

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

presents

Soweto Gospel Choir
HOPE – It's Been a Long Time Coming

Commissioned by the University of Iowa Hancher Auditorium.

The Choir

Nobuhle Dhlamini • Philisiwe Faya • Phello Jiyane • Shimmy Jiyane
Bongani Mabaso • Warren Mahlangu • Jeanette Mazibuko • Thabang Mkhwanazi
Nersia Mofokeng • Jabulile Mola • Zinhle Mpopu • Hlengiwe Msomi
Diniloxolo Ndlakuse • Magdeline Ndindwa • Siphon Ngcamu • Zanele Ngwenya
Phumla Nkhumeleni • Xholani Ntombela • Fanizile Nzuzo • Linda Sambo
Vusi Shabalala • Hlamarisa Sidumo

Choir Master
Shimmy Jiyane

Musical Director
Diniloxolo Ndlakuse

Management

Mary Mulovhedzi • Shimmy Jiyane • Bongani Ncube

Production Manager/Stage Manager

Allan Maguire

Tour Manager

Rosie Fraser

Set and Lighting Design

Zachary Ciaburri

Audio Engineer
Chet Nordskog

Touring Lighting Designer
Tyler Goddard

Senior Producer
Toni Rudov

Producer
Andrew Kay

Tour Marketing and PR
SoloShoe
Communications, LLC

Saturday, December 3, 2022
Concert Hall

SEASON SPONSOR
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The Forbes Center 2022-2023 Masterpiece Season
is sponsored by Kathy Moran Wealth Group.

Set List

Melodies	Traditional
Nonkonyane Kandaba	Wathint' Abangasokufa, Wathinta Thina
Bawo Xandilahlekayo	Traditional
Umandela	Welcome Duru
Judgement Day	Sipho Gumede
Litshonile Lilanga	Traditional
Pasopa Verwoerd	Vuyisile Mini
Joh Lefifi	Traditional
Sechaba	Mbongeni, Hugh Masekela, Stanley Myers
Mbayi Mbayi	R. Khemose, S. Khemose, C. Khemose, M. Muguni, O. Beggs
Jikijela	Traditional

15-Minute Intermission

Opening Dance and Chant	Traditional
Amen with The JMU Chorale	Curtis Mayfield, Johnny Pate
Whats Going On	Marvin Gaye, Renaldo Benson, Al Cleveland
Respect	Ottis Redding
Heaven Help Us All	Ronald Miller
A Change Is Gonna Come	Sam Cooke
I'll Take You There	Alvertis Isbell
The Living Years	Mike Rutherford, B.A. Robertson
Stand Up	Joshuah Campbell, Cyntha Echumuna-Erivo
Hallelujah	Leonard Cohen

** SUBJECT TO CHANGE **

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording
of this production is strictly prohibited
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

Program Notes

HOPE – It's Been a Long Time Coming offers a heartfelt message of hope to all people. It combines South African struggle songs sung by communities fighting the oppressive apartheid regime and the songs of America's Civil Rights Movement. These are the songs of a people all praying for a better life. They are songs of resistance. They come from the soul. Theirs is a heartfelt message of both resilience and of hope. We trust that this powerful music will not only reach you and cheer you, but will give you inspiration that we can rise above all ills, that we can climb the mountain and emerge from the darkest valleys and into the sun, victorious.

“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*, Article)

“... 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*, Article)

About the Soweto Gospel Choir

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

Comprising a line-up of 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, Beyonce, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Gabriel, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angelique Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela and Josh Groban.

About the Soweto Gospel Choir (cont'd)

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 are 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. They were similarly 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.

About The JMU Chorale

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *Music Director*

The James Madison University Chorale is an auditioned mixed ensemble designed to provide an accelerated choral experience for advanced collegiate singers. The Chorale is a touring ensemble that performs with the JMU Symphony Orchestra each year, is the choir-in-residence for the annual JMU-ACDA High School Choralfest, and is a featured ensemble at the annual Holidayfest Concert.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

JMU Treble Chamber Choir and University Choruses Dec. 7
Dancescapes Dec. 9–11
Featuring JMU's Virginia Repertory Dance Company

JANUARY

Forbes International Music Celebration Jan. 7
AND SO WE WALKED: Jan. 20–21
An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears
Written & Performed by DeLanna Studi

For tickets and further information, visit www.jmuforbescenter.com
or call the Forbes Center Box Office at (540) 568-7000.

Soweto Gospel Choir appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC,
7 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. 212-994-3500