

WE ARE  
YOUNG



DRAKENSBERG  
BOYS CHOIR

### 1. LUX AURUMQUE

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

*Sung in Latin*

3:31

The inspiration for the work was a short poem in English, “Light and Gold”, by Edward Esch, which begins with the word “Light” and ends with “angels sing softly to the new-born baby”. Whitacre’s music has been described as “softly spoken, deeply harmonic and tuneful”.

### 2. KYRIE

Steve Dobrogosz (b. 1956)

*Sung in Latin*

3:48

The *Kyrie* is the first movement of Steve Dobrogosz’s Mass for choir, strings and piano, composed in 1992. The driving syncopated rhythms of both the accompaniment and choir gives this piece it’s “modern” flavour.

### 3. IMMORTAL BACH

*Komm süßer Tod*

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750) arr.: Knut Nystedt

*Sung in German*

3:50

In *Immortal Bach* Nystedt follows the precept of combining the old and the new by taking one verse of the chorale *Komm süßer Tod* and creating a spatial effect with the singers sing the chorale at their own speed. The result is hauntingly atmospheric.



#### 4. CANTATE DOMINO

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

*Sung in Latin* 1:57

Monteverdi can be credited with modernizing music into the early Baroque. He wrote many treatises on how music should be performed and also published eight books of madrigals. Madrigals are known to depict text through little motifs in the music, such as this *Cantate Domino*. Although this piece is classified as a motet it is still in the style of a madrigal and depicts different instruments and songs through the music.

#### 5. DIE HEILIGE STAD

Jerusalem

Stephen Adams (1841 - 1913)

arr.: Johann van der Sandt

Soloist: Johan Potgieter

*Sung in Afrikaans* 4:26

Stephen Adams was the pen-name of Liverpool-born singer Michael Maybrick. *The Holy City* was composed in 1892, soon after which, Adams stopped writing songs, married his servant and became Mayor of Ryde in the Isle of Wight.

#### 6. HALLELUJAH

Ralph Siegel (b. 1945) & Anneli van Rooyen

arr.: Johann van der Sandt

*Sung in Afrikaans* 2:48

This well-known song which was made famous by Afrikaans singer and songwriter Anneli van Rooyen carries a simple message – “Praise the Lord”.

#### 7. COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

Brian Doerksen (b.1965)

arr.: Johann van der Sandt

Soloist: Stephane Marais

*Sung in English* 3:38

The appealing melody of this song originated during an autumn walk through the streets of London in 1997.

#### 8. KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY

Jarrold Cooper (b. 1978)

arr.: Johann van der Sandt

Soloist: Jabulani Nyathi

*Sung in English* 3:16

Jarrold Cooper is a 33 year- old singer/songwriter and worship leader who has clocked up an amazing 21 independent albums since 1990. *King of Kings, Majesty* has proved to be one of the most popular of his worship songs.

#### 9. HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Robert Wadsworth Lowry

arr.: Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

*Sung in English* 2:55

Rollo Dilworth is a prominent composer and arranger of spirituals in the United States, combining the tradition of the original work by Robert Wadsworth Lowry with a modern urban approach. The lyrics of *How can I keep from singing* resonate with every singer in the Drakensberg Boys Choir and with its unique choir school ethos: *My life flows on in endless song; - How can I keep from singing?*



### 10. ZIGEUNERLEBEN (Gypsy Life)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Solist: Johan Potgieter, Motshwane Pege,

Jonathan Henderson

*Sung in German*

3:24

“Robert Schumann’s (1810-1856) fascination with gypsies grew out of his encounter with Emanuel Geibel’s ‘gypsy poems’, and finally found expression in his *Zigeunerleben*, opus 29, no. 3 Schumann musically portrays Geibel’s colourful description of a gypsy campfire. The piece begins with the mysterious quiet of ‘woods filled with shadows and whispering branches’, and then rising vocal lines depict the flames as they ‘flare up to illumine the trees’. The close of the piece captures the nomadic aspect of gypsy life with the final text, ‘But where do they go? Who knows where?’”

### 11. I DENNA LJUVA SOMMARTID

Swedish Summer Hymn arr.: Bengt Ollén

*Sung in Swedish*

3:32

*I Denna Ljuva Sommertid* hails from the Malung region of Sweden singing the praise of summer: “In this lovely summertime go forth, my soul and rejoice in the gifts of our great God”.

### 12. MUNDI RENOVATIO

György Orbán (b. 1947)

*Sung in Latin*

1:42

This contemporary composition by Hungarian (native born Rumanian) composer, György Orbán, poses many challenges to the boys of the Drakensberg Boys Choir who relish the opportunity to increase their musicianship and vocal independence. The text comments on the renewal of spring after the long months of winter.

### 13. KALĒJS KALA DEBESĪS

Selga Mence (b. 1953)

*Sung in Latvian*

2:04

According to Latvian mythology the world was created by Perkons, the god of thunder, forging the sky in his metal workshop. In this dramatic piece, Latvian female composer Selga Mence, portrays the sparks and sounds of metal-against-metal musically through the use of quick, accented chords and repeated consonants in the texts. The sparks from the workshop fall down from the sky into the dark Daugava river. This river is depicted by a winding melody throughout the piece.

