



**Mzansi  
National  
Philharmonic  
Orchestra**

*a new era.*



*Report  
2021/2022*

creativity  
**inclusivity**  
excellence

*A new era.*





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# About Us

During 2021 and 2022, the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra (Mzansi NPO) was properly constituted, with a non-profit status, board of directors, and it awaits the Section 18(A) status. After many months of preparation, the securing of national and international partners, and the establishment of the necessary business plans and protocols, South Africa's first national orchestra in the democratic era will be officially launched by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mr Nathi Mthetwa, in June / July 2022.

**As articulated in the Revised White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage (Cabinet, 22 August 2018), "harnessing the arts, culture and heritage for creative expression, education and training, job creation and the eradication of poverty through close cooperation with all the levels of government and related departments, as well as the international community, is an essential aspect of the transformational process. Moving into the future, we are resolved to ensure that the arts, culture and heritage contribution to change and the creation of a better life for all".**



Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture,  
Hon Mr Nkosinathi Mthetwa

To meet these objectives, the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra has been established. The Mzansi NPO is comprised of the cream of South African musicians who have earned a reputation for excellence and innovation in their fields.

The board of directors is led by Justice Leona Theron of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and consists of highly esteemed business and community leaders.

The Mzansi NPO is funded through a public / private partnership, which includes an annual grant from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC). The Mzansi NPO has also secured national and international partnerships

The Mzansi NPO is managed by Bongani Tembe, a Juilliard School graduate, who returned to South Africa in 1994 at the dawn of South Africa's democracy. Mr Tembe is also the Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestras.

A strong vision of high artistic values combined with fostering an understanding and cooperation between existing stakeholders in both the established and emerging classical music community, nationally, places the Mzansi NPO on the leading edge of South Africa's performing arts institutions in an unprecedented fashion.



# Board of Directors

The Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra's board is led by Justice Leona Theron of the Constitutional Court and is comprised of experienced and highly regarded business and community leaders with a diverse range of skills, which are brought to the fore with integrity and world-class insight.



**Justice Leona Theron**

Ms Leona Valerie Theron is a distinguished Justice on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She was appointed to the Judge White Commission by President Mandela in 1995. Then, in 1999, she was appointed to the High Court of South Africa, making her the youngest judge in the country at 33 years old and also making her the first black female judge in the KwaZulu-Natal High Court. She has also served on the Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein.



**Ms Wendy Luhabe**

Ms Luhabe is a social entrepreneur and economic activist with multiple honours for her pioneering contribution to the economic empowerment of women in South Africa. In 1999 she was recognised as one of the 50 Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World. The World Economic Forum in Switzerland recognised her as a Global Leader of Tomorrow. Ms Luhabe is an experienced Director, serving on a number of eminent boards over the years.



**Professor Muxe Nkondo**

A social policy, national strategy development, and discourse analysis scholar and practitioner, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) at the University of North (now Limpopo) and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Venda, a Harvard Andrew Mellon Fellow in English, and national policy developer. He has lectured at various universities, including Harvard, Oxford, Northwestern University in Chicago, Northeastern University in Boston, University of Connecticut, University of Oklahoma, Colorado College, Denver, USA, and Vassar College.



**Mr Bongani Tembe**

Bongani Tembe is widely regarded as one of Africa's leading arts practitioners. He has performed in many parts of the world and has contributed positively to the arts and culture environment in South Africa and internationally. In 2016, Mr. Tembe was honoured by the French Government with the prestigious insignia of Officier des Arts et de Lettres in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the arts.

# Why?

## Understanding why the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra has been established

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*Transformation, job opportunities, heritage, cultural diplomacy, inclusivity, and social cohesion*



### **Transforming the Orchestral Music Sector in South Africa**

The strategy and implementation plan for the establishment of the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra recognised the unique opportunity that the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra presents for the *transformation* of the orchestral music sector in South Africa.



### **Creating job opportunities and an ecosystem for orchestral music in South Africa**

Such a national orchestra, much like a national sports team, cannot exist in isolation. In order to be sustainable, the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra needs to be central to a national talent recruiting, refining and retaining system; the highest level of a multi-tiered developmental process for young South Africans, of which the regional orchestras remain a critical element.



### **Inclusivity, development, access and social cohesion**

This is underpinned by the development of young South African orchestral talent, the creation and preserving of music which reflect South African heritage and the broadening of the experience of classical music by the diverse population in our country, thus contributing to *social cohesion*.



