



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

WELCOME ADDRESS: OPENING CEREMONY

1st UNISA SOUTHERN AFRICAN WIND INSTRUMENT COMPETITION

MIRIAM MAKEBA CONCERT HALL

MUCKLENEUK CAMPUS

27 June 2013

- Dr Karendra Devroop, Programme Director
- Ms Arisa Voges
- Distinguished jurists and shadow jurists
- Competitors
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is a real pleasure and an honour to welcome you to this first Unisa National Wind Competition.

Unisa's Music Foundation is one of this university's success stories. It has consistently performed in a manner that has not only brought honour to our university and our country, but with that honour, a reputation as a music centre of international standing and excellence. It has consistently shown its mettle and its ability to maintain the highest national and international standards. That, I assure you, is no mean feat. What it speaks to, is an unwavering commitment to excellence and professionalism and a deep love and dedication to music. And this illustrious competition ladies and gentlemen, encapsulates all of those qualities.

Another characteristic of a department or foundation of excellence is that it never rests on its laurels, but continuously seeks to stretch, develop and extend its practice and influence beyond narrow or rigidly defined parameters. That too has been a hallmark of the Unisa Music Foundation and we have shared some wonderful and inspiring performances by the young and the not so young as they cut their teeth as budding musicians, on programmes, different genres and initiatives developed, led and supported by the Foundation. Recently we have added to this proud tradition by hosting other types of

competitions including national and international strings and voice competitions, we also launched our Jazz school last year, which was very warmly received by the national community.

This competition then, continues a tradition that was begun at Unisa thirty years ago, of holding music competitions that would bring together both budding and accomplished musicians, to test and hone their abilities and skills against their peers, locally and ultimately, internationally.

Our competitions have never disappointed us in the quality and calibre of the contestants, the competition and the organisation, and so we can all look forward with anticipation and excitement to a time of unadulterated edification.

This competition marks an important milestone since it is the very first wind competition for Unisa in their 30 years of hosting competitions. It is possibly the only national wind competition in the country and we are proud that Unisa is once again leading the way forward. The competition was deliberately opened to candidates from South Africa and our neighbouring countries in an effort to build stronger ties with our neighbours and to encourage them to participate. We look forward with interest to the meld of sounds and the variety in pulses that this will produce.

Several very strong candidates applied from across the country, but unfortunately we were only able to select 14 to participate, after the initial screening process. Our warmest congratulations go to those candidates who made the cut. The fact that you are here is already an indication that you are among the very finest wind performers in the country. We trust that your participation in this competition will lead to greater opportunities for you, as you embark on and progress in your musical careers.

Our jury panel was very carefully selected from the wealth of incredible performers and educators across the country, and we are justifiably proud to have some of our country's finest performers and educators serving on the jury.

As with any competition, the jury is always tasked with formidable challenges in determining which candidates should go through to the final round and ultimately be awarded the grand prize. We trust your judgment as professionals and wish you the very best as you begin your duties later today.

The shadow jury, which is a concept unique to Unisa is now a standard feature on our competitions. It is comprised of students and tutors from our Community Music Engagement programme. Wish them well

as they take on their very first responsibilities as future potential adjudicators and examiners.

It remains for me, on behalf of the Council, Management, Staff and students of the University of South Africa to wish you well with this competition. Best wishes to all candidates. May this be fair competition, and also, a good learning experience for all of you.

I thank you.