

2015 UJ CHOIR

EUROPE CONCERT TOUR

PRESENTED BY

UJ ARTS & CULTURE



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ABOUT THE UJ CHOIR

OUT OF THE hustle and bustle of Johannesburg, South Africa, bloomed a hybrid that reflected the struggles of the country's past and hope for its future – the UJ Choir. Over the past 10 years, the Choir's programme has evolved to represent the exciting colours and sounds of the City of Gold; fine Western repertoire combined with full blooded African music.

The Choir was formed at the beginning of 2005 out of the former RAU Choir and RAU Chorale.

Boasting a body of singers who study in a variety of fields from 8 of the academic faculties at the University (none of which offers studies in music), the Choir has accumulated a number of significant accolades over the years.

During November and December 2006, the UJ Choir toured Czech

Republic, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Belgium and the Netherlands to promote the UJ abroad, where they won a Gold Award at the 16th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music and a special jury prize for Multicultural Achievement.

In 2007 the UJ Choir performed *The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins in the Johannesburg City Hall with four other choirs and Jenkins conducting.

UJ Choir won the category for Traditional Music at two international choir competitions in 2008 and was the only South African choir to perform at the 8th World Choral Symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In 2010 UJ Choir performed Karl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater* with

Jenkins conducting. This electric performance resulted in them being invited to perform this work again in New York in the famous Carnegie Hall four months later.

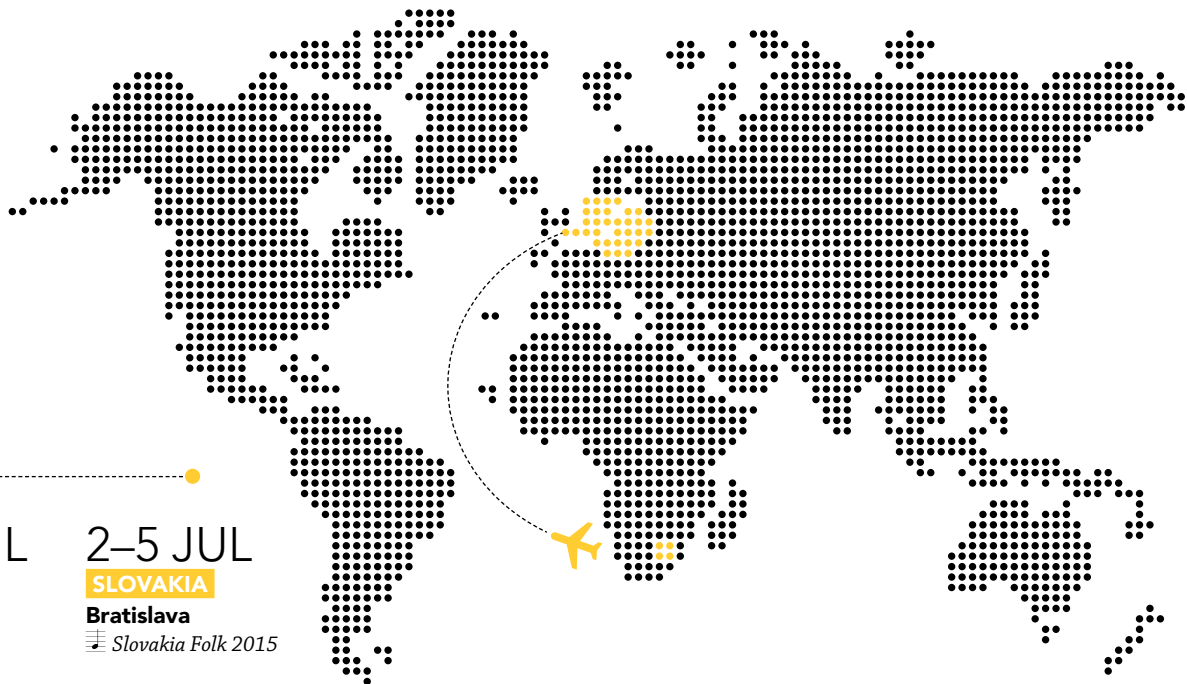
The Choir has toured to Namibia (2011), Cape Town (2012), KwaZulu-Natal (2013) and Mpumalanga (2014). This year, the Choir will go on tour to Poland, Germany and Austria – taking part in various festivals and competitions.

