

TALISMAN THANKS...

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REVEREND TERRY GLEESON

TALISMAN ALUMNI

AND EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PALO ALTO, CA 94305

A large, faint, light gray handprint graphic is visible in the background of the right page, with fingers spread out towards the top right.

TALISMAN

WINTER FUNDRAISING GALA
FEBRUARY 22ND 2014

TALISMAN

MISSION

Talisman was created to explore and perform substantive, cultural music. This has become our mantra as we strive to give voice to the vast collection of human stories told through rich and vibrant song. We appreciate the great challenge of responsibly engaging with the genuine roots of the songs we sing, and are committed to bringing these songs to life as best our abilities allow.

We also feel that the music asks us not only to perform it for itself, but to use it as a means both to grow as individuals and to share meaningful experiences with our audiences and collaborators. We find that no matter where or with whom we carry the music, there is a great deal to learn from our interactions as we all experience the inspiration borne of human struggle and triumph.

Commitment to our fundamental mission as people and singers has helped us to build a strong community of audiences, performers, and artists that we continue to learn from as we expand our vision for the future of our group and global community. We believe that the strength of these bonds across the wide array of experiences they represent is a testament to the unifying power of music.

MEMBERS

Sopranos

Allie Trimm*
Maria Doerr*
Sarah Jiang

Tenors

Jelani Munroe*
Joey Fernandez
Kaelo Moahi*
Nicholas Biddle
Phillip Hoovestol

Altos

Aishwarya Vardhana*
Hye Jeong Yoon
Maya Delaney*
Miki Lainovic*

Basses

Charlie Yang*
Chris Sackes*
Joe Hack*
Tian Chen Zeng*

OUR NEW CD

Over the past 5 years, the group has been putting together various recordings to produce our 11th studio album. The last step is to fund the final production and printing. Professional recording time and album production costs add up to around \$10,000. This year's group will be recording new material alongside putting together the final touches on the album. This is an important chance for each of our members to have their voice on our upcoming album. Please help us add their voices to our recorded repertoire.

25TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CONCERT

Stanford Talisman was founded in 1990 to bring music from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to Stanford, lending a student voice to the movement on campus to divest from pro-apartheid companies. Next year is the 25th Anniversary of our founding and we are planning a benefit concert at Bing Concert Hall, a new world class performance space at Stanford. Talisman plans to bring musicians and singing groups who we have met in our travels to share in the experience. All proceeds from the concert will go towards some of the many charity organizations we support. Please help us make this concert a reality. Our goal is to have \$5000 raised to book the space and the technical staff by the end of this year.

We would not be able to accomplish our goals without your support. We've already come a long way in our fundraising efforts this year, raising \$5000. Any donation, big or small, will help us reach our fundraising goal of \$30,000 by April.

Thank you so much for your support. If this is your first experience with the group we would love if you could hear us before making your decision. You can find us online through our website www.stanfordtalisman.com, and through our youtube channel by searching "Stanford Talisman" or by using www.youtube.com/user/stanfordtalisman.

If you have any questions please feel free to direct them to me or to our business manager Phillip Hoovestol at manager@stanfordtalisman.com.

* indicates a new member

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

My name is Nicholas Biddle and I am the director of Stanford Talisman. I joined the Talisman community in my Freshman year, after seeing the group perform at the university's opening ceremony. Until then, I had never known that music could evoke such powerful emotion in a singer or in a listener.

As director, I am so proud to lead this amazing group and announce some of our plans for the year: Spring Tour 2014, a new CD, and our 25th Anniversary Benefit concert. Below is more information regarding each.

Your donations are appreciated to bring our dreams into fruition.

SPRING TOUR 2014

Talisman is traveling to Philadelphia and New York this year for spring tour.

Talisman a Cappella goes on tour each year to make artistic connections and explore new horizons in art-making. Our goal is to engage with the storytelling aspect of our mission. Storytellers in our lives come in all forms: From inspiring teachers, parents, mentors, friends, to the stranger you met one day in line. They are the people who pass down knowledge and history. We will be traveling to local schools, universities, churches, activists, and art organizations in order to better understand storytelling as a human experience. We want to understand how storytelling is integrally connected to communities. We will be visiting communities and districts with long histories, and some that are just beginning to create them.