### **Cultural Diplomacy**

Part of the role of the Mzansi NPO is to strengthen South Africa's cultural diplomacy through international and multilateral engagements.



### **Funding and Advocacy**

Contribute to the funding of regional orchestras and other related entities, and advocate for the value that orchestras bring to society.

# The Mission

To contribute meaningfully to the improvement of the quality of life of all communities in South Africa, by:



Embracing our responsibility to play a significant role in the cultural life of South Africa's vibrant and diverse communities, thus contributing to a socially cohesive society with a common national identity.



Creating platforms within communities for the advancement of the experience of orchestral music, including engaging with provinces that don't have their own regional orchestras.



Contributing significantly to the creative sector, economy and tourism in South Africa.



Inspiring young people to discover their full potential through creativity and innovation.



Strengthen cultural diplomacy by creating world class orchestral music experiences and touring events nationally and internationally.



Identifying highly talented young musicians and nurturing their skills with the view to enhancing the pool of professional South African orchestral musicians.



Advancing the orchestral music experience in the country and advocating for its societal benefits, such as social cohesion.





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Contributing significantly to economic development and tourism in South Africa.



Advancing the orchestral music experience in the country and advocating for its societal benefits.



# Looking Ahead

The Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra will perform at prestigious events throughout the country, demonstrating their value as a national resource. Their focus will be both macro and micro – offering access to orchestral music for South Africans across the board. The Mzansi NPO has an exciting lineup for the coming year.

# Upcoming Performances

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**WITS Celebration, with William Kentridge  
27-28 July 2022  
Linder Auditorium, Johannesburg**

The inaugural performances of the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra will be presented as part of the University of the Witwatersrand Centenary Celebrations. The Mzansi NPO will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No 10 – in a special production curated by world renowned South African artist, William Kentridge.



**G20 Summit Performance  
11 September 2022**

Representing South Africa on the global stage, members of the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra will perform at the G20 Summit in Indonesia in September 2022.



**Algeria Festival  
15–21 October 2022**

The Ministry of Arts and Culture in Algeria will host the 12th edition of its International Cultural Festival of the Symphonique Music, featuring national and international artists – including the Mzansi NPO – at the Algiers Opera “Bouallem ESSAIH” from 15–21 October 2022.



**SANYO Residency  
December 2022**

With youth, and the development of career paths for South African musicians at the heart of Mzansi NPO’s work and responsibility, the Orchestra will work closely with the South African National Youth Orchestra residency programme.



**Inaugural Tour of South Africa  
16 December 2022**

The Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra will embark on its first National Tour, commencing 16 December 2022, and taking the Orchestra to communities throughout South Africa.

*Music is a great blessing. It has the power to elevate and liberate us. It sets people free to dream. It unites us to sing with one voice. Such is the value of music.*

– Nelson Mandela





# National Cadetship Programm

The Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra has implemented a National Cadetship Programme in recognition of the limited representation of black musicians and increasing demand for South African musicians in the pool of present and future full-time musicians in South African orchestras.

The Mzansi NPO will play an active role in harnessing South African musicians and providing them with the opportunity to acquire the essential skills and experience for a successful career in the performing arts, specifically in the orchestra industry. The programme contributes to job creation by offering targeted training and development that will lead to full-time employment of

many musicians.

The programme, which was initiated and developed by Bongani Tembe and implemented by the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra, is the first of its kind in Africa. The Cadetship Programme was specifically designed to harness promising orchestra players. It is open to all South Africans, particularly those from historically disadvantaged communities, who are of a suitable standard and whose aim is to become professional orchestral musicians. To date, the KZN Philharmonic's robust Cadetship Programme has produced more than 30 cadres, many of whom are now employed by orchestras in South Africa and around the world.



Mzansi NPO has, in 2022, assumed custodianship of this programme and is excited to role it out nationally.