Since the Choir's birth in 2005, UJ Choir has released 7 CDs.

Choir committee

Tshimologo Maputla :: Assistant
Xolile Klaas :: Chairperson
Madelé Breedt :: Head of fundraising
Kurhula Nkwini :: Head of uniform
Bontle Loving :: Stage manager

TOUR DATES



21 JUN

GERMANY


Berlin

 *Berliner Dom*

23 JUN–1 JUL

POLAND

Poznan, Torun


 *Unversitas Cantat*

 *Per Musicam Ad Astra*

2–5 JUL

SLOVAKIA

Bratislava

 *Slovakia Folk 2015*

RENETTE BOUWER

CHOIR MASTER

RENETTE BOUWER GRADUATED from the University of Pretoria with a B.Mus. degree, with organ and piano as her major instruments, specialising in Composition. She received her B.Mus. (Hons.) degree from UNISA in 1990 and her M.Mus. degree in Conducting through the University of Stellenbosch in 2009.

Renette has worked with many choirs. Under her baton the RAU Choir won the 11th International Choir Competition of Advent and Christmas Music in Prague in 2001. They not only won the category for Large Choirs but also beat 43 other choirs for the overall prize. In 2006 the UJ Choir won a Gold Award at the same competition and was also awarded a special jury prize for Multicultural Achievement. In 2008 the UJ Choir was the only South African choir invited to sing at the 8th World Symposium for Choral Music

in Copenhagen, Denmark. On their way to the symposium, they won the category for Traditional Music in Pardubice, Czech Republic and also won second prize (gold) for Sacred Music – a category exclusive for Western Music. In Miltenberg, Germany, they also won the category for Traditional, Spiritual and Gospel Music.

She is currently conductor and manager of the UJ Choir where she works with voices from different cultural backgrounds, proving the flexibility of the voice and adaptability of young singers to different styles of music.

Apart from her involvement with choirs, she has performed as soloist in numerous oratoria in South Africa and abroad. She is involved with adjudication and workshops both nationally and internationally.



SIDUMO NYAMEZELE

CHOIR MASTER

SIDUMO HAS GAINED extensive exposure and experience by participating in various National and International festivals. This includes International Festivals in Austria, Portugal, Norway, Philippines, Spain, America and South Africa – the Norwegian-South Africa Festival in March 2002 – 2004, amongst others. He has been invited to Europe and Norway on several occasions for choral summer schools and to conduct workshops in African traditional music.

This enthusiastic musician was assigned to conduct the South African National Youth Choir in Winterton at the Drakensburg Boys School for African formal and traditional music in 2001. He received conducting lessons from Professor Kåre Hanken and voice lesson Professor Svein Bjorkoy.

Sidumo has been an adjudicator at various choir competitions and for the past seven years, He worked as a contract lecturer in Choral Conducting at the University of Port Elizabeth. He is currently a part time conductor for African music for the UJ Choir and a full time music teacher at St John's College. He is the founder member of CHORISA (Choral institute of South Africa). He received invites to conduct master classes in African music At the Europa Cantat 2009, 2013 (the Netherlands and Norway). Sidumo has accepted an invite to conduct a seminar in Israel and on Reunion Island. He has been appointed to conduct the World Youth Choir for 2007 on their concert tour to South Africa and has been re-appointed to conduct them for the year 2009 on their 20th anniversary.



CHOIR MEMBERS



SOPRANO

S1

Belinda Mogashoa
Boikanyo Moloto
Gabisile Nkosi
Madelé Breedt
Samantha Booysen

S2

Bongiwe Nhlabathi
Catherine Hendriks
Elizma van Rooyen
Grace Moshokane
Ilonka Louw
Somila Simakade
Zandile Mpanza

ALTO

A1

Basani Furumele
Lesego Phateng
Mathapelo Mohoto
Tiisetso Lewete

ALTO CONT.

