



Celebrity Series of Boston
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For Immediate Release

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High-resolution photos: http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1222-Soweto_Gallery.htm

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Celebrity Series of Boston
Gary Dunning, President and Executive Director
Presents

Soweto Gospel Choir
on Sunday, February 12 at 3pm
at Symphony Hall

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present **Soweto Gospel Choir** on Sunday, February 12 at 3pm at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. This performance is sponsored by The D.L. Saunders Companies & The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC. Media Partner is 89.7 WGBH.

Tickets for Soweto Gospel Choir are priced at \$60, \$55 and \$47, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or at the Symphony Hall box office, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston.

This performance is the Soweto Gospel Choir's fourth with the Celebrity Series of Boston; their most recent was in 2008.

The **Soweto Gospel Choir** was formed in November 2002 by promoters/presenters Andrew Kay, David Vigo and Clifford Hocking, in association with Executive Producer/Director Beverly Bryer and Musical Director David Mulovhedzi. In 2003 they won a Helpmann Award, Australia's prestigious Performing Arts Award for "Best Contemporary Music Concert." In May 2004 they won the 2003 American Gospel Music Award for "Best Choir," in October they won the 2004 Gospel Music Award for "Best International Choir," and locally, their debut CD "Voices From Heaven" was nominated for a SAMA Award for "Best Traditional Gospel." Their next CD "Blessed" was released in July 2004, followed by "African Spirit" in 2007, through Universal Music. In September 2004 Soweto Gospel Choir performed three concerts at the Royal Festival Hall in London, followed by a countrywide UK tour. In November/December of that year the choir completed a tour of Spain, followed by performances in Berlin, Stuttgart and Hamburg. The choir completed a tour of the United States in April 2005 and returned to the US in 2006, 2007 and 2008. In June 2005 the choir performed in Athens and Spain, followed by a performance at St. Paul's Cathedral, as part of the London Festival. In July they performed their "Voices From Heaven" show for the first time in South Africa at the Nelson Mandela Theatre in Johannesburg, before returning to tour in New Zealand and Australia in August.

The group has performed with numerous musicians and bands, including a guest appearance with Diana Ross, Deborah Cox and Danny K for the "Unite of the Stars" Gala Banquet in aid of the charities Unite Against Hunger and the Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund. They have also performed for former president Bill Clinton, appeared on the *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and appeared before Oprah Winfrey in a New Year's Eve performance. The choir also performed for Archbishop Desmond Tutu's

(more)

75th Birthday Celebrations, in front of former President Nelson Mandela, Mrs. Zanele Mbeki, Tokyo Sexwale, Samuel L. Jackson, Alfre Woodard and Carlos Santana, among others.

Soweto Gospel Choir received a second Grammy Award in the Best Traditional World Music Album, this time for the album "African Spirit," and received its third Grammy nomination in December 2008 in the category of Best Contemporary World Music, for their album, "Live at the Nelson Mandela Theatre." The song "Down To Earth," a collaboration with Peter Gabriel from the blockbuster movie *Wall-E*, won a Grammy in the Best Movie Song category. In 2010 they received their fourth Grammy nomination, in the Best Traditional World Music category, for the album "Grace."

In 2010 the choir collaborated with U2 as the featured South African artist on the songs "Streets Have No Name", "Magnificent" and "Boots" for ESPN's promotional campaign for the 2010 World Cup. Along with ESPN and U2, Soweto Gospel Choir received a Sports Emmy Award as winners of the Outstanding Music Composition/Direction/Lyrics category in May 2011. They can then add an Emmy to their two Grammys, three 'associated' Grammys, three SAMAS and one Oscar nomination. The Choir also has their own AIDS orphans foundation, Nkosi's Haven Vukani, founded in 2003.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 73rd season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program, the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops, and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from The Little Family Foundation, Tufts Health Plan, Foley & Lardner LLP, Charlesbank Capital Partners, Comcast, Parametric Technology Corporation, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts Cultural Council, New England Foundation for the Arts and D.L. Saunders Companies and The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC.

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