**MEDIA ALERTS FOR RELEASE WITHOUT EMBARGO**

**ISSUED BY THE DRAKENSBERG BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL**

**5 X MEDIA ALERTS FOR THE DRAKIES UK TOUR**

1. **Drakensberg Boys Choir to Perform in London at St Paul's Knightsbridge**

**What:** The world-renowned Drakensberg Boys Choir from South Africa is set to deliver an unforgettable performance in London, featuring their exceptional choral works and vibrant Afro-Pop sounds. The concert will also showcase a special guest, South African operatic star tenor and *Britain's Got Talent* sensation Innocent Masuku.

**When:** Sunday, 22 September 2024, at 17:00 BST

**Where:** St Paul's Knightsbridge, 32a Wilton Place, London, SW1X 8SH, United Kingdom

**Details:** It is an honour for the boys to perform at St Paul's Knightsbridge. St Paul's Knightsbridge, an Anglican Church in London's West End, is a lively 21st-century church of Anglo-Catholic tradition. Since 1843, it has been a place where God is encountered in 'the beauty of holiness', in the honesty of preaching and discussion, and in the lives of those trying to respond to God's call. St Paul's is a place for gatherings, formations, and missions.

**Drakies welcomes Innocent Masuku on stage!***Britain's Got Talent* operatic sensation, South African operatic star tenor Innocent Masuku, will join the Drakensberg Boys Choir live on stage at the Drakensberg Boys Choir UK Tour 2024 Opening Concert. Innocent's opera career started in Cape Town and has steadily gained ground in the international stages of the UK. His viral star performance on *Britain's Got Talent* recently captured the world's imagination.

UK audiences can look forward to experiencing a captivating blend of classical masterpieces and infectious pop hits. The repertoire will range from the timeless compositions of Carl Orff and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the vibrant rhythms of Afro-pop and traditional African contemporary works, promising to enchant audiences of all tastes. The Drakies, as the choir is also affectionately known, will offer the melodic genius of Ola Gjeilo, Knut Nystedt, and works from other celebrated composers during the tour.

**Tickets:** Tickets cost from £22.38 and are available on Eventbrite via [this link](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2Fe%2Fdrakensberg-boys-choir-in-london-st-pauls-knightsbridge-tickets-916263457667%3Faff%3Debdsoporgprofile&data=05%7C02%7CTaonga%40stone.consulting%7Cf8bc10d191dc4a03537f08dca7ffe8fd%7Cb46c02c4c01e4548b75b700759978c7e%7C0%7C0%7C638569964771132632%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6wIEe8otp45vMZzzoYAaKn4UleabflW7TEs4Ui4DR4U%3D&reserved=0).

**About the Drakensberg Boys Choir:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir School (DBCS) aims to prepare boys for life and leadership through excellence in music, academics, sports, and social enrichment in a Christian environment. Known affectionately as "Drakie boys," students are moulded to harness their musical talents to bring hope and positive change in South Africa and globally. With a 57-year history, DBCS is the only established choir school in South Africa, earning international respect and producing young men of exemplary character.

For many of our talented boys, attending this world-class choir school is a long-held dream come true. The blessing of talent does not only come to boys from families that can afford to pay for their children's unique education in the majestic Drakensberg mountains in South Africa. Unfortunately, a boy's world-class talent cannot be realised due to a lack of funding. As a result, the Drakies bursary fund is critical in providing deserving boys with the opportunity to perform on the world choir stage, an honour they would not have had without generous donations to our bursary fund. Proceeds from the UK tour will go to the bursary fund.

Join us for a magical evening of music and experience the excellence of the Drakensberg Boys Choir, a genuinely South African national treasure.

**FIN**

1. **Drakensberg Boys Choir to Perform in Oxford at New College Chapel**

**What:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir will perform live in Oxford, featuring their signature choral works and Afro-Pop music.

**When:** Monday, 23 September 24, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. BST

**Where:** New College Chapel, Holywell Street, Oxford, OX1 3BN, United Kingdom

**Details:** Join the internationally acclaimed Drakensberg Boys Choir for an evening of exceptional music in the beautiful setting of New College Chapel. Known for their unique blend of classical choral works and Afro-Pop vibes, the choir promises a diverse and engaging repertoire highlighting South African music's best.

