

Choir name: Bel Canto Voices

Province: Free State

City: Bloemfontein

The choir was established in 2004 by aspiring and passionate choristers based in and outside Mangaung Metropolitan under the directorship of Ms. LL Nqata assisted by the young talented musician Mr. J.H. Khama.

The choir comprises mainly young people whom either studying or unemployed. The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him/her own. As the management we are very proud for being able to nurture the talent of our youth in the province.

Since the establishment, the choir has grown considerably and achieved many positive accolades and performed at various functions. The choir is also involved in community initiatives and has raised funds for Lebone Children living with HIV/AIDS and Boikhucho Old Age Home performing concerts in conjunction with the Free State Symphony.

The choir has also achieved the following since its inception:

- FRECMA (LECMA) champions 2004 winning this competition with 23 choristers played a vital role in encouraging local youth to join the Bel Canto Voices.
- In the same year the choir obtained position 2 in SACMA competitions but best in the African rendition.
- In 2004 the choir obtained position 2 in the Provincial National Choir Festival.
- In 2005-2007 the choir became the provincial winners three times in a row in the standard section.
- The choir is also National Choir Festival champions of 2006/2007 held in Port Elizabeth.
- 2008/2009 NCF Champions in the Large Category.
- The choir represented the province five times in the NCF and managed to bring good positions to the province.
- The choir also privileged to have performed with the renowned South African musicians like Vusi Mahlasela, Tshepo Tshola in 2007 Macufe in Bloemfontein.
- In 2008 the choir also performed with seasoned artists Bloemfontein Three Tenors, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, and Kurt Daren during the celebration of Nelson Mandela's birthday.

- The choir obtained position 3 in the 2014 NCF competitions but best in the African rendition.
- The choir represented the Free State province in 2014 Melting Pot Festival “A TRIBUTE TO O.R TAMBO” held in Carnival City in Johannesburg.
- The choir was crowned winners of the large category, the Best Western rendition. The choir impressed the judges over five choirs from the province and Lesotho in the toughest competition in the history of the province. The competition held on the 19 September 2015 in CUT Campus in Bloemfontein.
- On the 17 June 2017 the choir scooped the first position in both Western and African renditions in the competition organized by Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.