A2

Bontle Loving
Kelsey Nel
Kurahula Nkwinika
Rachel Milanzi
Tshimologo Maputla

TENOR

T1

Cooper Mlokoti
Lesego Motlhako
Sandile Mccunu
Sinethemba Khumalo
Sizwe Mondlane
Sydney Lukhuleni
Tiego Tzolanku

T2

Andile Kutoane
Gift Khoza
Nkululeko Maholwana
Sphiwe Dladla

BASS

B1

Bonginkosi Ntuli
Dimpho Ratala
Emmanuel Makgoka
James Matlala
Joshua Shibambu
Molaodi Xaba
Molefe Ratsoana
Thabo Matshego
Tshiamo Seforo
Vusi Mkhize

B2

Alexander Makhubu
Armand Visser
Bheki Mthethwa
Carlo Bahe
Phumelele Makuse
Sanele Khathide
Xolile Klaas

REPERTOIRE

Wildsbok

Martin Nystrom
Arr. Renette Bouwer

A simple version of the famous hymn where the basses can prove their controlled tone in both high and low registers.

O Magnum Mysterium

Ivo Antognini (1963 –)

O Filii et Filiae

Ivo Antognini (1963 –)
Text: Jean Tisserant (1497)

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo (1987 –)

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey
Arr. Jack Schrader

God will make a way

Don Moen
Arr. Mark Hayes

Somerpsalm

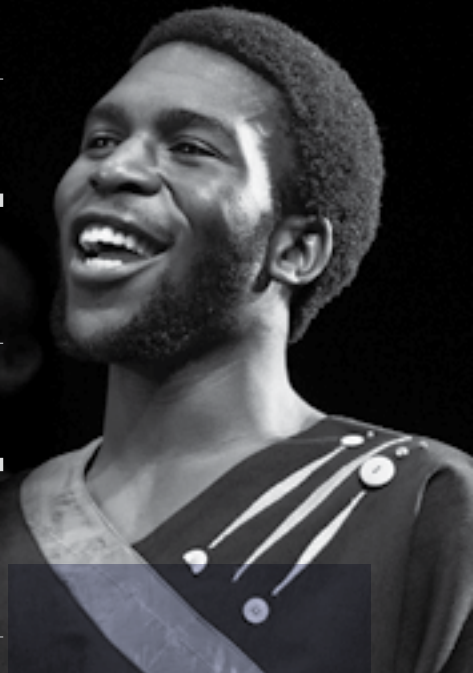
Waldemar Ahlen
Afrikaans text: Petru Grabe

This is an Afrikaans setting to the melody of the Swedish hymn nr. 201 from Svenska Psalm Book. We give thanks to God for the gift of music, singing and friendship.

Stars

Ēriks Ešenvalds
Text: Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1933)

This young Latvian composer, with his special gift for haunting melodies and emotional use of harmony, wrote this piece in 2011 for mixed choir and water tuned glasses.



REPERTOIRE

I dreamed of Rain

Arr. Garrett, Arr. Larry Nickel

According to the Cyprus Choral Music publication, "Jan Garrett is a jazz singer, multi award winning songwriter, seasoned performance coach, wilderness vision quester". She wrote this piece in a time of fierce political unrest combined by devastating wild fires raging across western US in 2002.

Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone

John Farmer (c.1570 – 1601)

This four part polyphonic English madrigal was published in 1599. It alternates between triple and duple beat subdivisions of the beat in different parts of the work. Farmer uses clever word painting. For example, in the opening line "Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone", Farmer had only the

soprano sing since she was all alone. In the next line "Feeding her flock near to the mountain side", all the voices sang since it was her flock. Additionally, the second phrase, which begins with "Up and down he wandered" and ends with "then they fell a-kissing" repeats, causing the elision "kissing up and down." (Wikipedia)

Come again, sweet days

John Dowland (1563 – 1626)

This short little gem has been a favourite amongst University choirs in South Africa over many decades and uses a text that differs from the more commonly known "Come again! Sweet love doth now invite". The lyrics of both versions are anonymous. "The song is bitter-sweet, typical of Dowland who cultivated a melancholy style. It was included in Dowland's First Booke of Songes or Ayres, which appeared in 1597. The piece is often performed as

a lute song by soloist and lute, but, like other songs in the First Booke, it is printed in a format that can also be performed as a madrigal by a small vocal group (typically SATB)." (Wikipedia) The famous pop artists, Sting, included it on his album Songs from the Labyrinth in 2006.

