

Choir Profile: University of Limpopo Choristers
Province: Limpopo
Conductor: Prof Thabe Matsebatlela

Situated at the heart of Mankweng, 30km East of Polokwane City, South Africa, the University of Limpopo gave birth to UL Choristers in the early 90's. The multi-award winner UL Choristers was also nominated for SAMA2018 awards was established by the students of the University of Limpopo to serve the university community in activities such as university official graduation ceremonies, memorial services and other official university gatherings.

The choir grew and holds multiple championships and awards in choral music eisteddfods such as World Choir Games, South African Tertiary Institutions Choral Associations (SATICA), Limpopo Choral Music Eisteddfod(LICMA), Varsity Sport Sing and Old Mutual National Choir Festivals. The choir delegation has also performed at various places in USA and received master classes from various music experts including Prof Chris Mathews of Oklahoma Baptist University whose immaculate professional musicianship has strengthened the development of young emerging singers in the choir.

The choir has established music collaborations with national and international institutions which afforded them to visit several music departments in countries such as USA and Swaziland.

The choir has embarked on a long-term project to celebrate and immortalize our local African composers by not only choosing to sing their compositions at national and international stages but by also recording music albums on music solely composed by our local composers.

It is the release of a music album by UL Choristers and KZN Philharmonic orchestra on compositions of Dr SJ Khosa entitled "Matimba ya Vuyimbeleri" led and produced by Dr Reuel Khoza that saw the choir receive SAMA awards nominations. Dr SJ Khosa has composed well over 850 songs and the choir has made it their responsibility to spread the teachings of SJ Khosa to our present and future generations so as to encourage emerging of more local composers and how music can be used to develop communities around us.

The choir has donated musical instruments to several primary schools around it as part of music development and continue in their quest to establish a local orchestra group and orchestral instrument training ground.

The "UL Choristers Family" as affectionately known, is built on three pillars: love for choral music, love for one another and great sense of professional musicianship. We create a family to run to when life is rough, a space to exhale, a room to learn lessons of life from music, and the platform to share information on how to face challenges with confidence. As in the words of our "Mozart", SJ Khosa, music keeps us united and strengthens us. Music allows us to serve one another, to serve our community, and to serve humanity far and beyond.

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