UK audiences can look forward to experiencing a captivating blend of classical masterpieces and infectious pop hits. The repertoire will range from the timeless compositions of Carl Orff and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the vibrant rhythms of Afro-pop and traditional African contemporary works, promising to enchant audiences of all tastes. The Drakies, as the choir is also affectionately known, will offer the melodic genius of Ola Gjeilo, Knut Nystedt, and works from other celebrated composers during the tour.

**Tickets:** Tickets are on sale from £25 and available for [purchase here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drakensberg-boys-choir-at-new-college-chapel-in-oxford-tickets-916263618147?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

The New College Chapel in Oxford is a place of sanctuary, of ancient words and music, of peace and contemplation, and is open to everyone. When William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, founded New College at the end of the fourteenth century, he placed the service of God at the heart of College life. The Chapel was made the most inspiring of the College buildings and provided a permanent choir to support its worship.

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1. **Drakensberg Boys Choir to Perform in London at Southwark Cathedral**

**What:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir will bring their renowned choral performances and Afro-Pop sounds to Southwark Cathedral, together with the choirs of Eton College, Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School and Westminster School.

**When:** Tuesday, 24 September, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. BST

**Where:** The Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark, London, SE1 9DA, United Kingdom

**Details:** Enjoy an enchanting evening with the Drakensberg Boys Choir at Southwark Cathedral. The performance will include a mix of classical choral works and Afro-Pop music, promising a unique and captivating musical experience that highlights the best of South African music.

UK audiences can look forward to experiencing a captivating blend of classical masterpieces and infectious pop hits. The repertoire will range from the timeless compositions of Carl Orff and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the vibrant rhythms of Afro-pop and traditional African contemporary works, promising to enchant audiences of all tastes. The Drakies, as the choir is also affectionately known, will offer the melodic genius of Ola Gjeilo, Knut Nystedt, and works from other celebrated composers during the tour.

The Drakensberg Boys Choir will be joined on Stage in Southward Cathedral by the Eton College Chapel Choir, the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Choir and the Choir of Westminster School.

**Southwark Cathedral**or The Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark, London, lies near the south bank of the River Thames, close to London Bridge. It is the mother church of the Diocese of Southwark. It has been a place of Christian worship for more than 1,000 years, but the church was only raised to cathedral status with the creation of the Diocese of Southwark in 1905.

**Tickets:** You can purchase your tickets for £27.80 via [this link](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drakensberg-boys-choir-at-southwark-cathedral-in-london-tickets-910274735237?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

**About the Drakensberg Boys Choir:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir School (DBCS) aims to prepare boys for life and leadership through excellence in music, academics, sports, and social enrichment in a Christian environment. Known affectionately as "Drakie boys," students are moulded to harness their musical talents to bring hope and positive change in South Africa and globally. With a 57-year history, DBCS is the only established choir school in South Africa, earning international respect and producing young men of exemplary character.

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**Eton College Chapel Choir -** The Foundation of Eton College in 1440 by King Henry VI provided ten men and 16 boys to sing chapel services, and, with a few breaks, the choir has been singing in Eton College Chapel from then until the present day. Although singing for services in the College Chapel remains the choir's principal duty, the choir can increasingly be heard further. Each year, the choir embarks on an international tour, with recent destinations including Spain, Portugal, Japan, India, Germany, Latvia and Hong Kong. The choir performs regularly in the UK with recent performances, including concerts with The Sixteen and a performance of Bernstein's Chichester Psalms with the Hong Kong Philharmonic under Leonard Slatkin.

**The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Choir -** The Cardinal Vaughan Schola Cantorum (Director Scott Price) is the liturgical choir of The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Kensington. Alongside serving the school's liturgy, the Schola also has frequent external engagements and is heard in concert halls and churches all across the UK. The Schola has appeared at the BBC Proms and the Aldeburgh Festival, and its voices feature numerous famous film soundtracks, including one of the Harry Potter films, *The Batman,* *Rocketman* and the Oscar-winning score for*Life of Pi*. In February 2022, the Schola became the first state school choir to lead the BBC's long-running religious broadcast, BBC Choral Evensong. The choir has firm links with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where boys have performed in many productions over the past twenty-five years.