## **The National Cadetship Programme offers participants the opportunity to:**

- **Work directly with professional musicians**, learn from their experience and establish how playing skills can be applied to the exciting orchestral environment through hands-on activities and specific playing opportunities.
- **Increase their knowledge and understanding of the practical details and processes** involved in playing in a professional orchestra.
- **Receive lessons**, in a one-to-one format, **from orchestra musicians, which are funded by the programme.**

## **Successful candidates will receive:**

- **Weekly lessons from principal members** of the each of the three regional/provincial orchestras
- **Weekly studio classes** (led by members of the three regional orchestras – KZN Philharmonic, Joburg Philharmonic and the Cape Town Philharmonic and guest artists)
- **Weekly classes in music theory and ear training** (through partnership with music schools and universities)
- A chance to **perform in rehearsals and concerts** with the three regional orchestras and the Mzansi NPO

- **Regular juries** to assess performance and progress
- **Other performance opportunities**
- Free tuition to UNISA for performance and theory examinations
- Access to the facilities at a partner Music School (from each of the respective regional orchestras) for practicing and chamber music

*The programme is open to all South Africans (although historically disadvantaged individuals will receive first option). Applicants must demonstrate a much better than average aptitude on their principal instrument as well as a strong interest in playing in a professional orchestra and a background of involvement in music related activities. They should be either entering their junior or senior year of undergraduate study, recent university graduates or pursuing graduate level studies, achieving a minimum overall passing rate of 60%. (Candidates who are not enrolled in institutions of higher learning will be considered under exceptional circumstances.)*

Financial allocations to cadets, depending on their level and circumstances, may include the following: payment for tuition, group coaching, and stipends of up to R12,500 per month and in some cases payment of university fees.

One of the strengths of the programme is its **dual mentorship component**. Several times per week the cadet works with an orchestra member to whom she or he has been assigned to. The cadets therefore learn directly from one of the field's top professionals. The Artistic Director and/or Orchestra Manager of the NPO and the respective orchestra, who serves as an "external" mentor to the cadet, perform the other mentorship.

At the conclusion of each academic year, all the relevant stakeholders evaluate the learning experience and the cadetship programme as a whole. The cadets themselves are also evaluated and given the opportunity to audition with the NPO for full-time

permanent positions. Cadets are also encouraged to audition for other South African orchestras.

In addition to the many benefits outlined above, **the performing arts in general also benefits**. The continued success of orchestral music in our country is dependent on both funding and patronage. The programme provides opportunities to ensure the accessibility of the music to young and diverse audiences, and by the same token attract the interests of donors wishing to establish themselves in these markets.

In a culturally diverse country like South Africa, broadening the appeal of orchestral music requires the participation of performers the public can relate to and music they can identify with. The Mzansi NPO will provide the means to achieve this, with tangible results.

Part of the budget from the Department of Arts and Culture helps us to sustain this **unique developmental programme, which leads to job creation**.



*exposure  
reinvestment  
upliftment  
impartation  
mastery*



## Tshepo Ntswelengwe, French Horn

Having grown up in a musical home, Tshepo Ntswelengwe's musical journey officially began at the age of 13, when he joined a church brass band that taught him how to play and read music in tonic solfa. At the age of 16, he joined a music school (Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company) where he was introduced to the French Horn.

Tshepo started taking practical and theory lessons to improve his musicality and joined a two year training course with Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company.

After matriculating in 2012 he joined the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra Academy for a year, under the tutelage of Christopher Bishop. In 2015 Tshepo joined the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra's Cadetship Programme under former horn principal Sorin Osorhean. Through this programme he obtained two practical Royal School exams (with distinction) under Sorin Osorhean. Tshepo is currently preparing for his performance diploma.



## Jonalene Taylor, Double Bass

Jonalene Taylor started playing double bass at the age of 10 under the tutelage of Peter Guy at the Mangaung String Programme. Her first professional orchestra experience was with the Free State Symphony Orchestra at the age of 15. Before finishing high school she had already toured Europe with the Miagi Youth Orchestra in 2009. Jonalene has participated in several festivals such as the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival where she had masterclasses with Leon Bosch, Jeff Bradetich to name a few.

In 2018 she participated in the very first South African National Youth Orchestra What it takes: Double bass course, where she had lessons and master classes with Roxanne Steffen, Professor Nick Scales, Jeff Bradetich and Gudren Raschen.

Jonalene moved back to Durban in 2022 as an Advanced Cadet with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, having also spent time in the Orchestra's Cadetship Programme in 2011.



## Chris Njapha, Cello

Sicelo Christopher Njapha graduated with a BMus degree from Stellenbosch University's Music Department in 2020, where he studied under the tutelage of Babette Roosenschoon. Chris began his formal music lessons at the age of 15, first with the violin for two years, then switching to the cello, taught by Nigel Fish at the Durban Music School.

