

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

PEACE



McANINCH ARTS CENTER

Nov 8, 2025

Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez
Executive Director
McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

Soweto Gospel Choir

A Concert That Will Fill Your Heart With Joy

The Choir

Bongani Ncube, Fanizile Nzuza, Jabulile Mola, Jeanette Mazibuko, Kenosi Moshe, Lungisani Mhlongo, Malehlohonolo Taolana, Mary Mulovhedzi, Phello Jiyane, Sabelo Mtshali, Semangele Mongatane, Sibongile Makgathe, Sibongiseni Mbele, Sipho Ngcamu, Thabiso Molefe, Velile Msimango, Victoria Sithole, Vincent Jiyane, Vusimuzi Shabalala, Xolile Mphata, Zanele Ngwenya, Zinhle Mpofu

Choir Master
Vincent Jiyane

Musical Director
Sabelo Mtshali

Choir Management
Mary Mulovhedzi, Vincent Jiyane, Bongani Ncube

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Toni Rudov

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Allan Maguire

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Jackson Gray**

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Producer
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Set Design
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Toni Rudov – Senior Producer | toni@akaaustralia.com.au

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Sat, Nov 8, 2025, 7:30p
Belushi Performance Hall

SET LIST

“Melodies”

Narration

“Nonkonyane Ka Ndaba”

“Modimo”

“Dichaba”

“Not Yet Uhuru”

“Litsonile Li Langa”

“Pasopa Verwoerd”

“Sechaba”

“E Ke Dumetse”

“Mbai Mbai”

“Freedom Medley”

INTERMISSION

“Opening Dance and Chant”

“Amen”

“Heaven Help Us All”

“Pass Me Not Gentle Savior”

“A Change Is Gonna Come”

“Man In The Mirror”

“People Get Ready”

“Stand Up”

“You Will Never Walk Alone”

“Hallelujah”

All Information Subject to Change without Notification



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PROGRAM NOTES

This new concert by three-time Grammy®-winning Soweto Gospel Choir celebrates songs and anthems of Nelson Mandela's Freedom Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement of Dr Martin Luther King's America. Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, the repertoire moves down through time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement and more contemporary classics, including works by legendary artists Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Cynthia Erivo, Stevie Wonder, and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin. Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, Soweto Gospel Choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world and has received critical acclaim and audience adoration for their powerful renditions of African American spirituals, gospel and folk music.

Soweto Gospel Choir 2025

ABOUT SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a township outside of Johannesburg and home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR continues to inspire audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs, and international classics.

Comprising a line-up of some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting performers have shared the stage and collaborated with the biggest names in contemporary music including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Gabriel, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angelique Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela, and Josh Groban.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR was formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to Democracy. Taking part in some of the major historical events in the new democratic South Africa, Soweto Gospel Choir are proud to have performed on many occasions for the Father of their Nation, former President Nelson Mandela, and sadly at his State Funeral in South Africa as well as at the subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in London. They were similarly invited to perform at the funeral service for the late President's first wife, Winnie Mandela.

ABOUT SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

The Choir acts as Ambassadors for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three-time Grammy® Award-winners including 2019 Best World Music Album for “Freedom”
- Performed with the biggest names in music including U2, Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Josh Groban
- Over 17 million views on YouTube
- Spreading joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades

Dining Partners!

**Eat, drink & enjoy -
MAC dining partners**

For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!

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but we can't do it without you!



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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

**For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or
contact the College of DuPage Foundation at
(630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.**

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We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator
 Rob Nardini: nardinir@cod.edu | (630) 942-3705.

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or groupitx@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer.....	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator.....	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistants	Kate Cadag, Claudia Mah Eng Muzquiz

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian.....	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka

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