District Six Museum

presents

an evening of music with

Vukani Mawethu

visiting from Oakland, California

Wed, 8 April 2008
7.00pm—8.30pm
@ the District Six Museum
25A Buitenkant Street, Cape Town

Snacks will be on sale

R30
Ex-residents: R15
(tickets available at the Museum or at the door)

The choir’s repertoire includes:

- freedom songs
- spirituals
- songs from the civil rights and labour movements

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PRESS RELEASE

Vukani Mawethu Choir makes 2nd Cultural Tour – “Sizongena II – to Southern Africa

Oakland based Vukani Mawethu Choir will travel to South Africa, Namibia, and Mozambique in April. The non-profit community-based multicultural choir, whose name means “People Arise!” in Zulu, is a Bay Area institution, now in its 23rd year. Vukani Mawethu Choir formed as part of the anti-apartheid movement, and continues to sing freedom songs primarily acappella in Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Portuguese and English, as well as gospel, spirituals, labor & civil rights songs. They are united by their commitment to peace and justice, and their love of the rhythms and harmonies in the music of southern Africa which have grown out of century-long struggles for freedom.

Often called “the spirit of the movement” and “cultural ambassadors of good will,” Vukani Mawethu contributed to the international effort to bring democratic elections to South Africa—which resulted in Nelson Mandela’s presidency in 1994. The group travelled throughout South Africa in 1997, bringing their solidarity work full circle and connecting with South Africans through song. The documentary film of their 1997 tour, “Sizongena – Coming Home to South Africa” won 3 Emmys.

Through their singing, the non-profit, all volunteer group currently raises funds for AIDS/HIV projects, primarily in the townships of South Africa as well as in the Oakland/San Francisco area. On the choir’s second cultural & humanitarian tour to Southern Africa in April, they will perform for local groups to help raise funds for their work and public awareness related to HIV/AIDS. They will also donate thousands of dollars to AIDS projects along their tour.

In addition to 18 choir singers, 18 community members are travelling with them as well, ranging in age from 14 - 84 years. In addition to singers and artists, the diverse group includes attorneys, social workers, educators (including former [women] college presidents), activists and community organizers, union leaders and members, choir family members, parents, and grandparents. T

The trip, being led by long-time Southern Africa solidarity activist, Prexy Nesbitt of Making the Road in Chicago, promises to be a cultural, spiritual, and educational experience of a lifetime. Vukani Mawethu continues to sing out inspiring people to action for peace and justice, and to raise funds for AIDS projects. Those who want to contribute may do so via the contact info below. You can also hear clips of their music, download a bio with photo, and purchase their CDs, DVDs, and colourful t-shirts and other products, via their website.

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