



Building Bridges *and* Transforming Lives *through the* Power of Music

South Africa | June 30/July 1 - July 6, 2025

Cape Town International Choral Festival



Artistic Director &
Festival Conductor

Dr. Cameron F. LaBarr
Director of Choral
Studies, Missouri State
University



Artistic Director &
Festival Conductor

Dr. Michael Barrett
Conductor & Musical
Director, Tuks Camerata,
University of Pretoria



Composer-in-
Residence

Mbuso Ndlovu
Composer & Arranger



Festival Conductor

Dr. Paul D. Head
Director of Choral
Studies, University of
Delaware

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

South African conductor Michael Barrett and Missouri State's Cameron LaBarr join forces for a festival choir experience, singing and sharing music from both countries in breathtakingly beautiful Cape Town. The event includes choirs from the U.S. and South Africa, including award-winning Tuks Camerata. Participating ensembles can audition for a spotlight performance during the gala concert. The combined festival chorus including the Tuks Camerata singers will perform music from South Africa and the U.S. under the baton of Michael Barrett, Cameron LaBarr, and Festival Conductor Paul Head. A special highlight of the Cape Town International Choral Festival is a collaboration with South African composer and arranger Mbuso Ndlovu. He will serve as Composer-in-Residence for the four days in Cape Town and the festival chorus will perform some of his music during the gala concert.

The City

Cape Town is South Africa's oldest city and the seat of the country's Parliament. It is the second-largest metropolitan area, after Johannesburg, and the largest in the Western Cape. The city is known for its harbor, its natural setting in the Cape Floristic Region, and for landmarks such as Table Mountain and Cape Point. In 2014, Cape Town was named the best place in the world to visit by the New York Times. Located on the shore of Table Bay, the City Bowl area of Cape Town is the oldest urban area in the Western Cape. The metropolitan area has a long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, which includes False Bay, and extends to the Hottentots Holland mountains to the east. The Table Mountain National Park is within the city boundaries and there are several other nature reserves and marine-protected areas within, and adjacent to, the city, protecting the diverse terrestrial and marine natural environment.



The Organizers: Perform International

“Building Bridges and Transforming Lives through the Power of Music”

Boldly informed by the belief that music inherently speaks as an expression of the human spirit beyond borders and in all cultures, Perform International seeks to empower music directors and ensembles to realize meaningful and life-changing immersion experiences and performances around the world.

- We empower music directors, music ensembles and individual musicians to share and grow in their artistic expression and understanding of people and cultures.
- We design and create rewarding performances as well as educational and cultural immersion opportunities by building and maintaining relationships with domestic and international musicians and music education organizations.
- We partner with concert venues, publicity teams, airlines, hotels, and tour guides to plan and implement operational methods that enhance rather than distract from the artistic experience.
- We provide meaningful and life-changing performance tour experiences that are personal, thoughtful, and efficient in the processes of conceptual artistic and educational development.

Faculty



Dr. Cameron F. LaBarr

Artistic Director & Festival Conductor

Cameron LaBarr is director of choral studies and the Clif and Gail Smart professor in music at Missouri State University, where he is the conductor of the MSU Chorale, Men's Chorus, Grand Chorus, and Chamber Choir. Additionally, Dr. LaBarr leads a comprehensive graduate choral conducting program. He earned the M.M. and D.M.A. from the University of North Texas where he studied with Jerry McCoy and Richard Sparks. Dr. LaBarr has an international reputation as conductor, clinician, and choral juror across North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and serves as board member for the International Federation for Choral Music. Dr. LaBarr's current and recent engagements include concerts and events in Indonesia, France, Chile, Argentina, South Korea, South Africa, and Spain. Dr. LaBarr has served as artistic director of international choral festivals in the Czech Republic, Italy, France, and Ireland, and has conducted concerts of the MSU Chorale in South Africa, Scandinavia, China, Spain, Canada, and across the United States.



