

**ISISUSA FEST '21**

**Welcome Address**

**Prof Sibongile Muthwa, Vice-Chancellor**

Welcome to the Isisusa Fest '21!

On behalf of the University, I excitedly wish to welcome all of you from around the world to this, our thirteenth edition of the Isisusa Fest '21 concert. The formation of this musical offering is a celebration of music, with a specific focus on jazz.

The three components of the festival includes students, staff and the community, who have come together to present an offering for all to enjoy. At Nelson Mandela University, we see community as global, and with this, have work from both local, national and continental artists as the foundation of building this year's festival.

To this end, we have chosen to pay homage to some of our fallen music legends:

- Mr Lawrence Matshiza, who was born and bred in Gqeberha, is an accomplished musician, teacher, mentor, composer and artist, par excellence. He sadly passed away in July 2021. Through a collaboration of his family, friends and musicians, we are able to showcase some of his work – that which he produced individually and with other artists. This tribute should signal hope for future creatives and artists to keep striving for excellence and believe in collaboration. Lala ngoxolo.
- Dr Sibongile Khumalo was born in Orlando West, Soweto, into a musical family. Her late father, Professor Khabi Mngoma, was an influential figure in the South African music education fraternity. This international cultural asset sang classical jazz, opera and traditional South African music and was appointed to the Order of Ikhamanga (silver) in 2008, by former President Thabo Mbeki. Sadly, she passed away in January this year. Many generations have enjoyed her vast body of work globally, as she performed around the world. In this festival, the Nelson Mandela University Choir will bring her work to life. This repertoire should open vistas of visionary imagination to create new creative knowledge, reflecting our African identity. Lala ngoxolo.

The University's Choir, along with local musicians and solo artists, will also perform a song by the late Oliver Mtukudzi, who also passed away in January 2019. Not only was he a legendary musician and philanthropist, but also a human rights activist and a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. His genre of Afro jazz on guitar has

led to many collaborations and world class hits. The choir performs a rendition of his song Neria. Zorora Murugare (*Rest in Peace in Shona*).

I wish to thank all the musicians, soloist, back up vocalists, technical crew and especially our students and alumni who have contributed in making this online production a centre piece of our performance calendar.

Please stay online and enjoy this music festival.