**The Choir of Westminster School -** Westminster is an ancient British school. Its origins can be traced to the Benedictine monastery at Westminster Abbey, and its continuous existence is particular from the early fourteenth century. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540, Henry VIII personally ensured the School's survival by statute, and his daughter, Elizabeth I, confirmed royal patronage in 1560 and is celebrated as the School's Foundress. Old Westminster's include John Dryden, John Locke, A.A. Milne, Henry Purcell and Christopher Wren. The Choir of Westminster School regularly performs at venues including London's St John's Smith Square and the Barbican, where recent performances have included Duruflé *Requiem*, Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Poulenc *Gloria*, Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb* and McDowall *The Girl from Aleppo*.

As well as singing for twice-weekly services in Westminster Abbey, the Choir embarks on an exciting programme of concerts and tours both in the UK and abroad. Recent engagements have included a performance of cantatas and masses by J.S. Bach conducted by James O'Donnell in Westminster Abbey and the release of the Choir's debut album on the Signum Label, *Now may we singen: Music for Advent and Christmas*, which was a recording of the week on Classic FM's *Drive* and reviewed in Gramophone Magazine and BBC Music Magazine which included it in its top ten Christmas playlist.

**FIN**

1. **Drakensberg Boys Choir to Perform in Wells at Wells Cathedral**

**What:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir will perform at Wells Cathedral, showcasing their outstanding choral works and Afro-Pop tunes. The Wells Cathedral School and the Wells Cathedral Choristers will join them on stage.

**When:** Wednesday, 25 September, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. BST

**Where:** Wells Cathedral, Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE, United Kingdom

**Details:** Join the Drakensberg Boys Choir for a memorable performance in the stunning Wells Cathedral. Their diverse repertoire, blending classical and Afro-Pop music, will captivate the audience. UK audiences can look forward to experiencing a captivating blend of classical masterpieces and infectious pop hits. The repertoire will range from the timeless compositions of Carl Orff and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the vibrant rhythms of Afro-pop and traditional African contemporary works, promising to enchant audiences of all tastes. The Drakies, as the choir is also affectionately known, will offer the melodic genius of Ola Gjeilo, Knut Nystedt, and works from other celebrated composers during the tour.

**Tickets:** Tickets are available for [purchase here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drakensberg-boys-choir-at-wells-cathedral-tickets-916288281917?aff=ebdsoporgprofile) from only £20.21.

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**The Wells Cathedral School and the Wells Cathedral Choristers -** The Drakensberg Boys Choir will be joined for this special performance by the Choristers of Wells Cathedral Choir and the musicians and singers of Wells Cathedral School. The Wells Cathedral Choristers are the treble voices of the world renowned Wells Cathedral Choir; lauded by *Gramophone* magazine as the world’s leading choir with children. They continue a tradition that dates back to the 10th century AD. Originally constituted as a choir for men and boys, Wells has been delighted to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the girl choristers in 2024. The Choir has been praised for its innovative recordings as well as for its rich and varied liturgical repertoire. It has premiered works by some of the finest composers of our time, including Michael Berkeley, Judith Bingham, Bob Chilcott, Jonathan Dove, Cecilia McDowall, James MacMillan, Peter Maxwell Davies, John Rutter and many more. The Choristers of Wells Cathedral are educated at Wells Cathedral School, which is one of only four specialist music schools supported by the UK government’s 'Music and Dance Scheme'. The School’s own choirs have an international reputation and maintain a busy schedule of concerts, recordings and broadcasts. They have toured extensively to Europe and the Far East and have been prize winners in major international competitions including ‘Let the Peoples Sing’, ‘Musica Eterna Roma’, ‘BBC Choir of the Year', and most recently at the “International Choral Festival of Preveza’.

**Wells Cathedral**, set on the western slopes of the Mendip Hills in the medieval city of Wells in Somerset, has been a sacred site beside freshwater springs for over 1000 years. The 12th-century building is both beautiful and historic, and it is a centre of Christianity that has attracted pilgrims and visitors over the centuries. Its calm and light atmosphere never ceases to inspire everyone inside. The boys are excited to perform for royalty in such a beautiful Cathedral with a rich history.

**FIN**

1. **Drakensberg Boys Choir to Perform in Worcester at Worcester Cathedral**

**What:** The Drakensberg Boys Choir will deliver a captivating performance at Worcester Cathedral, featuring the choirs of King's Worcester, King's St Alban's and King's Hawford Junior Choir.

