



GF Handel's Messiah - DURBAN PLAYHOUSE
Delivered by Her Worship - Cllr Zandile Gumede, Mayor of
eThekweni Municipality

Mphathi wohlelo,

Minister of Communications, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo,

MEC of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation , Mrs Bongzi Mollo

CEO – Bukhosini,

Honoured Guests,

Media and sponsors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nginyanibingelela nonke. I greet you all on this most beautiful day as we celebrate The day of Resurrection of Jesus Christ. SANIBONANI.

Firstly, I wish to also acknowledge the presence of Minister Ayanda Dlodlo, recently appointed for Communications portfolio. I am sure that with your keen support we shall be watching eThekweni's home-grown talents on SABC soon.

Music is an important medium that brings people of different backgrounds together to interact, and share their humanity - to experience what it is to be a cohesive community (our common unity). Music is not just simple rhythm and melody but communication. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know fall for it.

We gather today to be inspired by music of George Frederick Handel, which music is well loved by our fellow South Africans, black and white. I trust that we will once again be proud of the beauty and excellence that we shall witness and enjoy today that is prepared in our very own Durban's townships, schools and suburbs, under the stage direction of Tebogo Desando.

Music has this power of uniting us. We learn about each other's languages and culture better through music and art. We learn to appreciate and understand one another. Music makes us realize that we are all human race created with love. When we know that we will have less hate and racism in our society. We will learn to love one another irrespective of race, culture and religion. We will learn to share knowledge and information. We will even share our wealth, economy and land.

Programme Director,

Today is not a day of speeches - but it is important for leaders to connect and fellowship with fellow compatriots sharing the beauty that our city has, and to share our common humanity.

A little while ago while hosting a lunch for our senior citizens from surrounding townships and suburbs, I received a surprise request to conduct the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra in one of their songs. I was having a jolly good time with the baton, and the musicians and audience responded very well. I guess we all have something new to learn about each other so that we may live harmoniously and build our city together.

It is with great pleasure that I have this opportunity to spend today with you my fellow Durbanites. I believe I am correct when I mention that our city has been Blessed with some of the most singing talents in South Africa. In fact some of the singers from the Clermont Community choir and

the Durban Serenade who are performing today have together with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra toured Germany, the United Kingdom and France showcasing music excellence that Durban has produced over many years. I am informed that after performing the concert programme in Germany and France the audiences would not leave, requesting more and more music.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the kind of excellence we are about to experience from all the musicians on stage today.

Fellow compatriots may you and your families continue to have a Blessed Easter period. I am told that this performance is sold out - so, may you continue to support the excellent work of our city's artists.

Ngiyabonga Kakhulu. Nginifisela Usuku oluhle.