

# SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

# HOPE - IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING

### PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

**THE CHOIR** Nobuhle Dhlamini, Philisiwe Faya, Phello Jiyane, Shimmy Jiyane, Bongani Mabaso Warren Mahlangu, Victor Makhathini, Jeanette Mazibuko, Siyabolela Mkefa, Thabang Mkhwanazi, Nersia Mofokeng, Jabulile Mola, Zinhle Mpofu, Hlengiwe Msomi, Mary Mulovhedzi, Bongani Ncube, Diniloxolo Ndlakuse, Magdeline Ndindwa, Sipho Ngcamu, Zanele Ngwenya, Phumla Nkhumeleni, Xholani Ntombela, Fanizile Nzuza, Linda Sambo, Hlamarisa Sidum

CHOIR MASTER Shimmy Jiyane
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Diniloxolo Ndlakuse
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
TOUR LIGHTING DESIGNER Tyler Goddard
SENIOR PRODUCER/COMPANY MANAGER Toni Rudov
PRODUCER Andrew Kay

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be an intermission.

# **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.

"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
"Ioh Lefifi" Traditional

"Sechaba" Mbongeni, Hugh Masekela, Stanley Myers

"Umhlaba Wonke" Traditiona

"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"

"Heaven Help Us All"

"I'll Take You There"

"Respect"

Sam Cooke

Ronald Mille

Alvertis Isbell

Otis Redding

"The Living Years" Mike Rutherford, B.A. Robertson

"Whats Going On" Marvin Gaye, Renaldo Benson, Al Cleveland "Stand Up" Joshuah Campbell, Cyntha Echumuna-Erivo

"Stand By Me" Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller

Soweto Gospel Choir's HOPE - It's Been a Long Time Coming has been commissioned by the University of Iowa Hancher Auditorium.

Program subject to change.

# **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **Soweto Gospel Choir**

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a township 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 line-up 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, Angélique 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 is 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 acts as Ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.