Choir Name: Sounds Delight Chorale

- ***Artistic achievement.*** We are committed to supporting and inspiring choristers to nurture their music careers, both vocational and avocational.
- ***Collaboration.*** We are committed to building partnerships and sharing expertise with members, colleagues, funders, organisations and the public.
- ***Effective management.*** We believe that the choir performs at its best when it is managed and governed by committed, visionary and transparent committees and leadership.
- ***Inclusivity and diversity.*** We are committed to expanding the diversity of the choral community including language, ethnicity, race and religion, as well as crosscutting characteristics such as gender, sexual orientation, and range of ability and age.
- ***Innovation.*** We encourage choristers to stretch the boundaries of their creative thinking, using their God-given talent to stay true to themselves.
- ***Life-long learning.*** We believe that all people deserve access to singing experiences and are committed to promoting choral singing as an enriching activity.
- ***Participation and community engagement.*** We believe that choral singing can foster understanding and serve as a catalyst for positive social change.

1. History

The choir was established on 18 July 2008 mostly by learners from Philemon Ngcelwane High School after they competed and won the school's National Choir Eisteford. The learners were motivated and driven so much that they decided to compete in the Eastern Cape Choral Music Association (ECCMA) under local choirs. They competed under the name "Sounds Delight Chorale" in the standard category and won third place that year.

They have been competing ever since in different music competitions like Old Mutual National Choir Festival, Melting Pot Music Festival, and have won different prizes like trophies, melodicas, piano and some cash.

2. Membership

Sounds Delight Chorale is a mixed choir in which every race, religion, political, social and economic status and sexual orientation is represented and welcomed. Choir members bring with them a full range of musical talent from the non-singer who is often surprised that he or she can find the correct pitch with the support of surrounding choristers, right up to a few musical virtuosos who are able to showcase their talent though vocal or instrumental solos and accompaniments.

The choir consists of seventy (70) members – mostly are learners from surrounding high schools in Mdantsane, students from institutions of higher learning, unemployed graduates and youth in general. Only five percent of the choir members are employed. The age group of choristers range from 15-35 years.

4.1 Choir Membership Requirements

To become a member of the choir, one must:

- Possess a love for music and a desire to sing;
- Be willing to abide by the rules and regulations of the choir;
- Have a positive attitude and a sense of great expectation;

- Attend rehearsals.

3. Community Involvement

The choir assists different church choirs in their establishment and competitions. The choir also assists school choirs – we have choristers who are learners at high schools (including Ngcelwane) Universities and Colleges, who become influential in their choirs because of the skills they have acquired. The choir also sings at community functions like funerals, weddings etc.

Apart from singing in social events, the choir also contributes to fighting crime – works with the community in Anti-Crime Campaigns. The choir helps to keep youth occupied whilst keeping them away from the streets.

4. Rehearsals

Rehearsals are the key to the success of every choir. Keeping this in mind, members are expected to be punctual for each rehearsal. If a choir member must be absent from rehearsal, they should inform the Conductor in a timely manner. Considering the importance of time and the personal sacrifice each member makes, it is important to limit rehearsals to a set time. Therefore, rehearsals shall not exceed two hours unless an exception is suggested and agreed upon beforehand especially when the choir is preparing for competitions and concerts.

Choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 17h00 to 19h00.

5. Performances

The choir performs in three major competitions in a year namely:

- Eastern Cape Choral Music Association (ECCMA);
- Old Mutual National Choir Festival (NCF); and
- OR Tambo Choir Festival – popularly known as Melting Pot.

The choir also hosts at least two concerts in a year.

6. Governance

The choir has an elected committee working hand-in-hand with the conductor. Designated committee members include Chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer, secretary and organiser. There are also functional committees to help with logistics for rehearsals, camps, competitions and concerts, namely; catering, transport and accommodation sub-committees.

7. Financials
9.1 Revenue:

The choir is financially self-sustaining. Sources of revenue include membership fees (R50.00 contributions per year), individual sponsorships, audience donations at concerts, prizes if the

choir wins at competitions. Choristers also ask for donations from community members when there is a need.
Other fund raising activities include carwash and bazaars.

9.2 Expenses:

Major expenses include:

- Transportation – for rehearsals, camps and competitions;
- Accommodation – during camps and when competitions are outside of East London;
- Catering;
- Uniform;
- Concert expenses including venue hire, sound engineer and additional musicians;
- Accompanist fees.

8. Youth Empowerment

Our choristers come from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. In the choir, talent is discovered, nurtured and moulded to becoming a professional singer. Not all learners will succeed academically, but with music, such learners can become professional Opera singers. Exposure to choral music also provides basic conducting and leadership skills. Different musical instruments such as piano are used where basic skills are acquired.