always joke that I had to move to South Africa to meet my husband," laughs Karin. Carel, an educational psychologist and now MD of POPUP, a social upliftment programme, was her teacher and he started courting her the minute she finished school. Karin studied dental assisting at technikon. "Carel promised if I studied hard, we could get married," she remembers gleefully. Two years later she tied the knot with "the love of my life".

The couple's sons, Frikkie, a pilot, and Hennie, an honours student in accounting, have inherited Karin's musical talent. "Lucky for them, because Carel always jokes he is very good at keeping out of tune," she laughs. Hennie plays the cello and bass and Frikkie the guitar and drums. The Kriges have recently gained a daughter, Charne, Frikkie's wife.

When the couple moved to Hartbeespoort in 2009, Carel was principal of the school and acted as pastor of the Doxa Deo Church. Karin was part of the worship team. Later a full-time pastor was appointed, but in 2014 Carel and Karin were asked to manage the church's satellite campus in Schoemansville, which they have successfully developed into a multicultural spiritual home. Carel preaches on weekends and Karin is the worship leader.

Karin is passionate about women and children especially, and performs at churches, schools and women's gatherings and does motivational speaking. She teaches vocal training and piano to private pupils, as well

as KiddieBeat, a music appreciation programme for toddlers and preschoolers at several schools in town and Gauteng. One of these is the Meerhof School for the physically disabled. "It is so special to work with these children. I had to adjust some lessons to accommodate their unique challenges, but I always leave there feeling inspired and blessed."

In September 2012 the Kriges went through a particularly trying time. Within a matter of five months she wrote 12 love songs, eight Afrikaans and four English, and recorded and released her first CD, *Boodskap van Liefde*. The CD has been well received and gets airplay on Radio Pulpit and other stations. (See p 4 for review and a chance to win.)

"Now that we are faced with another personal challenge I cling to this message of love and know that no matter what happens, we are not alone and are walking this road in faith," she says. "With wonderful people around us and the complete work on the cross

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2000 years ago, we can face our giants."

A video of *Hero*, one of the songs on her CD, is available on YouTube. It stars Hartbeespoort musician Aaron Nel, and his drama teacher wife, Andrea, a former Get It front page personality.

Karin believes in keeping fit and healthy and has swum the Midmar Mile three times with her sons. "Of course I lag way behind them, but at least I finish!" she chuckles.

She enjoys painting, mostly with acrylic, but says she hasn't touched a paint brush in ages. "I think this may just be the year I put up the easel again," she concludes.



