

## Anthems of the World Concert for the United Nations Day, 2023, in Uganda



**Above:** UN Diplomats, Ambassadors, Makerere University and the Choir. **Below:** The Makorale



**By:** Makorale – Makerere University Community Choir  
**Hosted:** Makerere University Innovation Hub – YL CTF Auditorium

### ***Preamble***

The “Anthems of the World” concert was a choral music presentation that featured national anthems of selected countries of the world in commemoration of the 2023 United Nations Day celebrations in Uganda. This concert aimed to explore connections between music and nationalism as embodied in the national anthems of different countries of the world. In line with this year’s United Nations theme: **"Home and Belonging,"** the concert aimed to help the public build mental images of their respective home experiences and shared values of sovereignty through the singing of select national anthems in their respective native or official languages. Ultimately, the purpose of the concert was to further contribute to the public's appreciation of the global cultural diversity, respect and understanding for one another, and to the enhancement of the world’s social harmony and universal peace, as emphasized in the United Nations Charter. The repertoire list comprised of 24 national anthems representing countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe, the UN Hymn and the Makerere University anthem.

The performance procedure for the Anthems of the World concert was participatory in nature, involving the choir and the audience for the various roles of the performance. For clarity purposes, the anthems in this concert were not used in their traditional sense of performing a political function, but rather, as pieces of a country’s heritage for purposes of sharing a bit of that heritage with the public. Therefore, it was not mandatory for people to remain standing while all national anthems were being sung. Each national anthem was introduced by a national (mostly Ambassadors) by providing the inspiration behind it and a brief about the country. All nationals and associates of that country were invited to stand while the choir sung their national anthem, and thereafter, everyone celebrated that nation.

### ***Remarks***

#### **Dr. Milton Wabyona, Convener and Choir Director**

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Wabyona, referred to the notion that national anthems are compact summaries of a country at its people. He thus posited that through the singing of these anthems, we are more likely to know more about others, and more likely to understand others, hence the more likelihood to appreciate and respect others. Music provides us with an honest and universal medium of communication for all of us.

Dr. Wabyona made reference to a line in the UN Hymn: *“Let music for peace be the paradigm,”* as support of the ideology of music as a medium of peace for humans. He believed that through this concert, each one of us will have a little knowledge and understanding of the other, which is a sure way towards the world’s social harmony and to fostering of genuine universal peace. This is the same ideal that inspired the formation of the Makorale Choir. The Makorale, is a Makerere University community ensemble comprised of current and former students of Makerere University, faculty and other members of the university community. The overall goal of the ensemble is to harness the vast benefits of music in shaping a peaceful society and cultivating education opportunities in the performing arts for students.

#### **Dr. Pamela Khanakwa, Dean – School of Liberal and Performing Arts (Representing the Vice Chancellor, Makerere University)**

Dr. Pamela Khanakwa welcomed everyone to Makerere University. She expressed how proud Makerere was in hosting this prestigious United Nations Day celebration on the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN formation. Dr. Khanakwa recalled that in her early years of school, the UN seemed a distant and an abstract concept but as we grew, we got to realize that we are part of the United Nations. She reiterated the core mission of the UN as about humanity, peace and unity.

Dr. Khanakwa was touched by the UN theme of “Home and Belonging,” which she said speaks deeply to our hearts. And here at Makerere we feel as small United Nations of sorts because of the diversity of our staff, students and the multiple collaborations that we have, she added. As a university, we tow in the same line with the ideals of the UN, because Makerere is home to many students from different countries, both neighboring and beyond. Our curriculum is not only about teaching and research, but we’re also actively engaged in initiatives that promote peace. In the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, we have a department of Religion and Peace Studies. Makerere University also hosts a prestigious Rotary Peace Center, which is highly recognized around the world, and is involved in training different scholars from around the world in peace initiatives. Makerere also provides space for national, regional and international dialogues that champion the cause of peace in the world.

In regard to the day’s main activity, Dr. Khanakwa spoke passionately about anthems as part of our heritage and inspiration as a people. “There is a way we feel when we listen to anthems.” She drew from her personal experience of how she felt when she heard the Ugandan national anthem sung while she was in United States. She reaffirmed that anthems give us a sense of belonging and our identity. Dr. Khankwa concluded by thanking the UN Uganda office for supporting this event, Makerere University Innovation Hub for hosting, the Makorale choir and Dr. Milton Wabyona for making CHUSS and Makerere proud. She looked forward to listening to different national anthems of different countries and hoped the experience would help us reflect on the power of music, the power of unity and how these anthems promote nationalism and humanity.

**Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo: UN Resident Coordinator, Uganda Office**

Ms. Susan acknowledged their Excellency, the Ambassadors and Heads of the various Diplomatic missions present. She thanked Makerere University, Dr. Pamela Khanakwa, representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and the general Makerere University staff and the students for hosting the concert. The Anthems of the World concert at Makerere University was organized in celebration the 78th anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945. Ms. Susan commended the Makorale – a Makerere University community choir for putting together this incredible musical show piece, which further underlined Makerere’s leadership in various spheres.

The UN Resident Coordinator made reference national anthems described as compact summaries of a country's heritage, history, struggles, and aspirations. She posited that the Anthems of the World Concert aimed to offer a glimpse into each other's cherished heritage, fostering a sense of interconnectedness. She hoped that, beyond enjoying the musical performance, attendees would reaffirm their commitment to sustainable development goals, addressing global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, and economic issues. The importance of recognizing a shared humanity and interconnectedness, as much as she encouraged efforts towards a safer, greener, and more sustainable Uganda and world. Ms. Susan concluded by encouraging students to learn more about the United Nations and contribute to its development.

**Anthems of the World Concert**  
**Makerere University**  
**October 31, 2023 at Yusuf Lule CTF Auditorium**

Time	Activity
12:00-2:00pm	Arrival and registration
	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
2:00-2:30pm	 Courtesies and Anthems led by the Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Marion Alina & Mr. Stephen Y. Kasamba <b>Republic of Uganda</b> <b>Anthem of the United Nations (Hymn of the UN)</b> <b>Makerere University</b>  Welcome Remarks: Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe; Vice Chancellor- Makerere University  Introductory remarks on United Nations Day: Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo; UN Resident Coordinator  Chief Guest: Hon. John Mulimba; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Affairs)  Group photo
	<b>Introduction of the Anthems of the World concert. Dr. Milton Wabyona; Choir Director</b>
2:30-4:45pm	<b>AFRICA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. South Africa – <i>Nkosi Sikeleli Africa</i>**</li> <li>2. Algeria - <i>Qassaman</i></li> <li>3. Kenya – <i>Ee Mungu Nguvu Yetu</i>*</li> <li>4. Nigeria – <i>Arise, O Compatriots</i></li> <li>5. Botswana – <i>Fatshe Leno la Rona</i>**</li> <li>6. Tanzania – <i>Mungu Ibariki Afrika</i>*</li> </ol> <b>AMERICA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cuba – <i>El Himno de Bayamo</i>*</li> <li>2. Trinidad and Tobago – <i>Forged from the Love of Liberty</i></li> <li>3. Canada – <i>O Canada</i></li> <li>4. United States – <i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i>**</li> </ol> <b>ASIA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Japan – <i>Kimigayo</i>**</li> <li>2. Saudi Arabia – <i>Long Live the King</i></li> <li>3. United Arab Emirates – <i>Ishy Bilady</i></li> <li>4. China – <i>March of the Volunteers</i>*</li> </ol> <b>EUROPE</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Norway – <i>Ja Vi Elesker Dette Landet</i>**</li> <li>2. United Kingdom – <i>God Save the King</i>**</li> <li>3. Sweden – <i>Du Gamla, Du Fria</i>**</li> <li>4. Germany – <i>Deutschland lied</i>**</li> <li>5. Iceland- <i>Ó Guð vors lands</i>*</li> <li>6. Turkey – <i>Istiklal Marsi</i>*</li> <li>7. Hungary – <i>Himnusz</i>**</li> <li>8. France - <i>La Marseillaise</i></li> </ol>
4:45-5:pm	 <b>Closing Remarks: Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo; UN Resident Coordinator</b>
	<b>Vote of Thanks by Makerere University: Prof. Patrick Mangeni (Former Dean, SLPA)</b>
5:00pm	Departure



- \*\* Denotes represented by the Ambassador and a host of dignitaries for that country.
- \* Denotes represented by nationals and associates of that country.

## PICTURES



Welcome to Makerere: Dr. Pamela Khanakwa receives the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, to the Anthems of the World Stage.



Introducing the national anthems of Hungary



US Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. William Bill Bent introducing the “Star Spangled Banner” the National Anthem of the United States of America



Diplomatic applause!



