



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MISSISSIPPI

GERTRUDE C.
FORD CENTER
for the Performing Arts

**SOWETO
GOSPEL
CHOIR**
PEACE



Friday, Oct. 19, 2025 • 7:30 p.m.

About Gertrude Castellow Ford



With an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Mrs. Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, Mrs. Ford was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

In keeping with a generations-old family tradition of philanthropy, Mrs. Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi, with a very generous gift in 1991 to support the arts in Mississippi. In addition to the donation for the construction of the Ford Center, the Foundation supports the USA International Ballet Competition, the Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Museum of Art, University of Southern Mississippi Orchestra and many others.

Mrs. Ford died in September of 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi’s 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

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Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts

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Andrew Kay
presents

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

PEACE

A Concert That Will Fill Your Heart With Joy

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Jeanette Mazibuko • Kenosi Moshe • Lungisani Mhlongo
Malehlohonolo Taolana • Mary Mulovhedzi • Phello Jiyane
Sabelo Mtshali • Semangele Mongatane • Sibongile Makgathe • Sibongiseni Mbele
Sipho Ngcamu • Thabiso Molefe • Velile Msimango • Victoria Sithole • Vincent Jiyane
Vusimuzi Shabalala • Xolile Mphata • Zanele Ngwenya • Zinhle Mpofu

Choir Master
Vincent Jiyane

Musical Director
Sabelo Mtshali

Choir Management
Mary Mulovhedzi • Vincent Jiyane • Bongani Ncube

Senior Producer
Toni Rudov

Production Manager/Stage Manager
Allan Maguire

Touring Lighting Designers
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Andrew Kay

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General Enquiries
Andrew Kay and Associates
Toni Rudov – Senior Producer | toni@akaaustralia.com.au

PROGRAM NOTES

This new concert by 3-time Grammy®-winning Soweto Gospel Choir, celebrates songs and anthems of Nelson Mandela's Freedom Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement of Dr Martin Luther King's America. Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, the repertoire moves down through time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement and more contemporary classics, including works by legendary artists Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Cynthia Erivo, Stevie Wonder and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin. Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, Soweto Gospel Choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world and has received critical acclaim and audience adoration for their powerful renditions of African American spirituals, gospel and folk music.

Soweto Gospel Choir 2025

“God has wrought many things out of oppression. He has endowed his creatures with the capacity to create - and from this capacity has flowed the sweet songs of sorrow and joy that have allowed man to cope with his environment and many different situations.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

1964 Berlin Jazz Festival (Article)

“... the political use of music in South Africa changed from being a ‘mirror’ in the 1940s and 1950s to becoming a ‘hammer’ with which to shape reality in the 1980s. In South Africa, music went from reflecting common experiences and concerns in the early years of apartheid, to eventually function as a force to confront the State and as a means to actively construct an alternative political and social reality.”

The Beat that Beat Apartheid: The Role of Music in the Resistance
Against Apartheid in South Africa.

Anne Schumann

2008 Vienna Journal of African Studies (Article)

*** NOTE:** ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE
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ABOUT THE 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 Dinklage, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angelique 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 are 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three-time Grammy® Award-winners including 2019 Best World Music Album for "Freedom"
- Performed with the biggest names in music including U2, Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Josh Groban
- Over 17 million views on YouTube
- Spreading joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades

SET LIST

“MELODIES”

NARRATION

“NONKONYANE KA NDABA”

“MODIMO”

“DICHABA”

“NOT YET UHURU”

“LITSHONILE LI LANGA”

“PASOPA VERWOERD”

“SECHABA”

“E KE DUMETSE”

“MBAI MBAI”

“Freedom Medley”

INTERMISSION

“OPENING DANCE AND CHANT”

“AMEN”

“HEAVEN HELP US ALL”

“PASS ME NOT GENTLE SAVIOR”

“A CHANGE IS GONNA COME”

“MAN IN THE MIRROR”

“PEOPLE GET READY”

“STAND UP”

“YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE”

“Hallelujah”

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The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers and watches.

—Thank You!—

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Rumours of Fleetwood Mac

Thursday, November 6 • 7:30 p.m.

Artemis

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Monday, November 17 • 7:30 p.m.

Christmas in the Air – A Holiday Spectacular

Tuesday, December 2, • 7:30 p.m.

Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

Thursday, December 11 • 7:30 p.m.

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To bridge this gap, we rely on the generosity of our patrons. Private contributions support programs such as Broadway touring productions and special opportunities for students, faculty and the general public to interact with accomplished performers.

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