



Opus 3 Artists and
THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENT



AFRICANCHILDREN'SCHOIR™

IN

JOURNEY OF HOPE in Concert

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009
8PM, FARTHING AUDITORIUM

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS PRESENTS:

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

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JOURNEY OF HOPE in Concert

BOOK BY
JULIA BARNETT TRACY

COSTUME DESIGN
PRISCILLA KURUTU
BARBARA SERUNGOJI

DIRECTED BY
DAVID TRAVIS

PUPPET DESIGN
EMILY DECOLA

SOUND DESIGN
JESSICA PAZ

VIDEO DESIGN / AUDIO
SUPERVISOR
KYLE HEALY

LIGHTING DESIGN / DIRECTOR
JAMI AUSTING

PRODUCTION / COMPANY
MANAGER
CRAIG PETERS

STAGE MANAGER
SARAH MARKEN

AFRICAN CHOREOGRAPHER /
CHOIR DIRECTOR
PROSSY NAKIYEMBA
ALICE NABWAMI

CHOIR CHAPERONES
SHARYE CORNMESSER
CHRISTINE MILLER
ALICE NABWAMI
AMANDA YOUNG
JORDAN FROESE
MATHEW BENNETT
VICTOR KIMERA

ASSISTANT SOUND
MATTHEW BENNETT

AFRICAN CHOREOGRAPHER
MARGARET PEREZ

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
DANA NAPOLI

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR &
PRODUCER
JULIA BARNETT TRACY

WESTERN MUSIC SUPERVISOR
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
SUZANNE NELSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
RHEANNE LECHKOBIT

Exclusive Management for the
African Children's Choir
OPUS 3 ARTISTS
470 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10016



THE CHOIR

GIRLS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| JOAN NAZZIWA | CLAIRE NAKISITU |
| FIONA MAGOBA | SUSAN KARUNGI |
| FLORENCE NALWEYISO | BARBRAH AKANDINDA |
| DIANAH KEMIGISHA | RESTY NABUKEERA |
| IMMACULATE NABAKIIBI | |

BOYS

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| JOSHUA MIREMBE | JOEL BALAGADDE | TONY SEKAJIRI |
| JOSHUA BUSUULWA | JULIUS LUBEGA | CLAUDIO KIBIRANGO |
| EPHRAHIM KYEYUNE | JULIUS MUGAMBWA | GODFREY KABUYE |
| JOSEPH MUWANGUZI | EDGAR MUYANJA | MICHAEL NSIIMBE |

ADULT PERFORMERS

PROSSY NAKIYEMBA
ALICE NABWAMI
VICTOR KIMERA

Journey of Hope in Concert

Program Order

ACT ONE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Koo Koo Dance | Tanzania |
| Abataka | Baganda Tribe |
| Fishing Song | Baganda Tribe |
| Hunting Song | Baganda Tribe |
| Harvest Song | Basoga Tribe |
| Dance Tutorial: | |
| Kiganda Dance | Uganda |
| Rwandan Dance | Rwanda |
| Bandi Minya Soya Maci-Lingala | Congo |
| Ding Ding | Acholi Tribe, Southern Sudan |
| Ujesu Tiathoma | South Africa |
| Shadowland | Composed by Hans Zimmer and Lebo Morake |
| Amaggunju Dance | Baganda Tribe |

ACT TWO

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Can Dance | South Africa |
| Homeland | Dirk Brosse |
| If We Ever | Traditional |
| Malivata | Tanzania |
| Mwije Bantumwe | Runyankole Tribe |
| Natamba | Runyankole Tribe |
| Kizino Dance | Bakiga Tribe |
| Mother Africa | Tshoma Tribe/South Africa Composed by Hans Zimmer & Lebo Morake |
| Runyege Dance | Batoro Tribe |
| Nkosi Sikele | South Africa Arrangement by Dirke Brosse |

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

Our Story

The first African Children's Choir was made up of children who were born in Uganda during the final years of Idi Amin's regime. In 1984, Uganda was embroiled in a Civil War that left hundreds of thousands of orphans in great need. The Choir traveled to the West to tell the story of these children in the hope that the rest of the world would come to their aid and help to relieve the widespread suffering.

