

A Grand Night for Singing: Empowering Futures Through Music and Art

On Saturday evening, 2 November 2024, the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) hosted the annual Dean's Concert, A Grand Night for Singing, at the UJ Arts Centre Theatre. This spectacular event brought together over 250 attendees and raised funds for the FADA Dean's Bursary Fund, which supports academically deserving students in FADA facing financial challenges.

The concert programme featured stunning operatic performances by Khayakazi Madlala (soprano), Sisikelelwe Mngenela (soprano) and Siyabonga Motloug (tenor), accompanied by pianist Eugene Joubert. They were joined on stage by Executive Dean, Prof Federico Freschi, who is an accomplished baritone, the acclaimed concert pianist Christopher Duigan, and the UJ Choir under direction of newly appointed Senior Choirmaster, Sizwe Mondlane.

The event also included a silent auction featuring unique art pieces donated by esteemed South African artists and FADA alumni. Highlights included works by renowned artists such as William Kentridge, Kim Berman, Gordon Froud, Farieda Nazier, Dr Foodz Halaal, Leon Krige, and Balekane Legoabe. Among the standout items were two exclusive portfolios, each containing 24 pieces: At the Threshold: Artists in Dialogue and Embedded: 30 Years of Democracy.

An audience member, Liz Delmort, shared her thoughts: "We were all blown away by the entire concert—how it was organized, the programme, and the performances. It was a perfect evening, and I hope it raised lots of funds. It certainly deserved to."

Prof Federico Freschi: "The Dean's Concert is not only about celebrating the arts but also about reaffirming our commitment to empowering the future leaders of the creative industries. The success of this event reflects the strength of our arts community and our dedication to supporting students on their academic journey." Kim Berman, UJ Professor and renowned artist: "It's an honour to contribute to an initiative that supports young artists. The silent auction is more than just a fundraiser—it's about investing in the future of South Africa's creative talent."



"Lakin Morgan Baatjies, Marketing Marketing at UJ Arts & Culture: "The concert was an unforgettable night that blended the beauty of performance with the impact of philanthropy.

Seeing so many people come together to support our students' futures has been truly inspiring." Support students in need by contributing to the Dean's Bursary Fund. Your donation can make a significant difference in helping talented students reach their academic and creative potential. For more information on how to give, please contact Lakin Morgan Baatjies at lakinmb@uj.ac.za.

Media links and interviews;

https://www.inyourpocket.com/johannesburg/myjoburg-with-federico-freschi-ujs-singing-dean_80231f

<https://www.enca.com/videos/uj-deans-concert-students-sing-future-arts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UcsVqnARqY>

[https://s3.eu-west-1.wasabisys.com/printclips-eu-west-1/20241108/954,Citizen,%20The%20\(Hammer%20&%20Gavel\)-Main_20241108_1_1_2.jpg](https://s3.eu-west-1.wasabisys.com/printclips-eu-west-1/20241108/954,Citizen,%20The%20(Hammer%20&%20Gavel)-Main_20241108_1_1_2.jpg)



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