

**Province:** Gauteng

**Choir:** Voices of the Nation

**Conductor:** Xolani Fraser Gqasana

Profile: Voices of the Nation, (VON) was established as a registered NPO since 2009. Primarily, its niche area is the cultural industries with a focus on choral music, opera and African indigenous music. Based in the Tshwane Metropolitan area, the choir boasts a membership of about 80 singers. This diverse body of singers is drawn both from the local community and across the entire republic and neighboring countries.

Notable highlights include representing the Gauteng province in the national finals since 2010. During these years, the choir has been consistently placed in the top 3 positions of the competition including obtaining a national championship in 2014. Outside of the Old Mutual National Choir Festival, VON has also participated in the Ekurhuleni Melting Pot competition, in which it took top honours in the vernacular theme song celebrating the legacy of OR Tambo. In 2011 VON released its inaugural CD and DVD and premiered Qinisela Sibisi's *Ihubo 47*. In 2014, the choir released a CD of hymns titled *O Halelehile*.

Apart from competitions and concerts, VON has appeared in numerous TV programs on DSTV and SABC 1 channels. Moreover, the choir has had sustained presence in various community performances. VON continues to seek to raise its standards, excel in performance and become a beacon of choral excellence locally and abroad.

**Prescribed pieces:**

**Western:** Una vela!...Fuoco di gioia!...Inaffia l'ugola! from Otello by Verdi

**African:** Ngidedeleni ngigiye-Isiko by Mnomiya