In 2019, he attended a Summer Music Course in Semmering, Austria – the ISA 19-Internationale Sommerakademie and had masterclasses with Miklos Perenyi, Xenia Jankovic, Jerome Pernoo and Reinhard Latzko. Chris was principal cellist of the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (CPYO) and member of the University of Stellenbosch Symphony Orchestra.

Chris has recently been awarded with a partial scholarship on his acceptance to the Manhattan School of Music in New York and is due to begin his studies for a Master of Music degree in September 2022.. He will study with Marion Feldman. And was a semi-finalist in the UNISA national strings competition in 2021.

# *Fellowship Programme*

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In keeping with the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra's resolution to contribute to music excellence in South Africa, the Orchestra is keenly aware of the need to create career paths for young musicians who show promise in the field of music performance.

The Orchestra currently has two fellows who are music students at international schools, receiving financial and artistic support from the Mzansi NPO. They also perform as members of the Orchestra from time to time (when they are not abroad). These are individuals who have shown distinction in their field and great promise as professional musicians who are part of South Africa's future.



## **Pendo Masote, Violin**

Pendo Masote joined the JPO as a Violin Fellow in 2017. Since 2017, he has been a pupil of Akiko Ono at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Britain's flagship specialist music school, where he recently completed his GCSE (formerly known as O-levels) with distinctions in Music and Physical Science. He is currently doing his A-levels in Music, English Literature, and History.



## **Kamogelo Maraba, Cello**

Kamogelo Maraba started playing the cello at the age of 8. He has performed at festivals throughout South Africa, and has also participated in the South African National Youth Orchestra courses and Pro Corda North Chamber Music Course in North Yorkshire, England. He is the former principal cellist of the Johannesburg Youth Orchestra and was awarded a fellowship by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra in 2020. He is currently an undergraduate at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, studying under Ben Davies.







# Financial Position





*The astute management of finances is central to the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra's company values. Acting as a resource to society in general, as well as partly funding regional orchestras and various smaller entities, the Mzansi NPO takes seriously its responsibility to steward assets well.*

The Mzansi NPO remains committed to elevating the cultural scene within South Africa, demonstrating its versatility as an asset to all sectors of society.

The Orchestra has an annual budget of about R32million, funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture as well as the private sector and box office income. Mzansi NPO is also in the process of establishing an endowment fund.

Viewing the arts through the lens of social integration, means understanding its value and the contribution it makes.

One of the Orchestra's ongoing responsibilities will be forging partnerships with the public and private sectors, highlighting through its various activities the depth of resource it holds. A number of partnerships in this vein have already been established, with local,

regional, national and international relationships being incepted.

*A copy of the budget for the next three years is available for view in the following pages.*

# Budget for the next three years

## MZANZI NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA BUDGET PROJECTIONS

28-Apr-22

	R(000)s		
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
<b>INCOME STATEMENTS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	30,839	26,070	27,366
<u>Grant Income:</u>	28,789	23,920	25,116
- NDSAC to NAC: 1st Allocation	18,400	19,320	20,286
- NDSAC to NAC: 2nd Allocation	10,389	4,600	4,830
Box Office	500	750	1,000
Sponsorships & Donations	250	500	750
Interest Received	1,300	900	500
<b>EXPENSES</b>	32,000	33,600	35,280
Artistic and Skills Development Programmes	24,000	25,200	26,460
Operations & Administration	8,000	8,400	8,820
Allocation to Endowment Fund	0	0	0
<b>NET INCOME</b>	-1,161	-7,530	-7,914
<b>BALANCE SHEETS</b>			
	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Non-Current Assets	0	0	0
Long Term Asset	0	0	0
<u>Current Assets:</u>	18,295	10,765	2,851
Cash & cash equivalents	18,295	10,765	2,851
Other	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	18,295	10,765	2,851
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accumulated Funds b/f	19,456	18,295	10,765
Accumulated Funds current year	-1,161	-7,530	-7,914
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>	0	0	0
Accounts payable	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	18,295	10,765	2,851

# Principal Conductor

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## Marin Alsop

Marin Alsop is an American conductor and violinist. She is currently music director laureate of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, as well as chief conductor of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Ravinia Festival. In 2020 she was elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Alsop has been bestowed with a host of honours, ranging from a Classical Brit Award for Best Female Artist, a European Women of Achievement Award and a fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



