



# SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

## PEACE

**THE CHOIR** Bongani Ncube, Fanizile Nzuzi, Jabulile Mola, Jeanette Mazibuko, Kenosi Moshe, Lungisani Mhlongo, Malehlohonolo Taolana, Mary Mulovhedzi, Phello Jiyane, Sabelo Mtshali, Semangele Mongatane, Sibongile Makgathe, Sibongiseni Mbele, Sipho Ngcamu, Thabiso Molefe, Velile Msimango, Victoria Sithole, Vincent Jiyane, Vusimuzi Shabalala, Xolile Mphata, Zanele Ngwenya, Zinhle Mpofo

**CHOIR MASTER** Vincent Jiyane

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR** Sabelo Mtshali

**CHOIR MANAGEMENT** Mary Mulovhedzi, Vincent Jiyane, Bongani Ncube

**SENIOR PRODUCER** Toni Rudov

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/STAGE MANAGER** Allan Maguire

**TOURING LIGHTING DESIGNERS** Paul Frydrychowski, Jackson Gray

**AUDIO ENGINEER** Chet Nordskog

**SET DESIGN** Zachary Ciaburri

**PRODUCER** Andrew Kay

**TOUR MARKETING AND PR** SoloShoe Communications, LLC

**TOUR AGENCY** Dean Shultz

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Zellerbach Theatre

Saturday, October 4 @ 7:30 PM

There will be an intermission.

## PROGRAM

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"Melodies"

Narration

"Nonkonyane Ka Ndaba"

"Modimo"

"Dichaba"

"Not Yet Uhuru"

"Litshonile Li Langa"

"Pasopa Verwoerd"

"Sechaba"

"E Ke Dumetse"

"Mbai Mbai"

"Freedom Medley"

## INTERMISSION

"Opening Dance And Chant"

"Amen"

"Heaven Help Us All"

"Pass Me Not Gentle Savior"

"A Change Is Gonna Come"

"Man In The Mirror"

"People Get Ready"

"Stand Up"

"You Will Never Walk Alone"

"Hallelujah"

## PROGRAM NOTES

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Peace is a new program that celebrates songs and anthems of Nelson Mandela's Freedom Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s America. Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, the repertoire moves through time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the civil rights movement and more contemporary classics, including works by legendary artists Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Cynthia Erivo, Stevie Wonder and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin.

"God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create, and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations."

- Martin Luther King Jr., 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival

"... the political use of music in South Africa changed from being a 'mirror' in the 1940s and 1950s to becoming a 'hammer' with which to shape reality in the 1980s. In South Africa, music went from reflecting common experiences and concerns in the early years of apartheid, to eventually function as a force to confront the State and as a means to actively construct an alternative political and social reality."

- Anne Schumann, "The Beat that Beat Apartheid: The Role of Music in the Resistance Against Apartheid in South Africa." *2008 Vienna Journal of African Studies*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a township outside of Johannesburg and the home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, **Soweto Gospel Choir** inspires audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international classics.

Comprising some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting performers have shared the stage and collaborated with the biggest names in contemporary music including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyoncé, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Dinklage, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angélique Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela and Josh Groban.

Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to democracy. Taking part in some of the major historical events in the new democratic South Africa, Soweto Gospel Choir is proud to have performed on many occasions for the Father of their Nation, former President Nelson Mandela, and sadly at his state funeral in South Africa and at the subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in London. The choir was also invited to perform at the funeral service for the late President's first wife, Winnie Mandela.

The choir acts as ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Other highlights include becoming three-time Grammy® Award-winners, including the 2019 Best World Music Album for *Freedom*, receiving over 17 million views on YouTube and spreading joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades.

25 ★ 26 SEASON

# UPCOMING MUSIC

**Jorge Luis Pacheco**  
OCT 11

**Cécile McLorin Salvant**  
NOV 2

**Twelfth Night**  
NOV 6

**Choir! Choir! Choir!**  
**Hallelujah: An Epic**  
**Anthems Sing-Along**  
NOV 8

**DakhaBrakha**  
NOV 16

**Martin Hayes Quartet**  
NOV 22

**Dianne Reeves**  
***Christmas Time is Here***  
Dec 7

**Irish Christmas in America**  
DEC 19



Vitaliy Vorobyov