### 14. PEZÉ CAFÉ

Haitian Folksong arr.: Sten Källman

*Sung in English*

3:58

The history of Haitian coffee is as colourful as the history of the country itself -- not void of trials and tribulations, or of intense spirit and tradition. Embodying this culture is *Pezé Café*, a popular folk-song known by all, even children. A loose translation of this 100 year old Kreyol hymn is that the song tells the story of a child, sent to weigh, or buy, coffee for his family. On his return home, by some awful luck, he gets arrested. As they carry him (and his coffee) away, he wails “what am I going to do...what will I tell my mother about the coffee?”

15. TOUSAKA MIMASAKA

Ko Matshushita (in the style of a Japanese Folksong)

*Sung in Japanese* 0:50

This comical sketch by Japanese composer Ko Matshushita depicts a tongue-in-cheek hunting incident in the Japanese folk song idiom: "A fox was sleeping at Ogasaka Ridge, and was shot with a gun, how painful it must have been!"

16. HELLO DOLLY!

Jerry Herman (b. 1931) arr.: Clay Warnick

Drums: Koketso Seboka

*Sung in English* 3:33

*Hello, Dolly!* is the title song of the popular 1964 musical of the same name. Louis Armstrong's version was inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2001 and was the first song to succeed in knocking the Beatles off their number one position in the charts during their own "victory year."

17. BEAUTIFUL GIRLS

Sean Kingston (b. 1990)

Soloists: Stephane Marais, Jabulani Nyathi

*Sung in English* 2:47

The Jamaican American artist Sean Kingston recorded and released the single *Beautiful Girls* in May 2007. The single, based on the bass line and lyrical "association" of the 1961 hit "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King, is about a boy who is miserable over the failure of his relationship with a "beautiful girl".

18. I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE

Hezekiah Walker arr.: Joe Fitzmartin

Soloist: Nick Trawick

*Sung in English* 5:16

This captivating performance is a result of a visit of the Keystone Sate Boychoir, from Philadelphia, USA. The song was written in the days following the terrorist attacks on America in September of 2001. With Steven M. Fisher conducting, and Joseph P. Fitzmartin behind the piano, the two boy choirs came together, and felt the power of nations and voices uniting: "I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body..."

19. SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Adele Adkins (b. 1988)

arr.: Johann van der Sandt

Soloists: Stephane Marais, Jabulani Nyathi

*Sung in English* 4:29

Adele Laurie Blue Adkins stylized as ADELE, is an English recording artist and songwriter. After *Someone Like You*, Adele became the first living artist to achieve the feat of two top five hits in both the UK Official Singles Chart and the Official Albums Chart simultaneously since the Beatles in 1964. It was written by Adele and Dan Wilson, this soul ballad was inspired by a broken relationship of Adele's, and lyrically it speaks of Adele coming to terms with it.



## 20. NDAWANA

### South African Folksong

Soloist: Jabulani Nyathi

Sung in TshiVenda

1:48

“Children were playing by the river they were laughing at a kingfisher dozing off”.

## 21. SWILO HHINI MAKHANA

### South African Folksong

Sung in XiTsonga

1:35

“What is the problem Makhanana? This is a German ship. Here it is, here it is”.

## 22. MINGESALI

### South African Folksong

Sung in Xitsonga

1:10

“You will not be left behind when you think about Johannesburg”.

## 23. LE QALE HONNA

### South African Folksong

Soloists: Alistair Cranmer, Stephane Marais

Sung in SeSotho

2:13

“Father God, let peace and love begin in my heart”.

## 24. PATA PATA

Dorothy Masuka (b. 1935) arr.: Bragi Þór Valsson

Soloist: Kevin Sibande

Sung in Xhosa

3:13

Dorothy Masuka was born in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to a Zambian father and a Zulu mother. *Pata Pata* was first released by Miriam Makeba, “Mama Africa”, in 1957. It is considered by many to be Makeba’s signature hit and has been covered by many artists since then.

## 25. WE ARE YOUNG

FUN arr.: Johann van der Sandt

Soloists: Stephane Marais, Jabulani Nyathi,

Johan Potgieter

Drums: Kevin Sibande

*Sung in English*

3:07

The lyrics of this song takes one back to a time of one's youth, with friends, maybe running into an ex-lover or someone you crushed on but things just didn't work out. "Tonight, we are young", for we are "immortal" and time is on our side.

## 26. LET THE RIVER RUN

Carly Simon arr.: Craig Hella Johnson

*Sung in English*

2:23

*Let the River Run* was first featured in the 1988 film *Working Girl*. It was the first of only two songs to have won all three awards (Oscar, Golden Globe, Grammy) while being composed and written, as well as performed, entirely by a single artist – Carly Simon.