For 25 years, the African Children's Choir has worked with Africa's most vulnerable children. As ambassadors representing millions, the children of the Choir not only help to raise awareness of the plight of the orphaned and abandoned, but also share the beauty, dignity and unlimited potential of the African child.

Since that first Journey in 1984, the Choir has expanded its operations beyond its international touring program to serve many more children and families in Rwanda, Ghana, Nigeria, the Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and South Africa. The proceeds from touring provide thousands with both the opportunity to overcome their circumstances and the resources they need to make a positive impact on society. The Choir's relief, education and music programs currently support almost 8000 underprivileged children, ranging from schools for the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, to teachers' colleges, to literacy schools in the inner city, to support centers for AIDS orphans in South Africa, to university sponsorship programs for former choir members.

This is a collection of our many stories. Our Journey. Our Hope. Our Africa.

Program Notes

Abataka - This upbeat song describes a hunting day. Men venture out to find prize game to bring back to their village.

Fishing Song

A group of fishermen on Lake Victoria have a close encounter with a crocodile as they pull in their daily catch. The leader assures them that all is well and they sail ashore to safety.

Hunting Song

A hunter returns to his village and declares to his skeptical neighbors that he has died during the hunt and was resurrected. He tells them that he had been told to sit alone and make sure that the antelope did not escape past him. But instead of waiting patiently, he bravely decided to stalk the prey himself. As he made his way towards the trap, he discovered to his shock and dismay that it was a leopard and not an antelope after all! He insists that it mauled and killed him - but since he is clearly still alive, he must have been resurrected. The hunters finally realize that he is bluffing, and make fun of him, telling him that he must have fainted from his fear.

Can Dance African children often create their own entertainment with all sorts of materials – to play soccer, create new dances, and drum songs from their village. This dance is a game that children of South Africa play with tin cans they find in the street.

Mwije Bantume/Natamba

Both of these from the Runyankole Tribe are sung at times of high festival and celebration.

Runyege Dance

This dance originates from the western part of Uganda, created by the Batoro tribe from Toro Kingdom. It is performed mainly during the Courtship season at a time when parents try to find wives for their sons. The young men must put on an energetic and impressive dance display in front of potential suitors to prove that they are capable of making good husbands. Anyone judged to be putting on a lackluster performance jeopardizes his chance of attracting a wife!

Nkosi Sikele

The words of South Africa's National Anthem bestow a blessing on the entire continent.

Raymond Barnett (Executive Producer)

As founder and director of the African Children's Choir, Ray Barnett has worked to develop the Choir into an internationally acclaimed performing group, while raising funds to help thousands of destitute children receive an education and hope.



Under Ray's leadership, the Choir has gained widespread attention, performing at Live8, appearing before the British House of Commons and the Pentagon, and singing in some of the world's most prestigious halls, including The London Palladium, The International Club of Berlin and the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.

Through his work with the Choir, Ray has been able to raise funds to establish numerous schools throughout Africa and finance tuition for thousands of children who would otherwise have no access to an education. Thanks to the ongoing support of our many donors, He has also been able to raise significant money for emergency relief and development programs in Sudan and Rwanda and is currently working to help orphaned children in South Africa who are battling starvation and disease.

An ordained Irish minister who resides in White Rock, British Columbia, Ray has been the subject of two television documentaries and has received numerous awards and honors for his work. These include the prestigious Cross of Nails, awarded by the Coventry Cathedral in England, to recognize his widespread efforts to promote peace throughout the world, and the Heart of Gold Award bestowed by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

"We recognized early on that education is the key to long-term change and advancement in Africa," said Barnett. "It's the children who will become the leaders of tomorrow and can make the difference. By helping one child at a time, we can move mountains."

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, for 25 years the African Children's Choir has been able to continue to pursue our mission:

**"Helping Africa's Most Vulnerable Children Today,
So They Can Help Africa Tomorrow"**

Julia Barnett Tracy (Artistic Director, Producer & Writer) Began her work with the African Children's Choir after receiving her music degree from Anderson University in 1992. Her first job with the choir was based in Kenya training new choirs. She lived in East Africa for many years also working with MFL's relief efforts in Rwanda and The Sudan, where she faced off military men, ate grasshoppers and washed her hair in a bucket for months on end. She is now based in Austin, Texas as the Director of International Choir Operations. Julia is also an accomplished actress (Law & Order, CSI NY, 30 Rock) and playwright. Her play *Modern Missionary* – based on her experiences in Africa – was awarded “Outstanding play” at the 2006 NY International Fringe Festival. She thanks her husband, Van for all his incredible support and for watching Zander while she travels.

David Travis (Director) is deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with the joyful and inspiring children of the ACC. New York directing credits: As Co-Founder of the OBIE Award-winning Synapse Productions: *Animal Farm (the Puppet Musical)* (Drama Desk nomination and National Tour), *The God Botherers* and Caryl Churchill's *Iraq.Doc* (American premieres), *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial*, Travis' own multi-media re-translation of Euripides' *The Phoenician Women*, *The Elephant Man*, *Bloody Poetry*, *Beyond the Horizon*, and *Grimm Tales*. Also: Williamstown and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. David was a Sheldon Fellow, he has sung with the Tanglewood Festival Choir, and he taught playwriting and theater in New York City Public Schools for five years. Teaching highlights include *The Crucible* with 45 seventh graders and *Romeo & Juliet* with 45 eighth graders. Education: Harvard University.

Margaret Nakibogo Perez (African Choreographer) My father died when I was five years old, and my mother could not look after all seven of us so she gave us to different relatives who were kind enough to take us in. I was brought to the African Children's Choir by my great Aunt because she thought that I would never make it as one of twenty-two orphaned grandchildren that my grandmother was single-handedly struggling to look after, and she wanted me to attain my full potential. The rest is history. I started giving back to the Choir while in college. I have had the opportunity to teach children in the organization's schools, and I have helped audition and train new choirs. I now have two beautiful children and a loving husband, and I still take time out to put back into the family that took such great care of me. I do this for the man I call my father, Daddy Ray, one of the busiest men, yet one who so readily finds time to get involved in each of our lives like there is nothing else going on in his. Literally, he is the man who saved my life. I give back with gratitude to an organization that has nurtured and believed in me. I give back, because I can.

Prossy Nakiyemba (African Choreographer / Performer) Born in 1983 in Uganda, Prossy toured with the 13th African Children's Choir from 1995-1997. Afterwards, she returned home for her studies. Prossy graduated last year with a certificate in journalism and creative writing, and began touring with this choir in March of 2007 as the choir conductor.

Emily Decola (Puppet Design) Emily is thrilled that puppetry is finally hip. Based in New York, she works with puppets and masks as a designer, performer and director. Her work has been featured in *Peter & Wendy and Prelude to Death in Venice* (Mabou Mines), *Serendib* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *Pericles* and *Revengers Tragedy* (Red Bull Theater) *CARRIE* (PS 122, co-design with Basil Twist and Eric Wright) and *Lucas de Bohemia* (Repertorio Espanol). Regional work includes *The Tempest*, *A Christmas Carol* and *1001 Nights* (McCarter Theater) and *Animal Farm* (the Puppet Musical) (Synapse Productions). Ms. DeCola's puppets and performance can be seen onscreen in *LazyTown* (Nickelodeon), and *Johnny and the Sprites* (Disney).

Jessica Paz (Sound Design) Jessica is proud to be a member of the production team for The African Children's Choir. Her work was most recently heard in the third workshop of the Fela Kuti Project with Bill T. Jones alongside Designer Rob Kaplowitz; *The Power of Darkness* (Asst. Sound Design) at the Mint Theater Company; and *Minor Gods* (Sound Design) at the Summer Play Festival. Jessica is the resident Sound Designer for the NJ Repertory Company where she has designed original works such as “BookEnds” directed by Ken Jenkins; “Place Setting” directed by Evan Bergman; and upcoming “Minstrel Show” directed by Rob Urbinati. She is also Resident Sound Designer at The Smithtown Center for Performing Arts. Jessica also holds the position of Adjunct Sound Technician for the Lynbrook Union Free School District where she works with students throughout the district's many theater education programs. A big thank you to Dave for bringing her on board, and to her many friends and family members who support her in her art.

