FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Mount Baker Theatre Welcomes SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR to the Historic Main Stage on December 17

The award-winning choir brings their all-new concert, PEACE, to Bellingham as part of their 60-City North American Tour.

Bellingham, WA – The multi-Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir returns to North America with its concert PEACE. This joyful program features South African freedom songs, traditional spirituals, and some classics like "Man in the Mirror" and "You'll Never Walk Alone." The inspirational concert will also feature the spirited music of Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leonard Cohen and more. Mount Baker Theatre is thrilled to present the Soweto Gospel Choir on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. on MBT's Historic Main Stage.

Formed in 2002, the Soweto Gospel Choir was created to celebrate the unique power of African gospel music. Heralded by Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey, the choir excites audiences worldwide, uplifting the soul and spreading joy through its earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, brilliant costumes, and infectious spirit.

The Soweto Gospel Choir has been nominated for five Grammys, an Oscar (with Peter Gabriel), six South African Music Awards (SAMAs), as well as an International Reggae and World Music Award. They have been awarded three Grammys, an Emmy Award, three SAMAs, two American Gospel Awards, the inaugural Tower Music African Gospel Award for best gospel group, and a Helpmann Award.

The Soweto Gospel Choir has collaborated and performed with Peter Gabriel, U2, John Legend, Robert Plant, Chance the Rapper, Celine Dion, Diana Ross, and Pharrell Williams. The Choir has taken the stage at prestigious venues across the globe including Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, Royal Festival Hall London, and Nelson Mandela Theatre. Soweto has also performed at a variety of events including the 2009 Academy Awards, Nelson Mandela's memorial service in Westminster Abbey, centenary celebrations, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's funeral (as well as his 75th and 80th birthdays), the FIFA 2009 World Cup opening ceremony in Cape Town (and kick-off in Johannesburg) and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's memorial service.

In addition to Nelson Mandela and their once patron, Desmond Tutu, Soweto performed before Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, His Majesty King Charles and Her Majesty Queen Camilla, Prince Harry, Princess Charlene of Monaco, and a plethora of TV personalities, celebrities, dignitaries, ambassadors, movie stars, and rock stars. The Soweto Gospel Choir has also appeared on NBC's *Today Show* and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

For more information about the Soweto Gospel Choir, please visit <u>www.sowetogospelchoir.com</u>.

Location: Mount Baker Theatre

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Price: Tickets start at \$28.75*

Tickets available at: https://www.mountbakertheatre.com/events-tickets/soweto-gospel-choir/ (Tickets are only available at mountbakertheatre.com. Beware third-party ticket resellers and other websites that may advertise MBT performances.)

About Mount Baker Theatre

Mount Baker Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization dedicated to enriching the region's culture through dynamic performances, arts education, inspiring engagement in the community and stewardship of a national historic treasure. Located in the heart of downtown Bellingham's Art District, MBT is the largest theatrical venue north of Seattle in Washington State. Built in 1927, MBT is the only survivor of the five original movie palaces built in Whatcom County between 1914 and 1930. The building itself is a beautifully restored architectural treasure, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since opening day, MBT has been dedicated to showcasing top touring performing arts events, as well as presenting community-driven events and performances, to audiences in the North Puget Sound and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

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