



PALISSANDER KAMERKOOR/
CHAMBER CHOIR

KALEIDOSCOPE

everchanging
journey

CONDUCTED BY
SARITA HAUPTFLEISCH

Tour to Portugal
August 2023

Palissander

Palissander, one of South Africa's premier chamber choirs, is an independent amateur choir of international standing that was formed in 1992. The choir has to date performed to great acclaim in Canada, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Kenya, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Estonia and Finland. Highlights of Palissander's overseas tours include concerts in the Notre Dame in Paris and the Rock Church in Helsinki, as well as an impromptu performance for the world-leading Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. This year, the choir is touring to Portugal. Palissander's core values are passion, abundance, joy, respect and acceptance.

The name Palissander is a reference to the fourth volume of poetry by the Afrikaans poet Boerneef, entitled *Palissandryne*. In the opening poem of this volume Boerneef writes of his recorder of palissander wood (a precious dark brown wood, related to jacaranda wood) that plays "palissandertaal" (palissander language). Later in the volume, the poet uses the word "palissandertaal" repeatedly as a synonym for music.

Sarita Hauptfleisch, who still conducts the choir, founded Palissander with the purpose of making music for the soul. This has developed into the choir becoming an ambassador for love and peace to both local and overseas communities.

The choir connects with the audience through sharing programmes bound together by central themes. The theme approach enables an extremely diverse repertoire to be drawn together into a cohesive whole. Since 2004, the annual themes have addressed topics such as peace, democracy, tolerance, our response to HIV/AIDS and COVID, respect for the earth and recognising the importance of water.

In 2022, Palissander celebrated its 30th anniversary with the theme, *This is us—sing like a planet*. The programme highlighted the fact that, like every planet, every person has a unique sound

(voice) that needs to be heard. In 2023, Palissander will walk a portion of the Camino Portugués, starting from the cathedral in Porto. The choir will give performances along the way, as well as in Porto, Lisbon and Cascais. The theme for the programme is *Kaleidoscope—everchanging journey*.

Palissander is based in Pretoria, South Africa, and currently consists of 24 members, 18 of whom are touring to Portugal.

Kaleidoscope— everchanging journey

The music reflects every person's physical, as well as spiritual, journey through life. Like a kaleidoscope, one's journey is everchanging.

The programme portrays the two mirrors of a kaleidoscope in the form of contrasting concepts that one encounters on a journey, such as alone/together, seeking love/having found love, old path/new path and storm/sun. A key reflection is that the destination is not more important than the journey. In each concert, the audience is invited to select the order in which the music is performed, based on the concepts that resonate most with them at the time. In this way, the concerts themselves are everchanging. The programme combines music by composers from around the globe with that of African composers. The music is accessible to everyone.

**TODAY'S PROGRAMMES WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE
FOLLOWING WORKS**

Singabahambayo

Sung in Zulu

Traditional

We are travellers here on earth
But we have a home in Heaven
Hallelujah!

Siyahamba

Sung in Zulu

Traditional

We are marching in the light of God!

DESPAIR/HOPE

Psalm 130

For male voices

Ēriks Ešņvalds

Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord, hear my voice.
O, let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, what is
done,
O, Lord, who may abide it?
O, Lord for there is mercy with thee, therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord, my soul doth wait for him, in His word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch.
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy
and with Him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord, hear my voice.

Psalm 121

Sung in Griekwa-Afrikaans

Awie van Wyk

Soloist: Jannie de Beer

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right
hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

ROAMING, WITHOUT DIRECTION/HAVING DIRECTION

Kinders van die wind **Koos du Plessis, arr. Sarita Hauptfleisch**
(Children of the wind)
Sung in Afrikaans

I know an old, old song of good times and woe
From ships long-vanished in the cellars of the sea
The words are forgotten, but the notes of the tune linger
Like vaguely familiar syllables from an old, old story
Wanderers without direction, seekers who never find
And, in the end, all were just children of the wind
Faces, dreams and names were snuffed out in the wind
And where those words are now only a child could guess

Beati quorum via
Psalm 119:1
Sung in Latin

CV Stanford

Blessed are those who follow paths of righteousness
Who walk in the law of the Lord

HARDSHIP/COMFORT

Bend

Kyle Pederson

Bend, don't break, my child when the winds blow wild

I'll feel the fear for you, I'll cry your tears for you,
I'll do anything I can to make you comfortable.
Even if I fall down when you're not around,
Don't worry about me, don't worry about me.

Cause if I fall you'll fall
And if I rise, we'll rise together.
When I smile, you'll smile
And don't worry about me, don't worry about me.

I'll climb the hills you face, I'll do this in your place.
I'd do anything to go through it instead of you.
But even if I fall down when you're not around,
Don't worry about me, don't worry about me.

Canto que Amabas

Text: Gabriela Mistral
Sung in Spanish

Life of my life, what you loved I sing
If you're near, if you're listening,
think of me now in the evenings:
shadow in shadows, hear me sing

Life of my life, I haven't changed,
not turned aside and not estranged

Come to me as the shadows grow long,
come, life of my life, if you know the song you used to know
If you know my name, I and the songs are still the same.

