

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Hope—It's Been A Long Time Coming

OCT 22 / Cobb Great Hall

A Concert of HOPE Featuring songs from South Africa's Freedom and the U.S. Civil Rights Movements

The Choir (alphabetical order)

Nobuhle Dhlamini

Philisiwe Faya

Phello Jiyane

Shimmy Jiyane

Bongani Mabaso

Warren Mahlangu

Jeanette Mazibuko

Siyabolela Mkefa

Thabang Mkhwanazi

Nersia Mofokeng

Jabulile Mola

Zinhle Mpofo

Hlengiwe Msomi

Mary Mulovhedzi

Bongani Ncube

Diniloxolo Ndlakuse

Magdeline Ndindwa

Sipho Ngcamu

Zanele Ngwenya

Phumla Nkhumeleni

Xholani Ntombela

Fanizile Nzuzo

Linda Sambo

Vusi Shabalala

Hlamarisa Sidum

Choir Master

Shimmy Jiyane

Musical Director

Diniloxolo Ndlakuse



View the digital program at
whartoncenter.com/program

Management

Mary Mulovhedz

Shimmy Jiyane

Bongani Ncube

Production Manager/Stage Manager

Allan Maguire

Tour Managers

Toni Rudov Madge Fletcher

Set & Lighting Design

Zachary Ciaburri

Audio Engineer

Chet Nordskog

Touring Lighting Designer

Tyler Goddard

Senior Producer/Company Manager

Toni Rudov

Producer

Andrew Kay

Tour Marketing and PR

SoloShoe Communications, LLC

HOPE – It's Been a Long Time Coming was commissioned by the University of Iowa Hancher Auditorium.

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Media Sponsor: Michigan Radio

PROGRAM

MELODIES

Traditional

NONKONYANE KANDABA

Wathint' abangasokufa, Wathinta thina

UMANDELA

Welcome Duru

BAWO XANDILAHLEKAYO

Traditional

JUDGEMENT DAY

Sipho Gumede

LITSHONILE LILANGA

Traditional

PASOPA VERWOERD

Vuyisile Mini

JOH LEFIFI

Traditional

SECHABA

Mbongeni, Hugh Masekela & Stanley Myers

UMHLABA WONKE

Traditional

MBAYI MBAYI

R. Khemose, S. Khemose, C. Khemose, M. Muguni, O. Beggs

JIKIJELA

Traditional

INTERMISSION

OPENING DANCE AND CHANT

Traditional

AMEN

Curtis Mayfield, Johnny Pate

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME

Sam Cooke

HEAVEN HELP US ALL

Ronald Miller

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE

Alvertis Isbell

RESPECT

Ottis Redding

THE LIVING YEARS

Mike Rutherford and B.A. Robertson

WHATS GOING ON

Marvin Gaye, Renaldo Benson, Al Cleveland

STAND UP

Joshuah Campbell, Cynthia Echumuna-Erivo

STAND BY ME

Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller

Program is subject to change.

This performance will run approximately 110 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a town outside of Johannesburg and home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, Soweto Gospel Choir continues to inspire audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international classics.

Comprising a lineup of some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting performers have shared the stage and collaborated with the biggest names in contemporary music including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Gabriel, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angelique Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela and Josh Groban.

Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to democracy. Taking part in some of the major historical events in the new democratic South Africa, Soweto Gospel Choir are proud to have performed on many occasions for the father of their nation, former President Nelson Mandela, and sadly at his state funeral in South Africa and at the subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in London. They were similarly invited to perform at the funeral service for the late President's first wife, Winnie Mandela. The Choir's patron is human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and they are proud to act as ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

PROGRAM NOTES

"HOPE—it's Been a Long Time Coming" offers as a heartfelt message of hope to all people. It combines South African struggle songs sung by communities fighting the oppressive apartheid regime and the songs of America's Civil Rights Movement. These are the songs of a people all praying for a better life. They are songs of resistance. They come from the soul. Theirs is a heartfelt message of both resilience and of hope. We trust that this powerful music will not only reach you and cheer you but will give you inspiration that we can rise above all ills, that we can climb the mountain and emerge from the darkest valleys and into the sun, victorious.

—Soweto Gospel Choir, 2022

"God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create—and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations."

—Martin Luther King
1964 Berlin Jazz Festival (Article)

"... the political use of music in South Africa changed from being a 'mirror' in the 1940s and 1950s to becoming a 'hammer' with which to shape reality in the 1980s. In South Africa, music went from reflecting common experiences and concerns in the early years of apartheid, to eventually function as a force to confront the State and as a means to actively construct an alternative political and social reality."

—Anne Schumann, *The beat that beat apartheid: the role of music in the resistance against apartheid in South Africa*.
2008 Vienna Journal of African Studies (Article)

POLICIES AND SERVICES

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Wharton Center offers a diverse selection of arts entertainment. Not all productions may appeal to or be appropriate for every person or for all ages. Patrons are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the shows we offer in order to make informed decisions prior to purchasing tickets.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please observe the lighted exit signs located throughout the building and theatre(s). All patrons should note all exits, especially those closest to your seat location. Our staff and ushers are trained to assist patrons through multiple emergency situations.

FIRST AID

See your usher or House Management Room 209 (in Grand Foyer).

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Cameras, children, late seating
- › Patron Amenities
Lost and found, coat check, etc
- › Accessibility Services
Including SLI, AD, and OC
- › Ticket Office
Exchanges, refunds, fees, hours
- › Mobile Tickets
Access & transfer your mobile tickets
- › Consumer Alert
Avoid being ensnared by resellers
- › Directions and Parking
Nearby parking ramps and lots
- › Engagement Programs
After Chats and Insight Previews
- › Security
Prohibited items and security checks
- › COVID-19 Safety
Patron Safety Protocols

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