



Choral Voices a Heavenly Aural Delight

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Today marks the start of the second Ihlombe South African Choral Festival and Symposium. Visitors can expect 36 choirs, 11 concerts and several master classes, workshops and panel discussions. They will be held in Gauteng, (Soweto, Pretoria and Joburg) with collaborations with Unisa and Wits.

There will be two concerts in Bloemfontein (Tsoseletso High School Hall, Rocklands, and ML Spiessaal, Oranje Meisiesskool) and two in Cape Town (Langa and University of the Western Cape).

The concerts have attracted four international choirs, including the Children's Chorus of Washington DC, US; the College Vocal de Laval from Laval, Canada; and the Norco Choir and Singers Marin from California, US. In keeping with one of the core beliefs of Classical Movements, and building on donations to the three benefactors of last year, some of the profits from the concerts will be shared between South African groups that work to help under-privileged communities and youth programmes.

Classical Movements, which specializes in travel arrangements for some of the world's most famous orchestras, is also empowering local choirs by directly sharing the profits from ticket sales.

A special feature is the world premiere of a new work, *Letlang Bana (Let the Children Decide)*, commissioned by the festival and composed by Mokale Koapeng, a composer and lecturer at Wits.

Most of South Africa's best choirs will be performing, including the Drakensberg Boys' Choir.