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PRESS RELEASE

Canolfan y Celfyddydau
Aberystwyth Arts Centre



Soweto Gospel Choir: *In Concert*
8.00pm, 20th September 2009

Soweto Gospel Choir, one of the most famous gospel choirs in the world, will perform at Aberystwyth Arts Centre for one night only on Sunday 20th September, 8pm.

Soweto Gospel Choir tour the UK this autumn with their new concert show, *Soweto Gospel Choir In Concert*, which opens at Edinburgh Festival in August, and subsequently visits 27 towns across the UK.

“The Soweto Gospel Choir is truly inspirational, but that’s not the reason they deserve five stars. Those are simply for a flawless performance” ***** *The Scotsman*

The double Grammy Award winning Soweto Gospel Choir (2007 & 2008) are universally acclaimed and world renowned for their fantastic musical ability. Accessible and highly entertaining, their music is a celebration of the inspirational power of African Gospel. The choir performs both traditional and contemporary music, adding its own unique feel and interpretation to both. Dynamic dancing and vibrant, colourful, authentic costumes add to the striking on-stage spectacle.

In Concert is their eagerly awaited new show and this is your chance to catch this spectacular group following sell outs in 2004 and 2007. Soweto Gospel Choir *In Concert* features some old favourites – such as ‘This Little Light of Mine’ and ‘Mbube’ (‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight’) – and a number of new songs, including their own version of the Andrea Crouch classic ‘Oh! It’s Jesus’. Plus there are several tracks from their new album *Grace* which will be released in June this year. With a repertoire of world, gospel and spiritual classics sung in English, Zulu, Xhosa, Venda, Afrikaans and Sotho, the 24 inspirational singers, drummers and dancers of Soweto Gospel Choir deliver an uplifting and moving show that effortlessly shifts between driving drums and dances to the sublime beauty of African *a capella* harmonies.

The choir, under the direction of David Mulovhedi and Beverly Bryer, draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto. Soweto is a black ‘Township’ west of Johannesburg, South Africa. It is the most populous black urban residential area in South Africa with a population of about one million. 60% of the population are unemployed, and the area suffers from overcrowding, and poor housing and infrastructure. The Soweto choir’s makeup reflects the areas diverse cultures and faiths, and they will be performing in eight different languages including Xhosa, Sotho, Zulu and English. As well as performing The Soweto Gospel Choir work tirelessly to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Since their visit to the UK last year, it has been an especially busy time for the Choir. They received their third Grammy Award nomination in December 2008 for the Best Contemporary World Music for their album *Live at The Nelson Mandela Theatre*. In February 2009 the Choir became the first South African group to perform at the Academy Awards, when they sang ‘Down to Earth’. The Gabriel/Newman Oscar-nominated song, with John Legend. In March 2009 they were nominated for

three SAMAs (South African Music Awards), for their CD and DVD, *Live at the Nelson Mandela Theatre*, winning the Award for Best Duo or Group. On 9 May the choir had the honour of performing at the Inauguration of South Africa's new President. The choir are also one of the headline acts at the World Cup 2010 in South Africa.

Tickets for this event are £20 (£18 restricted view) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

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