Dr. Michael Barrett

Artistic Director & Festival Conductor

Michael Barrett is the conductor of the University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata and a senior lecturer in Choral Conducting in the Department of Music. He was a member of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir from 1992 to 1997. He obtained the degrees BMus in Performing Arts in 2005 and MMus, specializing in choral conducting, in 2008, both from the University of Pretoria. In 2017, Michael was awarded a Doctorate of Music degree in Choral Performance by the University of Pretoria. Barrett's choirs have won numerous national and international awards, as well as choral competitions all over the world, including the Grand Prix of Nations; the 8th World Choir Games; the St Petersburg Choral Competition; the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod; the Krakow International Advent Choral Competition; and the International Youth Music Festival. In 2017, Tuks Camerata was invited to perform at the World Choral Symposium in Barcelona, Spain. Michael is an active composer and arranger whose music is published internationally by Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Walton Music. He is regularly invited to present workshops and adjudicate choral competitions both locally and abroad. He is also the executive director and co-producer of Capital Singers, South Africa's largest community choir project.



Mbuso Ndlovu

Composer-in-Residence

Mbuso Ndlovu hails from KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. He holds an Honours Degree in Music from the University of Pretoria where he specialized in Choral Conducting. From 2016 to 2018, he was a part-time lecturer in the Department of Music teaching Ethnomusicology and African Music. Mbuso has worked with numerous conductors, choirs, and musicians, nationally and internationally. He is currently conducting African Music workshops for choirs, marimba groups, drumming ensembles and traditional dance groups, in schools, universities and in communities locally and internationally. He has published several works for choirs internationally and has directed stage productions and music concerts in Germany, Spain, and Italy. Mbuso is sought after as a composer, arranger, music director, clinician, adjudicator, producer, and is regarded as one of the best educators in Traditional African choral and African indigenous music and dance.



Dr. Paul D. Head

Festival Conductor

As director of choral studies at the University of Delaware, **Paul D. Head** directs the internationally renowned University of Delaware Chorale, the community-based Schola Cantorum and the UD Symphonic Chorus, which performs frequently with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. His choirs have toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Asia and Europe and have received consistently high acclaim for their musical artistry. Under his direction, the UD Chorale has taken first- and second-place honors at competitive choral festivals in Estonia, Spain and Hungary. Dr. Head maintains an active presence as conductor and guest clinician, having conducted All-State choirs in 18 states in addition to professional presentations and workshops throughout the United States.



June 30/July 1 - July 6, 2025

Cape Town International Choral Festival

Tour Itinerary

DAY 1/2 - Monday/Tuesday, June 30/July 1, 2025 - Departure USA

Take an overnight flight from the U.S. to Cape Town, South Africa. Depending on the flight schedule, it will require one or two overnight flights.

DAY 3 - Wednesday, July 2, 2025 - Arrival Cape Town

Upon arrival in Cape Town meet your tour manager. Transfer to the hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight in Cape Town.

DAY 4 - Thursday, July 3, 2025 - Cape Town / Table Mountain & Rehearsals

Breakfast followed by a first rehearsal with Michael Barrett and Cameron LaBarr. This afternoon, take a cable car journey up to the top of Table Mountain. Enjoy panoramic views that will last a lifetime. After dinner, second rehearsal of the festival choir. Overnight in Cape Town.

DAY 5 - Friday, July 4, 2025 - Cape Town / Hout Bay, Simon's Town & Rehearsal

This morning, you'll stop in Hout Bay for a short cruise, experience the picturesque Chapman's Peak Drive, and visit Simon's Town to see South Africa's beloved penguin colony. Mid-afternoon rehearsal followed by dinner and overnight in Cape Town.

DAY 6 - Saturday, July 5, 2025 - Cape Town / V & A Waterfront / Dress Rehearsal & Gala Concert

Morning at leisure, and possible visit to the Victoria and Albert Waterfront. After lunch on your own, dress rehearsal at the concert venue followed by dinner. **Cape Town International Choral Festival Gala Concert.** Overnight in Cape Town.

DAY 7 - Sunday, July 6, 2025 - Depart Cape Town / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Transfer to the airport in Cape Town to begin your journey back to the U.S. or start your customized post festival tour.

Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-tours for groups of 20 and more passengers are available including additional individual performance opportunities for balanced ensembles. All of PI's pre/post tours are fully customized to each choir's specific needs.

Possible post or pre festival tours in South Africa include visits to Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Drakensberg, Kruger National Park or Pilanesburg for safari, and many other wonderful cities and sights. A detailed program will depend on how many days each group can spend in South Africa. Perform International will develop a customized tour for each participating choir.

In addition to exploring the natural beauty and history of South Africa, individual concerts and collaborations can be arranged. Perform International has extensive contacts in South Africa's choral community to facilitate joint concerts and exchanges. Any such events are subject to the school schedules and availability of different ensembles throughout South Africa.