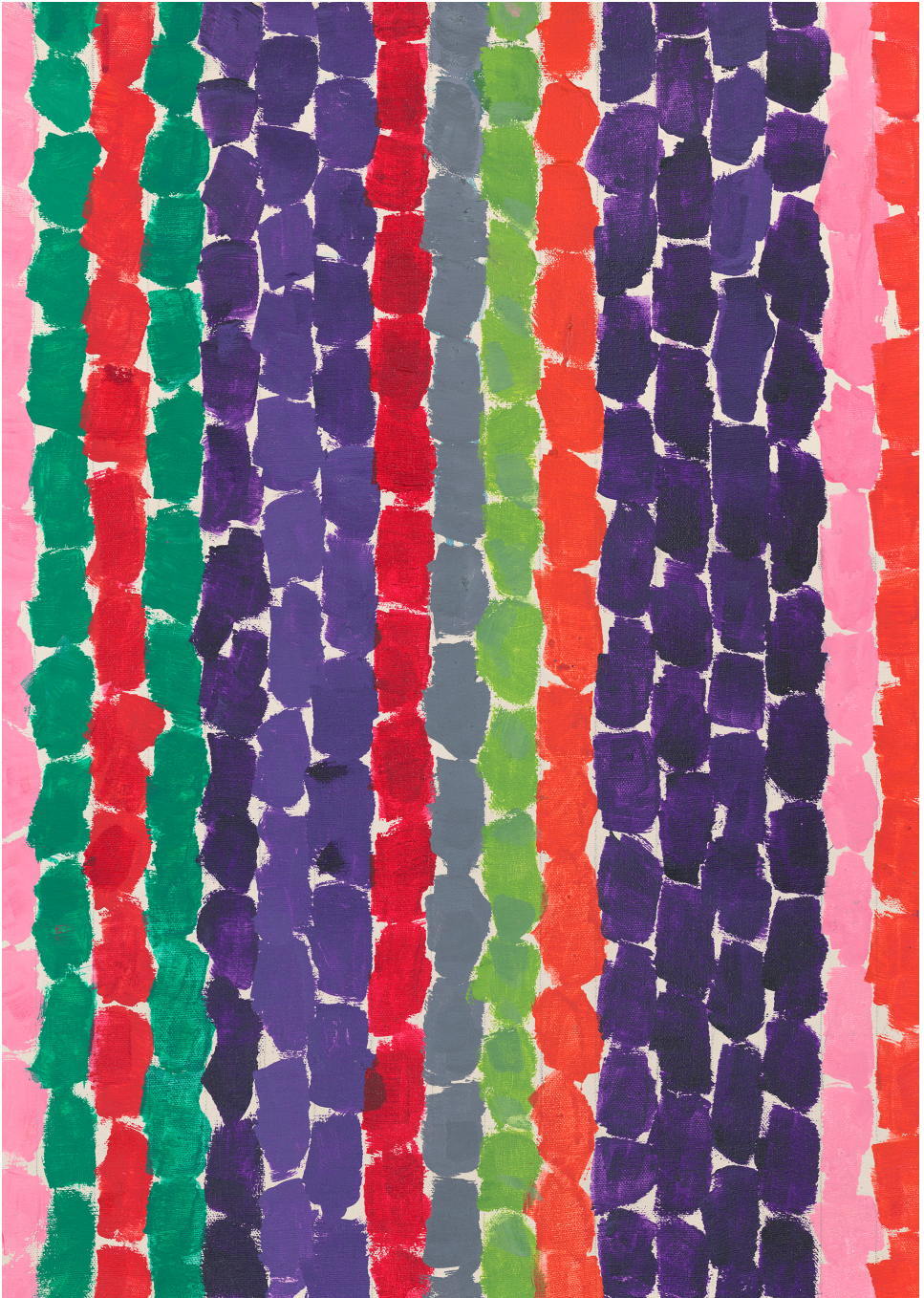


77TH SEASON OF

# CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | NOVEMBER 18, 2018



# PROGRAM



Photo by Tswarelo Mthobe

## **Nobuntu**

Duduzile Sibanda, vocals

Zanele Manhenga, vocals

Heather Dube, vocals

Thandeka Moyo, vocals

Joyline Sibanda, vocals

**November 18, 2018 | 3:30**

**West Building, West Garden Court**

Today's concert will be selected from the following repertoire:

Duduzile Sibanda  
"Uyangiphoxa"

Traditional  
"Ewuwe"

Thandeka Moyo  
"Uthixo"

Linda Tillery and the  
Cultural Heritage Choir  
"Lay Down"

Dumisani Moyo  
"Cry Song"

Zanele Manhenga  
"Avumile"

Zanele Manhenga  
"Nobuntu Click Song"

Heather Dube  
"Umusa"

Heather Dube  
"Streets"

Traditional, arr. Nobuntu  
"Amazing Grace"

Zanele Manhenga  
"Cula"

Traditional, arr. Zanele Manhenga  
"Moya Moya"

Traditional, arr. Japhet Mlauzi  
"Silele"

Zanele Manhenga  
"Impi"

Dumisani Moyo  
"Obabes Bembube"

Zanele Manhenga  
"Misodzi"



# THE ENSEMBLE

Nobuntu is a five-part a cappella ensemble made up of young women from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The name Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, purpose, unity, and family from a woman's perspective. The group's repertoire is a fusion of traditional Zimbabwean-rooted music, Afro jazz, gospel, and crossover, sung in pure voices with minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the mbira, and some dance movements.

