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*“Absolutely thrilling singers...dazzling music.” – Billboard*

**GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR  
BRINGS “SONGS OF THE FREE” TOUR  
TO HONOR NELSON MANDELA TO PARKER PLAYHOUSE**

*South Florida Caribbean Chorale to open the show*

**FORT LAUDERDALE – Soweto Gospel Choir** brings its *Songs of the Free* tour in honor of Nelson Mandela’s 100th birthday to Parker Playhouse on **Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.** The South Florida Caribbean Chorale appears as the opening act.

The two-time Grammy® Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir has been spreading sheer joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades. Comprised of 20 of the best artists in South Africa, the choir invites you to enjoy the incomparable and inspirational power of African Gospel music. These uplifting performers have shared the stage with some of the biggest names in music including U2, the late Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Josh Groban.

For the first half of this concert, the choir will perform “Songs of the Free,” a rousing program celebrating the centenary of the birth of the father of their Rainbow Nation: Nelson Mandela. Following that, the performers will share international gospel classics including their hair-raising take on Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.”

“The Soweto Gospel Choir members are thrilled to return to the U.S. for this American tour,” producer Andrew Kay said. “The group continues to inspire fans worldwide, but the reaction we get from audiences in the States is unforgettable. We hope that our uplifting message of hope, faith, and joy reaches audiences new and old on this special return visit as we celebrate the legacy of the great Nelson Mandela.”

Filling the stage with vibrant costumes, incredible vocals and uplifting songs, Soweto Gospel Choir is 90 minutes of indisputable bliss, leaving audience exhilarated as they dance out the aisles. The dynamic choir performs both traditional and contemporary music, adding its unique feel and interpretation to both. The choir performs in six of South Africa's eleven official languages with rich harmonies, earthy rhythms, a lively four-piece band and percussion section. For more information, please visit [www.sowetogospelchoir.com](http://www.sowetogospelchoir.com).

Tickets are \$37.50–\$47.50. During its stay, Soweto Gospel Choir will introduce the sounds of South African culture to students in a JM Family Enterprises Smart Stage Matinee recommended for grades 4–12 on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. Tickets to the morning performance are \$7.20 with \$3 lap seats for infants 12-months or younger.

All dates, times, programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of Parker Playhouse. Buy tickets online at [ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com) and [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954.462.0222; in person at the Parker Playhouse box office Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office.

The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 N.E. Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which provides programming and management of the facility. The Broward Center 2018-2019 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation.

For more information visit [ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com), like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse) and join the conversation on Twitter with [#ParkerPlayhouse](https://twitter.com/ParkerPlayhouse).

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#### ABOUT PARKER PLAYHOUSE

The neo-classical Playhouse Parker is one of Fort Lauderdale's first venues. Built by Dr. Louis Parker, the playhouse opened its doors on February 6, 1967 and is managed now by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This 1,168-seat, fully equipped theater plays an important role in the community by fueling economic development, while also bringing the community together with performances, activities and educational programming.

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