

UFS Institutional Choir

BON VOYAGE CONCERT



What if you are Art

20 OCTOBER 2023
Odeion | UFS Campus

PROGRAMME

MUSIC OF SPIRIT AND FAITH

1. **The Ground** | Grant us peace. **Ola Gjeilo**
2. **Yababom** | There shall be peace. **Arr. Maurice Goldman**
3. **Moshe** | *The story of Moses and the burning bush. **Christo Burger**

WE ENJOY MUSIC

4. **Ngothando** | Through love only, we will conquer everything. **Mbuso Ndlovu**
5. **Sikirileke/Koloi** | The children are playing and one falls into a pit. Stop the car from leaving. **Traditional Sotho**
Arr. Sabelo Mthembu
6. **Baba Wethu** | Our Father. **Traditional IsiZulu**

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FROM AFRICA

7. **San'bonani/ Namhla Kudibene** | Hello everyone! Today we are like lions and tigers. **Traditional IsiZulu/IsiXhosa**
Arr. Michael Barrett
8. **Jikele Maweni** | There is stick fighting going on. **Traditional IsiZulu**
Arr. Christian-Ashley Botha
9. **Dubula** | The honeybird brings sour milk. We must chase it away. **Traditional IsiXhosa**
Arr. Stephen Hatfield
10. **Shosholoza** | Move forward on those mountains. **Traditional Ndebele**

* "Moshe" recounts the story of Moses and the burning bush. The text was taken from the Northern Sotho translation of the Bible. This piece is an experimental piece that captures the imagination of the performers as well as the audience. The piece begins with Moses walking in the pasture with his livestock. He hears his name on the wind – Moses was astonished to see the crackling burning bush. A holy atmosphere is represented by a slow and soft glissando section and Moses is ordered not to approach the bush. Moses' joyous exclamation of "eya" is followed by his answer: "Here I am". God (Morena) commands Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. The piece ends with a traditional African work with the text: "Here I am, Lord, see me". Moses then covers his face because he was afraid to look at God.

The University of the Free State (UFS) Institutional Choir is one of four UFS Choirs administered by the Arts and Culture Office within the division of Student Affairs, founded in 1966 by Prof Chris Swanepoel as the first conductor. The Choir is also known as the Kovsie Choir and is a 72-member ensemble with a composition based on diverse students from all three campuses of the University of the Free State. The conductor of the South Campus Choir is Bonisile Gcisa, and the conductor of the QwaQwa Campus Choir is Themba Dladla. The Institutional Choir forms an integral part of the University of the Free State Institutional Culture and our national and global identity. Through the Choir, the UFS creates platforms for engagement with our local, national, and international communities, and other higher education institutions. Apart from contributing to the Kovsie culture, the Choir strives for an eclectic repertoire and branches across various languages and cultures. The Choir has a unique sound, consisting of a group of gifted students who leaves no heart untouched with their beautiful tone and harmony. Past conductors of the Choir include Corné van Pletzen, Bonisile Gcisa, Leona Geldenhuys and Sibongile Mngoma. The Choir walked away as champions of the Christmas Music Festival Competition in Prague in the Czech Republic in 2009 and took part in Varsity Sing 2016, the national university choir competition.

Under the current music directorship of Mr Werner Stander (conductor) and Dr Frelét de Villiers (accompanist), the Choir boasts itself as one of the flagships of the University, contributing to student success through the promotion of a positive and vibrant student experience that promotes student well-being and overall development. The Choir reflects what it means to be a true Kovsie; as the saying goes, "Only a Kovsie Knows the Feeling".

Choir activities include the annual UFS Vice Chancellor's Concert and regular performances across the UFS campuses for students and staff to enjoy. In October 2023, the Institutional Choir will also be participating in the European Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations Norrköping, Sweden.

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