

CHOIR BIOGRAPHY

- Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in November, 2002
- In December, 2002 their first album "Voices of Heaven" was recorded and went on to reach the No. 1 spot on Billboard's World Music Chart within 3 weeks of its release in the US
- In 2003 the choir won its first award, a Helpmann Award, Australia's prestigious Performing Arts Award, for "Best Contemporary Music Concert"
- This success was followed when they won a 2003 American Gospel Music Award for "Best Choir"
- In the same year, they won an American Gospel Music Award for "Best International Choir"
- They performed for President Bill Clinton at a corporate function in Little Rock, Arkansas
- In October 2006, the choir performed as invited guests for their Patron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 75th Birthday Celebrations, in front of an illustrious audience which included former President Nelson Mandela, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, Tokyo Sexwale, Samuel L Jackson, Alfre Woodard and Carlos Santana
- They featured on a guest appearance with Diana Ross, Deborah Cox and Danny K for the "Unite of the Stars" Gala Banquet in South Africa in November 2006
- They were invited guests on NBC's "Today Show" as well as on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien"
- The choir have also made a guest appearance on 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno'
- In December 2006 they performed at Sun City, South Africa, for Oprah Winfrey and 200 of her V.I.P. guests, including Mariah Carey, Mary J Blige, Tina Turner, Patti LaBelle, Sydney Poitier and Quincy Jones
- On 11 February 2007, Soweto Gospel Choir received its greatest accolade, a Grammy Award for their second CD "Blessed", in the category "Best Traditional World Music"
- At the same time, they were nominated for the 26th International Reggae and World Music Awards, held at the Apollo Theatre, Harlem, on 5 May, in the category "Contribution to World Music", alongside Jimmy Cliff, Salif Keita, Youssou N'Dour and Ziggy Marley
- In May 2007, the choir won a SAMA Award (South African Music Association Award) in the Category "Best Live Performance DVD"
- In June 2007 Soweto Gospel Choir was the support act for the Red Hot Chilli Peppers at their concerts in Germany
- To add to their string of national and international awards, in November 2007 Soweto Gospel Choir won a Metro FM Music Award for Best Gospel Album for "African Spirit", based on nominations submitted by the radio station's listeners, and the public
- In February 2008, the choir was awarded a second Grammy Award for their third album "African Spirit", in the "Best Traditional World Music" category
- Also in February 2008, the choir was honoured with the PanSALB Award for Multilingualism and Nation Building, for "Album of the Decade"
- They performed with Celine Dion during her "Taking Chances" tour of South Africa
- The choir has had the honour of performing with gospel legends Bebe Winans and Kirk Franklin
- While in New Orleans, they recorded a track with rock legend Robert Plant, which was included on a Fats Domino tribute album, with proceeds going to the victims of Hurricane Katrina
- The choir is an Ambassador for Nelson Mandela's 46664 campaign and has performed at the Cape Town, Johannesburg, London and New York concerts with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Bono, Queen, Jimmy Cliff, Johnny Clegg, Amy Winehouse, Aretha Franklin, Wyclef Jean, Queen Latifah and Stevie Wonder
- Their 46664 London performance of "Weeping", with Josh Groban and Vusi Mahlasela, is featured on Josh's latest album "Collection"
- The choir has toured the world extensively, performing at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, the Nelson Mandela Theatre and Royal Festival Hall in London

- . They have performed at high profile festivals such as the Edinburgh Festival, the Adelaide Festival, the Hong Kong Festival, and the London Festival, always to huge acclaim
- Soweto Gospel Choir received its third Grammy nomination in December 2008, this time in the category Best Contemporary World Music, for their album, "Live at the Nelson Mandela Theatre"
- The song "Down To Earth" from the blockbuster Wall-E movie, their collaboration with Peter Gabriel, won a Grammy in the Best Movie Song category
- In February 2009, the choir became the first South African artist to perform at the Academy Awards, when they sang "Down To Earth", the Gabriel/Newman Oscar-nominated song, with John Legend
- In March 2009, they were nominated for three SAMAs (South African Music Awards), for their cd and dvd, "Live At the Nelson Mandela Theatre", winning the Award for "Best Duo or Group".
- On 9 May 2009, the choir was invited to perform at the Inauguration of South Africa's new President.
- July 18, 2009 marked the Choir's performance at the first North American 46664 performance at the famed Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The Choir performed with such celebrated stars as Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Josh Groban, Alicia Keys, Queen Latifah, Cyndi Lauper, Dave Stewart and Carla Bruni-Sarkoczy. As part of the festivities, the Choir was featured in performance on the United States' top-rated morning television program, Good Morning America.
- Six years ago, Soweto Gospel Choir founded its own AIDS orphans foundation, Nkosi's Haven Vukani, to assist organisations that receive little or no funding. To date, the choir has collected over R4million for their foundation. In South Africa, the choir performs for a variety of charitable organisations.
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