Craig Peters (Company Manager) Hailing from the humble hometown of Berne, Indiana, Craig graduated in 1997 with a BA of Elementary Education from Anderson University. Since he started his tenure with the African Children's Choir, Craig has worn many hats, including sound and lighting technician, administration guru, product manager, transportation coordinator and leader of orientation for new choirs. He is excited to start his 11th year as resident Technical Advisor and Company Manager for *Journey of Hope*. He is a resident of Bellingham, WA at least two weeks of the year.

Sarah Marken (Stage Manager) Name changes hold important meaning for Sarah Jane Marken. Her mom calls her Sarah Belle at home in Wyoming, and teammates yell out “SMARKEN!” while she circles the track. She became “Graduate” in 2006, completing degrees in Theology and Theatre at Whitworth University. In July 2007, she took the name Auntie Sarah when she joined the African Children's Choir. While Sarah has worn many hats of ASM, wardrobe, and properties manager, she feels blessed by the name given by the choir. Auntie Sarah would like to thank the children for their amazing spirit and solid faith that inspire her to journey on with hope and joy. Thanks also go to her family and friends, without whom a name change would have never been possible.

Jami Austing (Lighting Designer) Jami is excited to be back for a third tour with the Choir. Educated at Eastern Washington University with a degree in theatre, her favorite part of life is a few dozen high schoolers she loves and misses more than just about anyone. They bless her life so much! Special thanks to her WPA family who has gently stretched taught and encouraged her throughout the years. Kyle Healy (Audio Supervisor) Kyle is originally from Northern Ireland and lives in the bonny land of Scotland. He began his sound career at an early age within his church family and continued into university. While studying for an Electronic and Electrical Engineering degree, he worked as a Freelance Engineer across Scotland. He began his work as a volunteer with the African Children's Choir and has not looked back since! After spending months in Africa he understands that he has taken many things for granted, and wants to share the joy and hope of these children. Kyle wants to thank his parents for their encouragement and love, and to those at his home church for all their support and love during his time away.

Dana Napoli (Assistant Stage Manager) I'm thrilled to be a part of this ministry! God is so faithful and good. He is my Savior and King; my song is truly for Him alone. I graduated from Buffalo State College with a BA in music, and have taught music at a Christian elementary school in Buffalo, NY for the past six years. Along with teaching, I was the worship leader and director of the Christmas and spring musicals. I have worked as stage manager and actor on several occasions for Promise Theatre productions, also located in Buffalo. The Lord has allowed me to be a part of the music ministry at my home church for most of my life, and I am grateful to my amazing family and friends who have encouraged and supported me throughout the years. You mean the world to me.

Matthew Bennett (Assistant Sound) From humble beginnings playing guitars for churches and weddings, Matthew has enjoyed growing in his technical skills. He spent a year at Christ for the Nations Bible College in Dallas before moving to Illinois, where he served as the children's music pastor at River of Life Church of Quincey, IL while also working as the Technical Director for another church in town. In 2007, he moved back to Dallas to finish school, and graduated with an Associates Degree in Practical Theology. While not on tour with ACC, he works as the Technical Director at The Lighthouse Church in Middlethian, TX.

Ruth McCavery (Western Music Supervisor) Ruth graduated from Queen's University, Belfast in 2006 with a Bachelor of Music. She is an accomplished pianist and viola player, and for the past two years has enjoyed working as a freelance musician throughout her home country of Northern Ireland, playing in various string quartets and orchestras, and providing piano accompaniment for many different competitions, exams and recitals. Ruth has always loved choral singing, something that has been passed down from Auntie and late Gran, both singing teachers. Ruth went to South Africa on a volunteer trip with Music for Life in March 2008 and is now delighted to be working as a chaperone. Alice Nabwami (Adult Performer) Alice was born in Uganda in 1984. Music for Life provided her a home since she was two and at the age of ten, she had the opportunity to tour with the 11th African Children's Choir. Alice returned to her home and finished school and earned a degree in Secretarial Studies. She joined this choir in January of 2008 as the Choir Conductor.

Kimera Victor (Adult Performer) Born in Uganda in 1982 and raised by the Music for Life Organization, Kimera Victor first went on tour in 1991 with the 7th African Children's Choir. Following tour, he continued school and now has a degree in Social Sciences and Development. Currently, he is a chaperone with the 31st African Children's Choir.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

African Children's Choir and its parent organization Music for Life are registered 501(c)3 charitable organizations. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Please consider making a contribution to the African Children's Choir today. Whether you sponsor a child, support a Choir tour or serve as a volunteer, you will be helping Africa's most vulnerable children to find their voice, gain an education, and secure their future.

For further information on opportunities to get involved, please visit www.africanchildrenschoir.com, or pick up one of our brochures in the lobby after the show. You can also contact us at info@africanchildrenschoir.com or by calling our offices toll free at 1-877-532-8651.

Online donations are always welcome at www.africanchildrenschoir.com.

Thank you for your consideration!



Our History

1984 - 1985

* The first African Children's Choir is founded and goes on tour to North America. The first children's home is purchased at Makerere in Kampala, funded by the proceeds of the first Choir's tour.

1986

* The first of six additional homes are established. They are at Luwero, Kasangati, Entebbe, Kabale, Arua and Seta. They house successive Choirs as they return from their tours. In Kampala, three Literacy Schools are set up to give children from the slums a hope of education.

1990

* The Eden and Bugalobi Literacy Schools are established. Each child is sponsored through programs funded by the African Children's Choir and gets a hot meal every day and a school uniform. Both schools evolve into fully-fledged Primary Schools through which thousands of needy children pass.

1991

* Luwero Boarding and Day School is established. The Luwero war zone was known as the "killing fields" of Africa. The school provides education for the orphaned and abandoned children. While the school holds 500 pupils, more than 1000 additional children from this area have their education sponsored.

1993

* Relief aid projects start in Sudan, prompted by the plight of the "Lost Boys of the Sudan." Also, educational and medical aid programs begin in civil war-torn Somalia.

1995 - 1997

* The Fields of Life Farm and Primary School is established in Uganda to provide food for the homes and schools in the program. It grows vegetables, coffee beans, maize and fruit, as well as chickens, pigs and dairy cattle. More than 400 pupils are supported through the program funded by the choir and individual sponsors.

* A Teacher Training College is set up to prepare and provide teachers for an ambitious program of new Primary Schools. The College is training 150 new teachers at any one time.

2001

* A Home and Choir School is established in Simons Town near Cape Town, South Africa, and provides both a base for returning Choir children and a first step into the region.

* In Kampala the new Music for Life Primary School is built under the supervision of Moses, ex-Choir member who is now a Chief Engineer for the Kampala City Council.

2002

* The Music for Life Centre is established in Rondebosch, Cape Town. The Centre can accommodate up to 400 students, and includes a Choir Training Center, a Primary School and a High School, and offers Community Outreach Programs for children from the local Townships.

2003

* The choir focuses on the Nkomazi region of South Africa. The organization highlights the plight of 3,000 AIDs orphans – including child-led families – and raises funds to provide emergency food, water containers, wheelbarrows and medical supplies.

2005

* The choir from South Africa meets Nelson Mandela and performs at his foundation's concert providing back-up vocals for Queen. The Choir performs alongside internationally renowned artists at the Live8 concert in London to call on world leaders to end poverty.

2006-2007

* The Music for Life School in Kampala is overflowing beyond capacity. The organization purchases 15 acres of land near Lake Victoria and seeks to raise one million dollars needed for a new school to serve several hundred children as well as the choir training academy. The Choir is also featured on American Idol and The Tonight Show.

2008

* The Choir performs for the Queen of England for the Commonwealth Days. The Choir also performs with recording artists Kirk Franklin and Michael W. Smith, not to mention a performance at the White House for President and Mrs. Bush.

THANK YOU TO OUR SERIES SPONSORS!



ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The 2008-09 Performing Arts Series is a presentation of Appalachian State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programs. The mission of the series is to support the teaching mission of Appalachian State University by presenting a diverse array of music, dance and theatre events designed to enrich the cultural landscape of the campus and surrounding region.

By creating memorable performance experiences and related educational and outreach activities, the series promotes the power and excitement of the live performance experience, provides a "window on the world" through the artistry of nationally and internationally renowned artists and showcases some of the finest artists of our campus community and our region.