In order to realize these goals and provide an unforgettable experience to the group we have to pay for the flights (\$7000), housing (\$7000), food (\$4500), and transportation within the cities (\$1500).

PROGRAM

INTONGA - A COMING OF AGE JOURNEY

A documentary filmed and produced by Talisman Alumnus Tayo Amos, the film follows Talisman on their South Africa Spring Tour 2013 and their journey of growth as individuals and as a group.

AVULEKILE AMASANGO

Talisman learned this song on one of our trips to South Africa. The housekeeping staff at our Cape Town hotel taught us the melody, and we shared it with schoolchildren, seniors, and everyone else we met from then on! The lyrics translate to "The gates of heaven are open. We are crossing over the River Jordan."

BE LIKE HIM

Based on Our Nation Crew's rendition, a gospel rendition of a traditional South African folk song called "Kwase Kwabonakala." The song speaks about the second coming of Christ. The English lyrics are a translation of the Zulu opening.

HOSANNA

Meaning "please save" in Hebrew, "Hosanna" is a song about seeing the miracles in the world. In the midst of spiritual surrender; this song is a celebration of salvation. Although Christian in its literal context, "Hosanna" evokes the universal sentiments of affirmation and hope. This arrangement is an interpretation of the Soweto Gospel Choir's version called "What the Lord has Done in Me" written by Reuben Morgan.

Ë HATTA A BETA APEBBA

This arrangement of E Hatta is based on a traditional song from Equatorial Guinea. Sung in Bubi, the nearly lost original language of the island of Bioko, and Spanish, it tells the story of two sisters who call to each other across a sea of troubles and make a pact to always stay together.

BABA YETU

Directly Translated, Baba Yetu means "Our Father" in Swahili. This rendition of the Lord's Prayer says, "Father I love you, father I praise you."

SHOSHOLOZA

This based on the Soweto Gospel Choir's version. This song is about miners who traveled via steam train into South Africa. It was used to lift their spirits and unite them. Originally sung by African men who were forced to labor in the mineral mines of southern Africa, Shosholoza speaks of the trains that carried them from their families to work for small wages under terrible conditions. It is a song of solidarity that acknowledges communal suffering but also seeks to inspire hope and strength. The lyrics translate to "Move fast on those mountains, train from South Africa. You are running away on those mountains, train from South Africa."

MATTHEW

A song written by American singer-song writer Janis Ian in reflection of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man murdered in a brutal hate crime on October 12th ,1998 in a field near Laramie, Wyoming. Ian reflects both on the inexplicable cruelty of Matthew's murder as well as her own fear in the aftermath of the event, as a lesbian woman in a society where homophobia makes such violence possible.

MODIMO TRILOGY

A combination of three hymns originally performed by the Soweto Gospel Choir. The trilogy opens with "Tsothle, Tsothle," a song of awe and wonder at Creation, and continues with "Izwi Lahlab'Inhliziyo Yami," a soulful confession of sin and proclamation of grace. The piece concludes with "Ke Na Le Modisa," a traditional South African interpretation of Psalm 23. Two of the eleven official languages of South Africa are represented in the trilogy. "Modimo" and "Ke Na Le Modisa" are sung in Sotho, and "Izwi Lahlab'Inhliziyo Yami" is in Zulu.

WANTING MEMORIES

Originally by Dr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock, this song is a reflection upon the death of her father. In pondering his death, she rediscovers his life in hers, transforming grief into contentment and mourning into a beautiful memory.

DEEP RIVER

A compilation of the traditional African American spirituals "Deep River" and "I Know I've Been Changed," a Limpopo River work song from Zimbabwe, and Aretha Franklin's gospel rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." River imagery tells the story of a spiritual transformation. The cold shock of the water is a realization of the existence of something bigger than the self. We rejoice, have finally crossed the river, but our origins and the suffering we have endured will never be forgotten.

ONE BY ONE

The song begins with "Woza Mfana," which translates to "Come, Boy" and is a call to meeting. The next part is "One by One," which is sung in Xhosa, one of the official languages of South Africa. "One by One" is a song borne out of the anti-apartheid movement, and expresses solidarity in the struggle against severe oppression.

RECEPTION AFTER THE PERFORMANCE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED