

# NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



Nelson Mandela University Choir

CELEBRATING  
**25** Years  
1994-2019

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# Our Conductor

## Junita Lamprecht van Dijk

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As the founding-conductor of the Nelson Mandela University Choir, Junita Lamprecht van Dijk has been at the helm of one of South Africa's most innovative and renowned choirs for 25 years. Previously, she conducted the Framesby High School Choir starting in 1973. With this choir she received national and international acclaim, winning first prize at the Silver Tulip Time International Music Festival in the Netherlands in 1981, and South Africa's first national television choir competition in 1985. The choir was further invited to perform for Pope John Paul II in the Vatican City, Rome, in 1985. At the same time, she conducted the Eastern Cape Children's Choir to much acclaim between 1982 and 1985.

Junita founded the first multicultural and non-racial university choir in South Africa at the invitation of Michael Maas, then head of UPE Cultura, in 1994. The University of Port Elizabeth Choir later became the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Choir in 2005, and finally simply the Nelson Mandela University Choir in 2017, as the names and structures of South Africa's higher education landscape changed. Her choir, and their many successes, however, was a constant.

Whilst conducting, she formed South Africa's first Master's in Choral Conducting programme in collaboration with Kåre Hanken and the Norgeskorbund (Norwegian Choral Association). This initiative has seen many of its postgraduate students make a name for themselves as conductors and pedagogues, nationally and internationally.

Junita completed her own Master's through this programme, focussed on the conducting of a multicultural university choir, with the then UPE Choir as case study. Her dissertation has since become a classic text in the field. She continues to supervise Master's students, and frequently acts as moderator and examiner for postgraduate students across Southern Africa.

Junita is a highly sought-after adjudicator of choral competitions – from the ATKV-Appous Choir Competition to the China International Choral Festival – and regularly presents workshops in, amongst others, China, Argentina and the USA. In 2010 she was one of the first recipients of the Nelson Mandela University Alumni Achievers' Awards, and she is featured in the Lazri and Simon's influential *Who's Who in Choral Music*. A highlight remains the invitation to form part of the artistic committee of the 2017 IFCM World Choral Symposium in Barcelona, Spain – one of only three choral artists to serve on the committee. The triennial symposium is the most important and respected event on the international choral calendar. She was further invited to adjudicate at the Interkultur World Choral Games in Tshwane, in 2018, and will do so again in Antwerp and Ghent, in 2020.



# Programme

9 November 2019

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Nelson Mandela University South Campus Auditorium

## **Nelson Mandela University Choir**

Conductor – Junita Lamprecht van Dijk

Mezzo Soprano – Siphokazi Molteno

Piano – Kobus Buys

Richte mich, Gott	Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847)
Come Down Lord	Eslon V Hindunu (1996–)
Cessate	Peter Louis Van Dijk (1953–)
I'm Gonna Sing 'Til The Spirit Moves In My Heart	Moses Hogan (1957–2003)
Horizons	Peter Louis Van Dijk
I want Jesus to Walk with Me	Afro-American Spiritual; Arr. Moses Hogan
My Soul's been Anchored in the Lord	Afro-American Spiritual; Arr. Moses Hogan
<i>Interval</i>	
Ave Maria from <i>Rusticana Cavalleria</i>	Pietro Mascagni (1863–1945)
Lashijas del Zebedeo	Ruperto Chapi (1851–1909)
Una voce poco fa from <i>Barbiero di Siviglia</i>	Rossini (1792–1868)
Psalmus – <i>South African premiere</i>	Peter Louis Van Dijk
Moonlight from <i>Cabaret Songs</i>	Peter Louis Van Dijk
Ndikhokhele Bawo	Traditional isiXhosa; Arr. Sivuyile Scott (1993–)
Mangwane	Traditional South African; Arr. Sivuyile Scott
Kunjalo	Sivuyile Scott
Plea From Africa	Soloist – Lucretia Geswindt Bokwe; Arr. Peter Louis Van Dijk
Salukazi	Traditional isiZulu; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir



# Our story

## 1994–2000

The first years of the then University of Port Elizabeth's choir existence were ground-breaking – for this was the first multicultural and non-racial university choir formed at the start of South Africa's democracy by conductor Junita Lamprecht.

- The choir has their first performance at the inauguration of UPE's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Jan Kirsten, in 1994.
- In 1995, the choir hosted the biennial Kuesta University Choral Festival – the premier university choral festival in South Africa.
- The choir performed before Queen Elizabeth II in the Centenary Hall, New Brighton, and at Nelson Mandela University's Bird Street Campus, Central, during her tour to South Africa. The Queen defied protocol by leaving the procession to meet Junita and the choir.
- After performing before President Nelson Mandela at the Herald newspaper's 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations, he said of the choir: "I am so proud of you; you truly reflect the spirit of the new South Africa."
- The choir accepted invitations to both the centennial celebrations of the Phillipines and the Voices International Choir Festival in Trondheim, Norway.
- In 2000, the choir was invited to the Expo 2000 in Hannover, Germany, the International Choral Festival in Taiwan and Voices International Choral Festival, Trondheim, Norway.
- The choir featured in a film on Robben Island based on the life of Nelson Mandela.
- The choir released two CD's: *UPE Choir Live Concert '96* in 1996, and *African Renaissance* in 1998.



## 2001–2006

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During this time, the choir was involved in two international tours where they were immediately recognised and praised for their energy, passion and agility to not only render heart-felt classical pieces, but vibrant, ethnic South African traditional music.

- The choir participated in fully-sponsored tours to the University Choral Festival (FICU), Spain, and Voices Festival Norway.
- The choir performed on the main festivals of the Klein Karoo Kunstefees in Oudtshoorn and at the Grahamstown Arts Festival.
- Peter Louis van Dijk conducted *San Gloria* sung by the choir and the Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra (ECPO) in the Feather Market Centre.
- The choir performed in the Hugo Lamprecht Theatre with Pro Cantu Youth Choir (now the Cape Town Youth Choir) and Sontonga String Quartet in Cape Town.
- They sang the *Fauré Requiem* with the ECPO in Port Elizabeth and the Sontonga String Quartet in Grahamstown.
- The choir travelled to Namibia for the Windhoek National Arts Festival.
- The choir performed at the inauguration of the new Vice-Chancellor Dr Rolf Stumpf.



## 2007–2010

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A busy three years followed with the choir touring the USA for the world premiers of *Windy City Songs* and *Magnificat* by Peter Louis van Dijk; performing for the Italian Press Launch of the 2010 Fifa Football World Cup in Milan, and winning their first international choir competition in Austria.

- A tour to the United States of America included concerts in Jacksonville, Florida; New York State and Chicago where the choir performed the world premiers of *Windy City Songs* and *Magnificat* at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, Illinois.
- In the same year, the choir made its first CD-DVD recording, *Plea from Africa*.
- The first recording of *Magnificat* was undertaken in the Endler Hall, Stellenbosch Conservatory.
- The choir took part in the biennial Kuesta University Choral Festivals held in Stellenbosch and Potchefstroom.
- The South African premiere of *Windy City Songs* alongside the akKOORd Choir, Erub Children's Choir and the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra with Peter Louis van Dijk conducting, took place in the Cape Town City Hall and was broadcast nationally.
- The choir went to Spittal an der Drau, Austria, where they were overall winners of the Internationaler Chorwettbewerb (International Choir Competition). They were first in the folk music category, scoring 96%, third in the art song category, scoring 93%, and were awarded the Publikum Prize (audience choice).
- The choir was invited to the La Fabrica del Canto International Choral Festival in Legnano and Milan, Italy.
- Footage of the choir's performance at the Italian Press Launch of the Fifa Football World Cup in Milan was beamed around the globe via BBC, Sky News, RAI, and other international broadcasters.
- The choir performed at the inauguration of the new Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz, who became the choir's inaugural patron.



## 2011–2013

After two successful tours to Argentina and China where the choir performed for national radio and television stations, they enjoyed even greater global acclaim with the success of a flash mob shared virally on YouTube.

- The choir represented South Africa at the 9th International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) World Choral Symposium in Puerto Madryn and Buenos Aires in Argentina. They also performed at the Tango Club.
- The first flash mob staged by a university, starring the choir during a busy Saturday morning at Greenacres Shopping Centre, was an overnight viral sensation. The campaign also won a number of awards at the Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards and an international CASE Circle of Excellence Award.
- In 2012, the choir's filmed performance of *Asimbonanga*, as a tribute to Nelson Mandela on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, also won a national MACE award. The tribute video has already been viewed more than 560 000 times between the original tribute video and the Varsity Sing recordings – both on YouTube.
- The choir was also invited by the IFCM to represent Africa at the IFCM World Choral Summit in Beijing, under the auspices of the 11<sup>th</sup> Chinese International Choral Festival. Concerts included one in front of 18 000 people, that was also televised by China CCTV, and another in the Shanghai National Theatre.
- The choir received a repeat invitation to perform at the La Fabrica del Canto International Choral Festival in Legnano and Milan, Italy.
- The choir performed a flash mob to launch the new Isuzu at the General Motors plant in Port Elizabeth.
- The choir recorded the "Zulu-Kingdom" soundtrack for *Civilization V*, the most popular computer game of its kind.
- Within South Africa, the choir had outstanding performances at the Kuesta University Choral Festival in Johannesburg, in Simonstown, and at St George's Cathedral in Cape Town. They also appeared live on SABC 3's *Expresso* morning show.
- The choir released a DVD, *Music for U*, with footage shot at iconic locations across Nelson Mandela Bay.





## 2014–2016

The success continued with further invitations to IFCM choral events, and participation in the Varsity Sing competition on KykNET to critical acclaim. For the second time in 20 years, the choir hosted the Kuesta University Choral Festival.

- The choir returned to China, again at the invitation of the IFCM to represent Africa at the IFCM World Choral Education Conference and 12<sup>th</sup> China International Choral Festival. A highlight was performing *Asimbonanga* in the Great Hall of the People, Tiananmen Square, to 10 000 people. The choir also performed at the Tianjin Theatre and appeared as guests of the Chinese Minister of Culture in a documentary that aired on Chinese television.
- The choir hosted a 20-year reunion festival in celebration of its successes and achievements.
- The choir was again invited by the IFCM, this time to represent Africa at the 1<sup>st</sup> IFCM World Choral Expo in Macau. They performed at the official opening and closing ceremonies, its own concert, and presented workshops. *As is the Sea Marvelous*, a piece by the choir's longest serving member, Madelie Olivier, had its world premiere during the festival.
- The choir was invited to the BeKOOR/AChaired Taste Festival in Cape Town.
- The choir continued to perform flash mobs on request, including at Fancourt, George.
- The choir was invited by Chief Mandla Mandela to perform at the opening of the first school in Mvezu, the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.
- The choir performed for Ex-President Thabo Mbeki during the university's prestigious Beyers Naude Memorial Lecture.
- The choir hosted the biennial Kuesta University Choral Festival.
- The choir took part in the *Varsity Sing* University Choral Competition, broadcast to much acclaim on KykNET.
- The choir was invited to perform a concert series by *New World Classics* and *Sound Streams* in the United States of America and Canada.



## 2017–2019

- The choir was invited as one of five choirs, and the only choir from Africa, to participate in the 3rd Shanghai International Choral Festival in Shanghai, China, as well as the 3rd Jiangsu Zijin Choral Festival in Nanjing, China.
- The choir took part in the biennial Kuesta University Choral Festivals in Stellenbosch and Potchefstroom. The 2017 Kuesta, held in Stellenbosch, was broadcast as a four-part documentary on KykNET to much acclaim.
- The choir performed for President Cyril Ramaphosa at the name-change ceremony of the university.
- The choir performed at a celebration concert in memory of the life and legacy of Kåre Hanken in Cape Town. Junita created South Africa's first formal choral conducting programme with Kåre, in cooperation with the Norwegian Choral Society, in the late 1990's, and Kåre guest lectured at the then University of Port Elizabeth in this programme.
- The choir was invited to perform at the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Prestige Award Ceremony.
- The choir was invited to perform at the People's Port Festival hosted by PortNet and the TransNet Gala Award Ceremony.
- The choir continued to perform various flash mobs, notably for the Continental Tyre South African Achievers Awards ceremony.
- The choir performed at the opening of the Isuzu IronMan 70.3 World Championships.
- The choir is the subject of an academic analysis in *Focus: Choral Music in Global Perspective*, by André de Quadros, published by Routledge.
- The choir performed at the inauguration of the new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Prof Sibongile Muthwa.
- The choir received a special award from the University Alumni Association in recognition of their success over 25 years.
- The choir was invited to perform at the 9<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Youth Choir Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece.



# A Selection of our commissions and premieres

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## **Magnificat (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Canticle of Mary. Commissioned by the Nelson Mandela University Choir and the Sontonga Quartet, the piece was premiered in 2006 in the Summerstrand Dutch Reformed Church, with its world premiere during the choir's 2007 "Horizons" tour of the USA.

## **Windy City Songs (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Inspired by the poetry cycle *The Windy City*, by Carl Sandburg, this eight movement work premiered in Chicago's Civic Theatre along with the Chicago Children's Choir and the Lyric Opera Orchestra in 2007.

## **Plea from Africa (J K Bokwe; Arr. Peter Louis van Dijk)**

A well-known African hymn, this arrangement has been a standard in the repertoire of the Nelson Mandela University Choir, and was the titular piece in the 2007 CD-DVD production, *Plea from Africa*.

## **Chariots (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Psalm 20: 4, 5 and 7. Commissioned by the Nelson Mandela University Choir and the Texas State University Chorale, the piece has become a standard work in the international choral repertoire, renowned for the technical skill required to master it. It was premiered during the Internationaler Chorwettbewerb in Spittal an der Drau, Austria, 2009.

## **Cessate (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Psalm 46: 10. This atmospheric piece was commissioned by the Kuesta University Choral Society, and the choir premiered it together with the other Kuesta choirs at the University of Potchefstroom, 2009.

## **Bohemian Rhapsody (F Mercury; Arr. Peter Louis van Dijk)**

One of the most beloved pop songs, yet simultaneously a piece defying musical classification, this arrangement presents one of the most intricate and challenging pieces performed by the Nelson Mandela University Choir. It premiered at Kuesta 2013 in Johannesburg.

## **Moonlight (Peter Louis van Dijk; Opening L van Beethoven)**

Based on a cabaret song by the composer, the title of this lyrical piece of unrequited love refers intertextually to its opening, itself a rendition of the opening of Beethoven's famous Moonlight sonata. It premiered in 2013.

## **Book of Tides (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Premiered in 2013, the piece is a choral work based on Bach's piano prelude no. 22. Setting the original piano prelude to voice, followed by composing text for the melody, the composer offers a piece unique in its hybridization of the Baroque style within a contemporary context.

## **Ancient Waters (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Similar to *Book of Tides*, *Ancient Waters* is a setting to voice of a Bach piano prelude for mixed choir, and premiered in 2013.

## **Al lê die Berge (Traditional Afrikaans; Arr. Peter Louis van Dijk)**

An arrangement of an Afrikaans folk love song, this piece was premiered during Kuesta 2015.



**Heimwee (S Le Roux Marais; Arr. Peter Louis van Dijk)**

This well-known Afrikaans art song speaking of nostalgia for a life free of capitalist greed, was arranged in 2016. The piece premiered in the Linder Auditorium of the University of the Witwatersrand during the finale of the Varsity Sing competition broadcast live on KykNET.

**Mali die Slaaf se Lied (S Le Roux Marais, Arr. Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Another arrangement of a famous Afrikaans art song by composer S Le Roux Marais, this piece was premiered during the 3rd Shanghai International Choral Festival in 2017. It tells the story of a Cape slave from the Malay islands, desiring home.

**Psalmus (Peter Louis van Dijk)**

Psalm 8: 1, 3 and 4. Commissioned by the IFCM for the IFCM's 11th World Choral Symposium in Barcelona, Spain, 2017, the piece was premiered by the New Dublin Voices. The South African premiere is on the 9th of November 2019 during the Nelson Mandela University Choir's Reunion Celebration Concert.

**As is the Sea Marvellous (Madeline Olivier)**

A piece composed by one of the choir's longest serving members, with text by e e cummings. It premiered during the IFCM World Choral Expo in 2015.

**Masihlangane (Sivuyile Scott. Choreography M Marx and S Ngewu)**

A dynamic yet moving work calling for unity in Africa at a time of increased racism and xenophobia, this piece premiered in 2017.

**Kunjalo (Sivuyile Scott. Choreography S Ngewu)**

One of the choir's newest pieces, it addresses the horrific realities of gender-based violence head on. It premiered at Kuesta 2019 in Potchefstroom.

**Modimo (Traditional SeSotho; Arr. Sivuyile Scott. Choreography M Marx and S Ngewu)**

Although the choir has performed various renditions of Modimo over the years, this arrangement has been one of its most lauded and acclaimed – premiered at Kuesta 2017 in Stellenbosch.

**Ndikhokhele Bawo (Traditional isiXhosa; Arr. Sivuyile Scott. Choreography S Ngewu)**

Another piece which is a standard in South African choral music, yet which is meaningfully reimagined through Scott's arrangement – it premiered during Kuesta 2019.

**Mangwane (Traditional; Arr. Sivuyile Scott. Choreography S Ngewu)**

Another premiere during Kuesta 2019, this energetic piece is brought to life through Sibabalwa Ngewu's striking choreography.

**uXam uXakile (Traditional isiXhosa; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir. Choreography M Marx)**

A signature arrangement by the choir, this piece was premiered in 2009 in Spittal an der Drau during the Internationaler Chorwettbewerb. It played no small part in winning the choir the folk song category, as well as the Publikum Prize. It has since been re-presented and re-arranged numerous times, each time becoming a symbol of the choir's socio-cultural position – the metaphor of uXam (a reptile) often morphing into various ills facing society, including racism, and xenophobia.

**Homeless-Pata Pata (Ladysmith Black Mambazo, M Makeba; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir. Choreography M Marx)**

A piece synonymous with the Nelson Mandela University Choir, it premiered during 2011, and became one of its most requested arrangements during concerts, corporate performances and workshops for its vibrant display of pure passion and joy – nothing short of a showstopper.



**Asimbonanga – Mandela Tribute Medley (J Clegg and Traditional; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir. Choreography M Marx)**

One of the choir's most rousing arrangements, it was originally created as a tribute to Nelson Mandela on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. The juxtaposition of the piece's longing for Mandela, the joy and celebration of his leadership, coupled with an invocation of Mandela's stirring speech at the Rivonia trial – a speech yearning for a better South Africa for all – has led the piece to be a favourite encore request.

**Sophiatown Groove (Traditional; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir. Choreography M Marx and S Ngewu)**

Inspired by traditional music and culture of the 1960's in Sophiatown, the arrangement premiered in a performance for Ex-President Thabo Mbeki during the 2015 Beyers Naude Memorial Lecture.

**Kulomzi (Traditional; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir. Choreography M Marx and S Ngewu)**

Another favourite of audiences and choir members alike – this arrangement presents a powerful critique of notions of knowledge, value, and worth in relation to different forms of education.

**Other arrangements include:**

Salukazi (Traditional isiZulu; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir)

Melodi ea Ila (Traditional; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir)

Adam Udlile (Traditional; Arr. Nelson Mandela University Choir)



In 2019, the Republic of South Africa celebrates 25 years of democracy, the Nelson Mandela University brought its centenary celebrations of the birth of its namesake to a close, and Nelson Mandela University Choir celebrates 25 years of melodic success. Since its inception in 1994 as the first multicultural and non-racial university choir in South Africa, they have not only been at the forefront of artistic excellence and renewal in choral art, but actively promoted and lived the values of their namesake, university, and country.

Under the baton of founding-conductor Junita Lamprecht van Dijk, the choir has gained a reputation for its unique ability to interpret both Western and African repertoire and has become sought after at choral festivals worldwide, whilst presenting meaningful and striking commentary through its music. As our namesake said of the choir: "I am so proud of you! You truly reflect the spirit of the New South Africa."

## With gratitude and in admiration of ...

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Vice-Chancellor – Sibongile Muthwa  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research & Engagement – Andrew Leitch  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning & Teaching – Denise Zinn  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support – Lebogang Hashatse  
Director: Alumni Relations – Paul Geswindt  
Deputy Director: Arts, Culture and Heritage – Michael Barry  
Chairman: Alumni Association; Member of Council – Khwezi Blose  
Administrator: Communication and Stakeholder Liaison – Shani Adams

### **Past Directors and Patrons:**

Head: UPE Cultura – Michael Maas  
Director: UPE Marketing – Susan Smit  
Head: UPE Cultura – Marian Lucouw  
Director: Nelson Mandela University Marketing and Corporate Relations – Pieter Swart  
Vice-Chancellor and Inaugural Choir Patron – Derrick Swartz

Musical Director and Conductor – Junita Lamprecht van Dijk  
Composer and Advisor – Peter Louis van Dijk  
Choir Executive Chairman (2016-2019) – Luan Staphorst  
Alumni Festival Advisor – Anemi Jacobs  
Composers – Madelie Olivier and Sivuyile Scott  
Choreographers – Marelize Marx and Sibabalwa Ngewu  
Choir members both past and present

The public – for 25 years of support



**Singing thank you,  
and farewell!**



**Change the World**

PO Box 77000  
Nelson Mandela University  
Port Elizabeth, 6031, South Africa

[info@mandela.ac.za](mailto:info@mandela.ac.za)



[mandela.ac.za](http://mandela.ac.za)