Es Gulu, Gulu

*Latvian Folk Song,
Arr. Ārija Šķepasta*

Kom!

Trad. Swedish Arr. Monica Åslund

The text of this piece is playful and has no meaning.

Fever

*John Davenport and Cooley
Arr. Deke Sharon*

REPERTOIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN SONGS



I am the voice of Africa

Niel van der Watt (1962 –)

Text: Lindsey Reyburn

This song speaks of the heart of the "Rainbow Nation" – it incorporates historical ethnic legends with the vibrancy of the city life filled with riches and variety. The jazzy tune is being passed on from voice to voice in playful copycat motives.

Cessate

Peter Louis van Dijk (1953 –)

Ps. 46:10

Van Dijk's work is widely sung all over the world. Probably the most famous are Horizons (King's Singers) and Bells (Chicago Children's Choir). Cessate was commissioned by KUESTA SOCIETY as a massed choir work for KUESTA 2009 in Potchefstroom. It divides in up to 10 parts

and exhibits intricate rhythmic textures combined with strong messages in unison from the male sections.

Karogesange

Niel van der Watt (1962 –)

Text: Dolf van Niekerk

All three the short songs in this cycle are about the harsh realities of the drought stricken desert – the Karoo.

Dankie vir die najaar

I thank thee for the beauty and peace of autumn, when it is too late to ask for more, but too early to expect anything new.

As ek vannag

If, after forty years in the Karoo, I am weaned of life today, and retire in your garden, the only request I have is to be buried amongst some sheep in a dry place.

REPERTOIRE

Die Reënbui

I will transform the grace of this rain into a tabernacle with prayers and hymns on the altar in the Karoo.

Rona re Batswana

Trad. Setswana

A proud declaration: We are the Batswana people, we live our lives the Setswana way!

Tsa Batswana

Trad. Setswana

A medley of traditional Setswana songs, telling a story of life in a rural Batswana village.

Ndod'am iyalinda and Uxam uxakile

Trad. IsiXhosa text

This medley speaks of many different notions of manliness and masculinity in

Xhosa culture as well as what it means not to live up to the expectations of being a man. It also addresses the concept of marriage and the challenges that come with it.

Notumato

Trad. IsiXhosa

Notumato is causing fights here in the South.

Drumming War cry

Traditional drums and a war cry, accompanied by traditional dancing.

Jive Motella

Mohotella Queens

Zulu afro-pop song originally sung a cappella, incorporating dance, blues and Sophiatown-era pop; the song is in true Mahotella Queens style. The "Motella" is a style of dance unique to the Mahotella Queens.

Uyavuth'umlilo

Trad. IsiZulu

This song speaks about guys who play the guitar with fiery passion.

Zagiya and Lilizela

Mahlathini and Mahotella Queens

IsiZulu afro-pop medley taken from songs by Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens. It is about singing and dancing.

Ke motjhonoko

Trad. SeSotho

A celebration song, sung by the community.

Tambira

Trad. Shona gospel

Give a joyful dance unto the Lord, for He has done great things!

Oh, Bawo!

Trad. IsiXhosa

Sohlabelela

Trad. IsiZulu gospel

Wonk' amehlo

Trad. IsiZulu gospel

Soloist: Catherine Hendricks

Thanayi

IsiXhosa afro-pop

A collaboration between South African musicians, Hugh Masekela and Thandiswa Mazwai, "Thanayi" is a popular song for

the early 1990s telling the tale of a young Nomalungelo.

Sondela

Soloists: Sizwe Mondlane and Sandile Mccunu

Medley of Isizulu and IsiXhosa love songs, using music and text from acclaimed South African musicians, Jabu Khanyile and Ringo Madlingozi.

My fohloza

Mbongeni Ngema
Soloist: Vusumuzi Mkhize

UJ ARTS & CULTURE produces and presents world-class student and professional arts programmes aligned to the UJ vision of an international university of choice, anchored in Africa, dynamically shaping the future. A robust range of arts platforms are offered on all four UJ campuses for students, staff, alumni and the general public to experience and engage with emerging and established Pan-African and international artists drawn from the full spectrum of the arts.

For regular updates follow [@UJArtsCentre](#) or visit www.uj.ac.za/arts.

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