



Media release
For immediate distribution
January 31, 2011

**MULTI GRAMMY AWARD WINNER
SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR
IS BACK!
NATIONAL TOUR COMMENCING IN
MAY 2011**

'Meticulous and unstoppable... spirited and spectacular'
The New York Times

**AFRICAN GRACE AUSTRALASIAN TOUR
MAY – JULY 2011**

Heralded as the most exciting group to emerge in World Music in recent years, two-time Grammy Award winning Soweto Gospel Choir returns to Australia with a brand new concert "African Grace".

Through vibrant rhythm movement and its renowned vocal harmonies, Soweto Gospel Choir's inimitable performance style has become a worldwide phenomenon. Since its foundation in 2002, the Choir has performed to sell-out crowds at the greatest concert halls across the globe and alongside superstars including Bono, Queen, Celine Dion, John Legend, Peter Gabriel, Josh Groban, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

With the fourth Grammy nomination for Soweto Gospel Choir announced earlier this month for its 5th album 'African Grace' being nominated in the Best Traditional World Music Album category, the Choir's 26 singers, dancers and musicians will deliver a flawless performance of traditional and contemporary songs infused with irrepressible spirit on their Australian tour.

TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11th

Andrew Kay, CEO HVK Productions presenter of the tour said, *"We are thrilled to be bringing Soweto Gospel Choir back to Australia. This is an extraordinary group of performers who touch people's hearts wherever they go, what this group*

has achieved is staggering, not just in critical claim and audience size, but the impact they make on people all around the world."

Formed in November 2002, by Andrew Kay, David Vigo and the late Clifford Hocking in association with Executive Producer/Director Beverly Bryer and Musical Director the late David Mulovhedzi, Soweto Gospel Choir won instant plaudits internationally including winning the 2003 Helpmann Award, Australia's prestigious Performing Arts Award for "Best Contemporary Music Concert". Its first CD "Voices from Heaven" also garnered rave reviews, reaching the Number 1 spot on Billboard's World Music Chart, within three weeks of its US release, debuting at Number 3. Its second CD "Blessed" won its first Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music. Since then, the Choir has released "Live at the Nelson Mandela Theatre" (2008) (Grammy Award Nomination), its second Grammy award-winning CD, "African Spirit" (2008) and Grammy Award Nominated "African Grace" (2010).

Wherever Soweto Gospel Choir has performed, be it Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Canada the UK or the USA it has wowed audiences. Since 2005 the choir has completed an annual 3 month tour of the United States, with majority of concerts sold out. As Ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation 46664, inaugural performance for Nelson Mandela concert in Capetown 2003, London's Hyde Park 2000, 46664 and Radio City Music Hall 2009. It has performed for Oprah Winfrey for her New Year's Eve party and was the support act for the Red Hot Chilli Peppers in Germany. In 2010, it opened World Expo in Shanghai, and appeared for ESPN for Pepsi for World Club opening with U2.

But no amount of glittering international recognition and praise has diverted Soweto Gospel Choir from the mission it holds close at heart. In 2003 the choir founded its own aids orphanage foundation, Nkosi's Haven Vukani. With the plight of South Africa's sick and impoverished top of mind, their foundation supports families and organisations that receive little or no government support. These destitute families and children rely on Soweto Gospel Choir to sing all over the world for very much more than its supper. To date, the choir has collected over \$US 1.5 million for their foundation. As well as supporting Nkosi's Haven Vukani Soweto Gospel Choir's 2011 Australian tour will be supporting World Vision.

Soweto Gospel Choir is honoured to have as its patron, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

AUSTRALIAN TOUR DATES 2011:

Saturday 7 May	Darwin Entertainment Centre	8pm
	Bookings: 08 8980 3333	
	www.darwinentertainment.com.au	
Wed 11 May	Mandurah PAC, Boardwalk Theatre	8pm
	Bookings 08 6550 3900	

www.manpac.com.au

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| Thurs 12 May | Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre
Bookings 1300 661 272
www.bunburyentertainment.com | 8pm |
| Sat 14 May | Perth, Concert Hall
Bookings: Bocs 08 9484 1133
www.bocsticketing.com.au | 4pm and 8pm |
| Thurs 19 May | Canberra – Lewellyn Hall ANU
Bookings Ticketek: 132 849
www.ticketek.com.au | 8pm |
| Fri 20 May | Newcastle City Hall
Bookings: 02 4929 1977
www.ticketek.com.au | 8pm |
| Sat 21 May | Sydney, State Theatre
Bookings: Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au | 8pm |
| Tues 24 May | Geelong PAC, Playhouse Theatre
Bookings: 03 5225 1200
www.gpac.org.au | 8pm |
| Wed 25 May | Frankston Arts Centre
Bookings: 03 9784 1060
www.artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au | 8pm |
| Fri 27 May | Clayton, Robert Blackwood Hall (Monash)
Bookings: 03 9905 1111
www.monash.edu.au | 8pm |
| Sat 28 May | Melbourne Palais Theatre
Bookings: Ticketmaster 136 100
www.ticketmaster.com.au | 4pm and 8pm |
| Sun 29 May | Bendigo PAC, The Capital
Bookings 03 5434 6100
www.thecapital.com.au | 5pm |

- 1 – 3 June Adelaide Festival Centre, Her Majesty's Theatre
Bookings: BASS on 131 246
www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au
- Sun 5 June Sutherland Entertainment Centre 7pm
Bookings: 02 9521 8888
www.sutherentctr.com.au
- Wed 8 June Caloundra The Events Centre 8pm
8pm Bookings 07 5491 4240
www.theeventscentre.com
- Thurs 9 June Gold Coast Arts Centre 8pm
8pm Bookings 07 5588 4000
www.gcac.com.au
- Fri 10 June Toowoomba Empire Theatre 8pm
Bookings 1300 655 299
www.empiretheatre.com.au
- Sat 11 June QPAC. Concert Hall 4pm & 8pm
Bookings Qtix 136 246
www.qpac.com.au
- Sun 12 June Rockhampton Pilbeam Theatre 7.30pm
Bookings 07 4927 4111
www.pilbeamtheatre.com.au
- Tues 14 June Townsville Civic Centre 8pm
Bookings Ticketshop 07 4727 9797
www.townsville.qld.gov.au
- Wed 15 June Cairns Civic Theatre 8pm
Bookings Ticketlink 07 4031 9555
www.cairnscivictheatre.com.au
- Fri 17 June Lismore City Hall, 8pm
Bookings 1300 066 772
www.norpa.org.au

Sun 19 June Tamworth Town Hall 5pm

Bookings: Tourism Tamworth 02 6767 5300

www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Tuesday 21 June Port Macquarie, Glasshouse Arts Conference 8pm

Entertainment Centre

Bookings: 02 6581 8888

www.glasshouse.org.au

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