

Province: Gauteng
Conductor: Sidwell Mhlongo

CHOIR PROFILE: GAUTENG CHORISTERS

Built on the foundation of excellence, since its inception in April 1988, Gauteng Choristers, a registered Non-Profit Company (Reg.No.2005/008078/08) in terms of the Companies Act of 2008, has become a cornerstone in choral music and related genres in South Africa.

The choir takes the development of its choristers; most of whom young and coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, seriously. This is evidenced by the fact that some choristers study music at or have graduated with music degrees from institutions such as the University of Cape Town, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, University of Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria and North West University.

In its quest to diversify its music activities, the choir has performed with internationally acclaimed artists such as, Sibongile Khumalo, Pretty Yende, Andrea Bocelli, Bala Brothers, The Parlotones, Karen Zoid, Sello Galane, Concord Nkabinde, Siphokazi Maraqaana, Sibongile Mngoma, The Afro-Tenors, Renee' Fleming, Sally Silver, Musa Nkuna, Aubrey Lodewyk.

An outstanding achievement was the first tour of Europe, in 2004, to perform Khumalo's epic cantata uShaka, in celebration of 10 years of democracy in South Africa. The tour was arranged by the European Union and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

Adding to Gauteng Choristers extensive achievements and highlights was being invited as one of three choirs in the country to sing amongst throngs of World Leaders during the memorial service of the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela at the First National Bank Stadium in Johannesburg.

The Choir was also invited to sing some of the Late Madiba's favourite hymns at his funeral in Umtata – Eastern Cape.

In 2015 the choir performed and recorded uShaka kaSenzangakhona, accompanied by the Gauteng Choristers Orchestra at the Nelson Mandela Theatre

in Johannesburg. The concert was conducted by Maestro Sidwell Mhlongo. In the same year, the choir was crowned National Champions of the Melting Pot.

2017 saw another great achievement, that of staging a sold out Mozart Requiem KV626 Concert at the Lyric Theatre as a flagship of the Gauteng Choristers. The choir also performed a World Premiere of the Crucifixion, a composition borne from a father and son Collaboration, LJ Nkuna and his son Musa Nkuna. During the same concert, the brilliance of a 27 year old self-taught black pianist Tumi Ramontji was showcased, thus staying true to the choir's development agenda.



Prescribed pieces

Western: Salve, o re!" from Macbeth by Verdi

African: Ngidedeleni ngigiye Isiko by Mnomiya