

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Soweto Gospel Choir

Peace

THE CHOIR

Bongani Ncube, Fanizile Nzuza, 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 Mpofu

Choir Master
Vincent Jiyane

Music 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

Producer
Andrew Kay

Set Design
Zachary Ciaburri

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one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.
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Soweto Gospel Choir.
Photos by Stefan Meekers.



SET LIST

Melodies

Narration

Nonkonyane ka Ndaba

Modimo

Dichaba

Not Yet Uhuru

Litshonile li Langa

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

Oh, Holy Night

Silent Night

Joy to the World

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

You'll Never Walk Alone

Hallelujah

PROGRAM NOTES

"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)

This concert by the three-time Grammy-winning Soweto Gospel Choir celebrates songs and anthems of Nelson Mandela's Freedom Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement of Dr. Martin Luther King's America. Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, the repertoire moves down through time to the United States, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement and more contemporary classics,

including works by legendary artists like Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Cynthia Erivo, Stevie Wonder, and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin. Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, the Soweto Gospel Choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world and has received critical acclaim and audience adoration for its powerful renditions of African American spirituals, gospel, and folk music.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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

Comprising a line-up of some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting and gifted performers have shared the stage and collaborated with some of the biggest names in contemporary music, including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, 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.

The 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 country, the choir is proud to have performed on many occasions for the "father" of its 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 Soweto Gospel Choir acts as ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

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