Beyond time or place I keep faith
Follow a path or follow no path
never fearing the night, the wind
Call to me, come to me, now at the end
Walk with me, life of my life, my friend

Z. Randall Stroope

STORM/SUN

Father Thunder
Latvian folksong

Laura Jēkobsone

Father Thunder has nine sons:
Three strike, three rumble, three flash lightning

Thunder had nine lightning bolts
With them bolts he struck the oak
Three bolt axes chopped the stump
Six lightning flashes split the top

Even when He is silent

Kim André Arnesen

The text of this work was found written on a wall at a concentration camp after World War II. Imagining what that person went through makes the words so powerful. It was a Credo—when everything is dark and difficult in life you might wonder where God is, or if God is there at all. This is about keeping faith in God, love and hope. The sun is a metaphor for hope.

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining
I believe in love even when I feel it not
I believe in God even when He is silent

OLD WAY/NEW WAY

The conversion of Saul

Z Randall Stroope

Murder, harass, bind into chains! Saul!
Chain, prosecute and harass!

Why do you persecute me, Saul?
Why, why, why?

Fall down on your knees, turn hatred into love.
Turn darkness into light.
Bow down, Saul!

Spes (Hope)

Mia Makaroff

Sung in Latin and Sami
For female voices

The words *spes* and *doavvu* both mean hope, but in very different

languages. *Spes* is Latin and *doaivu* is Sami, a language coming from Lapland. Sometimes these cultures have conflicted: Biblical Latin has represented the Christian church and Sami has represented animism and shamanism in the northern parts of Scandinavia. This has led to violence and demolition, although both cultures seek peace and understanding. In 2012, the bishop of Oulu, Finland, asked the Sami people for forgiveness. Hope is present whenever people are humble enough to seek understanding. Humility and understanding are the key for the hope of mankind.

The text combines an extract from Ecclesiastes with words by the Sami singer, poet and artist Nils Aslak Valkeapää.

Who is like the wise?
Who knows the explanation of things?

I belong to the wind, but I live, maybe that is the meaning of life.
I live here and now, I won't be alive tomorrow.

That is the way—and so what.
As no one has power over the wind to contain it,
so no one has power over the time of their death.

A person's wisdom brightens their face
and changes its hard appearance.

CONCLUSION

I'll go alone

Words: Evelyn K Dudley, adapted

Elizabeth Alexander

A powerful reflection on personal strength and resolve, this song blends poet Evelyn Dudley's Southern tenacity and hardy faith with composer Elizabeth Alexander's Appalachian roots and musical vision. The lyric's determined refrain, "I'll go alone if I have to," speaks to the loneliness and challenge of the less travelled road. The work was originally published under the title *The journey*.

I'll go alone if I have to.
If you're behind me when I begin this journey,
stay there, for you will only hinder me.

My footprints will vanish from this trail someday,

but the seeds that I sow will remain and grow.
The fragrance from the fruit that is borne
will draw those who hunger and thirst,
those who seek God in Spirit and Truth—I'll go alone if I have to.

For at the end of this journey waits a festive table
filled with blessings and prayers that I prayed and had forgotten.
Have your fill of these blessings!

Oh, I am tired from the journey, and Jesus bids me rest,
and I will sit on the porch of the kingdom
and realise the destination was no more important than the journey.
I'll go alone if I have to. On this journey, I'll go alone.

Nothin' gonna stumble my feet

Greg Gilpin

I been awalkin' with the Lord for many a day
Nothin' gonna stumble, stumble my feet
Tryin' to abide in the straight and narrow way
Nothin' gonna stumble, stumble my feet

But when my time on earth is done and I hear my name
These weary feet are gonna run
Nothin' gonna stumble, stumble my feet
When I go to walk that golden street

No not gonna stammer not gonna trip
No I'm not gonna stumble, no I'm not gonna slip
No nothing gonna stumble, stumble my feet
When I go to walk that golden street

Now the devil is a liar, and a cheater too
And if he gets his way, he'll make a slider out of you
But if you listen for the spirit's voice
In a moment of truth,
Oh if you listen for the spirit's voice
He'll help you make the right choice

Not gonna waver, falter, sway or fall
Not gonna stumble or slide
Not gonna stumble at all

No nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet

When I go to walk that golden street

Navajo Blessing

Traditional

Recorder: Martie Jacobs

J David Moore

Beauty goes before me,
Beauty goes beside me,
Beauty follows me

Members

Soprane

Sandra Botha, Adré du Plessis, Ina Hugo,
Martie Jacobs, Kathleen van der Linde, Andrea
Yazbek

Alte

Nadina Coetzee, Laetitia Crause, Melani
Fouché, Elle van Rooyen, Chantal Verster

Tenore

George de Bruin, Marco Hellberg, Jaques
Kruger, Graeme Wilkinson

Basse

Otto Bester, Jannie de Beer, Joseph Lawrence

Palissander

Conductor: Sarita Hauptfleisch

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