

Local classical artists release a 'silent' album

Across the world, right now, from Cape Town to Kabul and London to Beijing, the arts are being silenced. Covid-19, conflict, censorship, loss of funding, displacement, even natural disasters, are seeing to it that the volume is being turned down on one of humanity's driving forces: creative expression.



Photo: Sydelle Willow Smith

But right here in South Africa, two organisations currently dealing with these enormous pressures, the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) and Cape Town Opera (CTO), are standing up for the arts, both here and internationally, with the release of a new album, *Cwaka. The Silence*. The album features recordings of silent versions of some of their greatest works. It also includes an original 49-second title track, *Cwaka. The Silence*.

The release of the album comes after the two organisations were forced to either stop live performances altogether or to perform to extremely limited audiences for 18 months now, leading to a significant loss of earnings.

Help raise funds for the cause

The call for donations is being done in a simple and effective manner. South Africans are encouraged to add the track to their Spotify playlists as a way of raising awareness and funds for the cause (royalties will top up the fund each time the song is played, at no cost to the listener). Those with a love for the renowned artist William Kentridge, who has designed the vinyl cover, can bid for one of 40 limited edition fine art print copies of the vinyl via the auction or purchase one of 50 limited edition copies of the vinyl.

The funds raised in this campaign will go directly towards supporting the classical arts in South Africa via the Duet Endowment Trust. The world-famous soprano Pretty Yende is one of the alumni who entered the global stage via the Cape Town Opera. They will also ensure the organisations can continue their work at grassroots levels in local communities where they are always on the lookout for discovering bright young talent from diverse, vulnerable, impoverished areas who have previously been underrepresented within the classical music industry.



SA music industry exposed: the money is not going to the artists

Niki Moore 29 Nov 2021



Nicholas Ackerman, director of the Duet Endowment Trust, commented: “We believe the arts are at the heart of what makes us human, what brings joy and meaning to life, and that they’re worth fighting for.

“Yes, we are asking people to listen to our silence - and then we want them to go out and support their own local creative voices as well,” says Ackerman, who is passionate about raising awareness and donations for the Duet Endowment Fund which was founded by his grandmother, Wendy Ackerman.

The public can listen to the album on audio streaming services such as Spotify or via the campaign [website](#). They can also watch a performance of the title track, donate to the fund, buy one of 50 limited edition copies of the vinyl, or register for the auction of one of only 40 limited edition fine art prints numbered and signed by artist William Kentridge.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>