

PRESS RELEASE

Information and Tickets
516.299.3100
tillescenter.org
800.745.3000
ticketmaster.com

Media Contact
Vanessa Kellogg
516.299.3341
vanessa.kellogg@liu.edu

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR OF SOUTH AFRICA MAKES TILLES CENTER DEBUT FEBRUARY 17

Brookville, NY (January 20) – Known for earthy rhythms, energetic dancing, renowned vocal harmonies and vibrant costumes, the Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa makes its debut at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, February 17, in an evening of traditional African and contemporary songs. Tickets to the 8 pm performance are \$52, \$37 and \$27.

Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in 2002 to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music. The 52-strong choir, under the direction of Beverly Bryer, draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto. The choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world. The choir has made a huge impact on the music world and the world at large. Their first album, *Voices from Heaven*, reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* World Music Chart within three weeks of its release in the United States.

Winners of countless national and international awards, including two Grammy Awards, a Gospel Music Award and an American Gospel Music Award, including “Best International Choir,” the group has toured the world extensively, performing at a host of prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, the Nelson Mandela Theatre and Royal Festival Hall in London as well as at high-profile festivals such as the Edinburgh Festival, the Adelaide Festival, the Hong Kong Festival and the London Festival. They have joined rock and pop icons from Peter Gabriel, Robert Plant and Bono to Celine Dion and Diana Ross, both on stage and in the recording studio.

Soweto Gospel Choir is an ambassador for Nelson Mandela’s 46664, a campaign originally created to increase global HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and which takes its name from the prison number given to Mr. Mandela when he was incarcerated for life off Cape Town, South Africa. The Choir founded its own AIDS orphans foundation, Nkosi’s Haven Vukani, to assist families and organizations that receive little or no government support. To date, the choir has collected over \$4 million.



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Tickets to see Soweto Gospel Choir Friday, February 17 at 8 pm at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts are \$52, \$37 and \$27. All ticket prices include a \$2 per ticket facility fee. Tickets are available online at tillescenter.org, or Ticketmaster.com, in person at Tilles Center's box office or by telephone at 516.299.3100 or 1.800.745.3000. The box office is open Monday-Saturday from 1-6 pm. There is a service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone. There are no refunds or exchanges. For additional information, call 516.299.3100 or visit tillescenter.org. Press photos are available at tillescenter.org/press.

Programs at Tilles Center are supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts. Long Island University's Tilles Center for the Performing Arts is located on the C.W. Post Campus, Route 25A in Brookville. ###



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