

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SERUMULA PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Serumula Performing Arts Academy was established in December 2006 and officially opened for business on the 8 January, 2007 with the aim of enhancing talents of young Basotho through basic and advanced skills development in Music, Drama, Theatre and Dance. Its membership base comprises very young choral music enthusiasts, which explains the developmental approach that the Academy (in its very infant and pilot phase) is taking as part of its long term goals. In its tenth (10) year of inception, Serumula has a well established choral group that has a modest track record and an inspiring outlook for the future. Members are regularly taught and examined on Choral Music Techniques, Vocal Techniques, Music Theory and History as well as Conducting Techniques.

This great effort that is put in developing the young talent has given its members great exposure into general dynamics of choral music. The Choral Group has in its 10th year now, gone through some of the most challenging and to the most exciting moments, becoming one of the modestly growing amateur choral groups in Lesotho, with a modest outlook for the future for our members who are day by day growing vocally and technically through the training we go through. The general approach to regular training has thus borne great results for their choral fraternity, thus bringing out young and aspiring conductors as well as unearthing great talent in terms of singing not just choral music, but also expanding our horizons into the fields of Opera and Performance. The success borne by this intensive individual based training has borne good results for the Group overall, as evidenced by some recent successes. Of note being:

1. Position 2 at African Melody Festival in Lesotho both in 2010 and 2011
2. Overall Winners of all competitions based in Lesotho in 2012 and 2013
3. Overall winners of the National Choir Festival Standard Category in 2013
4. Position 3 of the Lengau Choral Music Association in Large Category in 2013
5. Position 3 at the National Finals of NCF 2014 Standard Section
6. Overall Winners of the LECMA Competitions in 2014 in the Large Category
7. Overall Winners of the GACMA Competitions in 2015 in the Gold Category
8. Position 2 of the NCF Free State in the Large Category in 2015 as the first time entrants in this Category.
9. Position 1 in the AMF in the Large Category in 2015.
10. Position 1 at GACMA in the Gold Category in 2016
11. Position 1 in the LECMA Competitions in 2016
12. Position 3 of the NCF Free State in the Large Category in 2016.
13. Position 1 in the OR Tambo Category –African Piece of Melting Pot in 2016.
14. Position 1 of the AMF Competitions in the Large Category in 2016.
15. Position 2 in the Free State DSACR Choral Eisteddfod in 2017.
16. Position 3 in the Old Mutual National Choir Festival in the Free State in 2017.
17. Position 1 in the AMF Competitions in the Large Category in Lesotho in 2017.

Apart from participating in Choral Competitions, the choir holds regular concerts and productions, each year, these being Moshoeshoe The Musical in 2011 (30 Minute Musical Drama) composed by Lehlomla Tente, Zulu Mass in 2013, Ihubo in 2014 b Twelfth Mass in 2015, Beethoven's Mass in C in 2016 and Mozart Organ Solo Mass and Coronation Mass in 2017, Antonim Dvorak's Mass in D, Opus

86 in March 2017. We are also often invited to perform at corporate functions, state and government functions, including performing at foreign missions

Serumula does not only focus on Music, for we know that we are part of a bigger picture, which is society/community from which we come from, that is why we hold concerts to raise funds for charity, engage in community upliftment programmes such as planting trees, donating clothes, shoes and blankets to the needy children. The overall principle which SPAA's conductor performance's mantra is that we are only as good as Strive for Excellence in everything we do. SPAA –Strive For Excellence!