**When:** Friday, 27 September 2024, at 7:30 p.m. BST

**Where:** Worcester Cathedral, 8 College Yard, Worcester, WR1 2LA, United Kingdom

**Details:** Experience the Drakensberg Boys Choir's classical and Afro-Pop music blend in the magnificent Worcester Cathedral. The performance will be an unforgettable highlight of their UK tour. Known for their unique blend of classical choral works and Afro-Pop vibes, the choir promises a diverse and engaging repertoire highlighting South African music's best.

UK audiences can look forward to experiencing a captivating blend of classical masterpieces and infectious pop hits. The repertoire will range from the timeless compositions of Carl Orff and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to the vibrant rhythms of Afro-pop and traditional African contemporary works, promising to enchant audiences of all tastes. The Drakies, as the choir is also affectionately known, will offer the melodic genius of Ola Gjeilo, Knut Nystedt, and works from other celebrated composers during the tour.

**Tickets:** Tickets are available for purchase via Eventbrite for £16.96. You can purchase yours by [clicking here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drakensberg-boys-choir-at-worcester-cathedral-tickets-910290983837?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

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**The choirs of King’s Worcester, King’s St Alban’s and King’s Hawford Junior Choir will join the Drakensberg Boys Choir on stage -** The King’s Foundation is a dynamic, thriving community of independent day schools for boys and girls aged two to eighteen. It is comprised of a Senior School and two Prep Schools, King’s St Alban’s and King’s Hawford, based across two beautiful sites. Attracting nearly 1,400 children from Worcestershire and beyond, King’s provides an exciting and inspiring education dedicated to helping girls and boys thrive and reach their potential. King’s Worcester and King’s St Alban’s are situated in picturesque surroundings alongside Worcester Cathedral and the River Severn. With a history dating back to the 7th Century and with close links to the cathedral, our city centre schools have a strong sense of tradition. As the Cathedral Choir School, the boy and girl choristers are educated at King’s. The more rural Prep School, King’s Hawford, is an award-winning, leading independent day school for those aged two to eleven. Set in 23 acres of land, which runs alongside the Droitwich canal in the heart of rural Worcestershire, it has nature on the doorstep. Pupils from all three schools look forward to performing alongside the Drakensberg Boys Choir.

**Worcester Cathedral** is a magnificent sight as it rises majestically above the River Severn. Worcester has been the seat of a bishopric since the Seventh Century, and the Cathedral was served by monks until the Reformation. Since the Eighteenth Century, the Cathedral has been famous for its part in the annual Three Choirs Festival, the oldest choral festival in existence. Today the Cathedral is the centre of a vibrant community of clergy and laypeople, offering the praises of God each day, serving the city and diocese of Worcester, and attracting visitors from all over the world.

**FIN**

**EDITORS' NOTES**

**Media release issued by Stone on behalf of Drakensberg Boys Choir**

**To purchase DBC concert tickets, visit** [**www.webtickets.co.za**](http://www.webtickets.co.za)

Visit the website: <http://www.dbchoir.com>

**Media contact for further media information or interview requests:**

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Drakensberg Boys Choir School

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**Alternative media contact or request for in-studio or recorded media appearances:**

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**Book the choir for performance or enquire about enrolling at DBCS:**

Helga Cato

Drakensberg Boys Choir School

Email: hcato@dbchoir.com

Phone: +27 36 468 1012 / +27 83 773 7450

**Contribute to the DBCS bursary fund:**

Tanya Wilby, DBCS Bursar

Drakensberg Boys Choir School

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Phone: +27 36 468 1012

**More helpful website links for media reference:**

* Please visit the Facebook page for views of the sold-out performances and activity during the four-day Music in the Mountains festival that took place on the Freedom Day long weekend and more information on the choir – <https://www.facebook.com/dbchoir>
* The photo page on the Facebook page gives a good view of the diversity, life and extraordinary talent of the boys at Drakensberg Boys Choir School – <https://www.facebook.com/dbchoir/photos>
* Visit these links for a glimpse of the world-renowned choir's international and local choral work, both in the classical and distinctly African genres – <https://www.youtube.com/user/DBCHOIR>, <https://youtu.be/C521O4XHO_I>, <https://www.facebook.com/dbchoir/videos/934329527988775/> and <https://dbchoir.com/web/videos/>