The ensemble won "Outstanding Imbube Group" in the inaugural 2017 Bulawayo Arts Awards and was nominated for "Best Musician of the Year" at the Zimbabwe International Women Awards 2015, held in London. Additionally, the video of "Narini"—the cappella's lead single from its second album, *Ekhaya* (2016)—was number one of the Top 10 Zimbabwean Music Videos on DSTV's Zambezi Magic TV. It remained in the Top 10 for more than four weeks.

Nobuntu is identified by its concept and philosophy: a new generation of young women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty, and heritage through art. Nobuntu was founded in 2011 to rectify the absence of an all-female professional a cappella group in Bulawayo and Zimbabwe as a whole. The ensemble's mission is anchored in the belief that music is the most important and original wheel of change. The group's music is an expression of a new generation of young women singers who transcend racial, tribal, religious, gender, and economic boundaries.

Nobuntu's singers celebrate—through their voices and movement—the "identities" of being an African woman. Their voices, energy, and breathtaking performances are an experience that communicates humanity. The release of their debut album in 2013, titled *Thina*, immediately took the singers beyond their African borders to countries such as Austria, Germany, Belgium, and the Czech Republic, where they played in concert halls, theaters, and festivals, including Voice Mania in Vienna and Trans-Vocal in Frankfurt-Oder.

Nobuntu's *Ekhaya* album pays homage to all things African, from beauty and values, to norms as a people. The album is an attempt to leave behind a world and legacy that future generations will be happy to inherit and preserve. The album highlights the importance of a place called home (*ekhaya*).

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **"Uyangiohoxa"**

In this song, we blame all woes and troubles on Satan, and we ask for courage and strength from the Almighty.

## **"Uthixo"**

A sacred song of praise. *Uthixo* is Ndebele—one of the main languages of Zimbabwe—for the Creator.

## **"Cry Song"**

This is a cry to stop all forms of abuse against all peoples and nations.

## **"Nobuntu Click Song"**

This song in Ndebele features unusual clicking sounds.

## **"Streets"**

This song of empowerment encourages people to be themselves and proud of who they are.

## **"Cula"**

A song fixes any emotion. We encourage anyone who's "down and out" to sing, and they will be happy again. If you are happy, sing some more.

## **"Silele"**

This song talks about a spiritual healer who is a wanderer. In our culture, spiritual healers are revered and always sought for advice.

## **"Obabes Bembube"**

This song pays homage to the type of music that we do. We've been affectionately called "Obabes BeMbube" (women of a cappella) by our fans. The song celebrates us and what Mbube has done to us, giving us the opportunity to travel the world.

## **"Misodzi"**

A mother encourages her child to stand up and fight for whatever he or she wants.

## **"Ewuwe"**

A medley of traditional lullabies.

### “Lay Down”

This is a motivational song sung by slaves as they worked in the fields. It encourages one to keep going even in the toughest situation.

### “Avumile”

This is a victory song.

### “Umusa”

Here we encourage kindness and love to prevail in our society at all times.

### “Amazing Grace”

Our imbube (a cappella) version of the famous song “Amazing Grace.”

### “Moya Moya”

In this song, a sad woman laments her inability to have children. She’s considered inadequate and incomplete in the eyes of society.

### “Impi”

This is our warrior song where we thank the Almighty for fighting for us and helping us see places we never imagined we’d see.

### Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Seventh Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

**Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.**

#### PROJECT Trio

Sound Sketches  
East Building Mezzanine  
November 23, 12:10

#### M5 Mexican Brass

*Brasscinación*  
November 25, 3:30

#### PIQSIQ

Inuit style throat singers  
East Building Auditorium  
November 29, 12:00

#### Carolina Eyck + American Contemporary Music Ensemble

*Fantasias*  
December 2, 3:30

#### Caroling in the Rotunda

U.S. Army Chorus  
MSG Jason Gottshall, conductor  
West Building Rotunda  
December 8, 1:30 and 2:30

#### Caroling in the Rotunda

Encore Chorale  
Jeanne Kelly, director  
West Building Rotunda  
December 9, 1:30 and 2:30

### General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or [circle@nga.gov](mailto:circle@nga.gov) for more information.

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