## THE DRAKENSBURG BOYS CHOIR

The Drakensberg Boys' Choir School is situated in the Champagne Valley of the Central Drakensberg Mountains. In its 45 year history, the school has grown considerably in both its student body and its facilities. The school was officially established in 1967 by the Tungay family with John Tungay as first conductor.

Since its establishment, the school has seen many different conductors and produced a number of successful musicians from the boys that have passed through the school. Notable conductors include Botes Gresse, Christian Ashley-Botha, Rudolf de Beer and Juan Burgers. Some of the Old Boys that have become prominent musicians nationally and internationally include Deon van der Walt, Clint van der Linde, Jacques Imbrailo, Nicholas Nicolaidis, the Bala Brothers, Rory Rootenberg and William Berger.

The school consists of approximately 100 boys from Grade four to nine who have been selected through auditions held across the country. The boys have six academic periods, two music periods in the form of aural training and theory as well as two hours of choir rehearsal every day. The choir performs an average of 60 concerts a year, which includes the weekly Wednesday concerts held at the school.

The choir tours at least twice a year, both nationally and internationally. The countries they have visited include Israel, the United States of America, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Budapest, Portugal, Spain, France, Taiwan, Poland, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Botswana. One of the early tour highlights was an invitation in 1983 from Pope John Paul II to perform in St. Peter's Square. They were the first South African cultural group to perform behind the Iron Curtain in 1985, and were also invited to perform at a congress of the American Choral Directors' Association in 2007. Their most recent tour to the USA in May 2011 was greeted with accolades like "The Drakies never fail to leave the audience gasping in admiration. Not a shy boy in the lot." - Douglas Neslund: The Classical Voice, Los Angeles. The choir was also privileged to have sung with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during a live broadcast of "The Spoken Word" in the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah. 2012 brought a variety of performances for the choir, from being guest artists and supporting vocalists for the South African Idols, to performing with celebrated South African vocalist, Chris Chameleon in a unique production *Dreams*. This production was awarded the prize for the biggest artistic contribution at the InniBos National Arts Festival. Apart from numerous national tours the choir also performed to packed audiences during its festivals and concerts in the Ken Mackenzie Auditorium on the school's campus.

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/CONDUCTOR – JOHANN VAN DER SANDT**

Johann van der Sandt was born in the Free State, South Africa, and completed his studies at the University of Pretoria. He received a diploma for Individual Music Tuition in piano, organ, vocal training and clarinet. In January 1996 the Instituut voor dirigente Edukatie in Gorinchem, the Netherlands, awarded him a Performance Diploma in Choral Conducting. Johann's doctoral thesis, dealt with the development of a curriculum for the training of undergraduate students in choral conducting. He has also received important exposure and training under the well-known Swedish conductor, Eric Ericson.

Johann is actively involved, nationally and internationally, in the training and development of conductors. His knowledge of choral singing is augmented by regular participation in symposia around the world. As a composer, Johann is especially known for his choral arrangements which are performed by national and international choirs. He has also won the accolade of Best Conductor at a number of international choral competitions – the most recent at the 46th C.A. Seghizzi International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy.

For 10 years, Johann was a professor in choral conducting at the University of Pretoria, where he was the conductor of the Tuks Camerata. He was also the conductor of the Singkronies Chamber Choir for 12 years. In July 2008 he concluded his career at the University of Pretoria to accept the position of Director of Music at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.



## **LIZA JOUBERT - ACCOMPANIST**

Liza Joubert is one of the most accomplished pianists in the country. She is well known for her colourful interpretations and her repertoire includes anything from cabaret to Stockhausen, as well as period music for fortepiano and harpsichord. She is a sought-after accompanist for instrumentalists, singers and choirs. As a soloist, she has played ragtime in France, South African piano music in the Czech Republic and numerous concerts in South Africa. She also plays the organ, double bass and accordion.



## **BEA DE WIT - ACCOMPANIST**

Bea de Wit completed her BMus (Hons) at the University of the Free State where she sang in the University choir and conducted the Pro Ecclesia choir as well as numerous award-winning serenade groups. She taught at Grey College, Bloemfontein where she conducted the school choir and won the Youth Choir Section of the Roodepoort International Eisteddfod. During her stay in Pretoria she established, developed and headed the Music Department at Pretoria High School for Girls for ten years. During the latter part of her stay in Pretoria she was head of the Music Department at the Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool, Pretoria.

She was conductor of the East Rand Children's Choir, Pretoria Girls High School Choir as well as Les Feés Vocal Ensemble with whom she won numerous prizes at Eisteddfods. She was also the conductor of the University of Pretoria Jacaranda Children's Choir with whom she represented South Africa at the Songbridge International Choir Festival in Hong Kong, China. Throughout her professional career, she has acted as accompanist for, amongst others, the Rand Afrikaans University Choir (now University of Johannesburg), Singkronies Chamber Choir and the Tuks Camerata.





Sound engineers: Clive Staegemann, Andreas Lamken  
Vocal Coach/Assistant Conductor: Cathy-Jane Mintoor  
Repetiteurs: Khaya Mkhize, Angus Blaauw  
Programme Notes: Johann van Niekerk

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