# Associate Conductors



## **Kutlwano Masote**

Born into a musical family in Soweto, Kutlwano Masote began violin lessons at an early age under the tutelage of his father, Michael, a respected music teacher and founder of the Soweto Symphony Orchestra. After studying at the University of the Witwatersrand, he was awarded a scholarship by Yehudi Menuhin to further study cello and chamber music at the International Menuhin Music Academy in Switzerland. His affinity for cross-cultural music projects and performances has set him apart as a versatile music director and conductor. He is also an orchestrator and arranger of music not usually performed by orchestras. To this end he has orchestrated music by hip hop artists Khuli Chana and Kwesta, soul singers Kabomo and Maleh as well as Lira, Sibongile Khumalo and Zonke



## **Brandon Phillips - to be confirmed**

Winner of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra's inaugural Len van Zyl Conductors' Competition in 2010, Brandon Phillips was appointed resident conductor of the CPO in June 2015. He studied bassoon and viola at the University of Cape Town, receiving his B Mus Hons in solo bassoon in 2005. Phillips currently is principal bassoon of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. As a result of the Len Van Zyl competition, Phillips studied conducting at the Northwestern University in Chicago with Victor Yampolsky and was a conducting intern with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.



# Concert Master

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## Pieter Schoeman

Pieter Schoeman was appointed Leader of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008, having previously been Co-Leader since 2002. Born in South Africa, Pieter made his solo debut aged 10 with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra. Five years later, while studying with Jack de Wet, he won the World Youth Concerto Competition in Michigan. Aged 17, he moved to the US to further his studies in Los Angeles and Dallas. In 1991 his talent was spotted by Pinchas Zukerman who, after several consultations, recommended that he move to New York to study with Sylvia Rosenberg. Pieter has performed worldwide as a soloist and recitalist in such famous halls as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Capella Hall in St Petersburg, Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and London's Royal Festival Hall. As a chamber musician he regularly appears at London's prestigious Wigmore Hall. His chamber music partners have included Anne-Sophie Mutter, Veronika Eberle, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Boris Garlitsky, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Martin Helmchen and Julia Fischer.

# Associate Concert Masters



## Suzanne Martens - proposed

Suzanne Martens studied at the University of Pretoria under Prof Alan Solomon where she obtained the BMus Performers and BMus Honours degrees, both cum laude. She furthered her studies in Holland under Jan Repko (Academie Minerva, Groningen) and in Austria under Lavard Skou-Larsen (Mozarteum, Salzburg), where she was a member of the Salzburger Musici Chamber Orchestra. She has subsequently obtained a MMus (cum laude) in chamber music from the University of Stellenbosch, and is currently enrolled for a DMus at the University of Pretoria. Apart from performing as a soloist with all the major orchestras in the country, Suzanne is an active chamber musician who has appeared in different ensembles including the Rosamunde Quartet, the Allegri Trio, Schwietering Quartet, Lyric Trio, the Amici Quartet and the original Quartet of Peace.



## Samson Diamon

Samson Diamond is appointed leader of the award-winning Odeion String Quartet since 2013, resident at the University of the Free State. He is lecturer at the Odeion School of Music and concertmaster of the Free State Symphony Orchestra (FSSO). Diamond has enjoyed an association with the London based, Chineke! Orchestra since its inception in 2015. Chineke! is Europe's first black and ethnic minority orchestra. In April 2022, he appeared as leader of the Chineke! Orchestra for their performances and recordings in London. In November 2019, Diamond joined the Chineke! Orchestra for their tour in Europe as concertmaster with performances at prestigious venues in England, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.



# The Orchestra





*The Mzansi  
National  
Philharmonic  
Orchestra will be  
divided in three  
categories:*

### **Orchestra A**

- Orchestra consisting of 110 musicians
- 30% South African musicians who have made a mark internationally and are based in top orchestras across the world
- 70% South African based highly skilled orchestral musicians

### **Orchestra B**

- Orchestra consisting of 86 musicians
- 100% South African based highly skilled orchestral musicians

### **Orchestra C**

- Orchestras consisting of 51-64 musicians
- 100% South African based musicians who will visit schools and perform in smaller halls and pursue various community engagements





**Siyabonga**  
**Thank you**  
**Baie dankie**