

THE AMANDLA PROJECT 1990 - 1991



**PRESENTED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURE / ANC REGIONAL OFFICE,
ZIMBABWE.**

"Anyone remotely interested in politics, theatre or dance should burn a trail to see Amandla"

- "Observer" (U.K.)

"Proof of the power of music to express the tragedy of South Africa's racial policies"

- "Globe & Mail" (Canada)

"A cross between a magnificent church choir and a top Broadway cast"

- "Herald" (Australia)

"One of the most lively & important groups in Southern Africa"

- "Zimbabwe Herald"

WHAT IS AMANDLA ?

Amandla is the performing ensemble of the African National Congress. This 32-member group - composed of young people who fled South Africa after the murder of demonstrating schoolchildren in 1976 by the apartheid state - has toured extensively and successfully worldwide since 1978. Amandla works on a non-profit basis: income generated by tours goes to support and develop the group. Amandla's theme, in fact, is "Culture for self-reliance, liberation and democracy."

Currently, income from tours is earmarked to resettle Amandla in South Africa. A tour of Japan will take place in October 1990 and this will realise a major proportion of the income needed for the group to return home. Once in South Africa, the group will tour, run workshops, enroll in further theatrical training and become the core of ANC developmental programmes in the performing arts for the South African people

We do not know exactly when Amandla will return home - given the very complex nature of the negotiating process, relocation may take time. And in the meantime, Amandla need a rehearsal base where they can:

- * prepare for tours like the Japan tour
- * continue their drive for ever better professional standards
- * develop their capacity to become self-supporting performers
- * extend their co-operation with other musicians in the region to build our common democratic, non-racial future.

WHY THE AMANDLA PROJECT ?

Amandla have been based in Luanda, Angola. But the pressures of war in that country have made rehearsal ever more difficult. Electricity and water are frequently cut off, food supplies are delayed, and now the Angolan Government feels that it needs the rehearsal hall it so generously lent to Amandla for its own cultural workers, themselves under pressure from the war. Just as Amandla were taking the first decisive steps towards professionalism, catastrophe threatens.

We have selected Harare as Amandla's new base. It offers a welcoming and hospitable people and Government, good rehearsal, performance and communication facilities and an opportunity to integrate into a sophisticated performing arts scene. Amandla can both learn from their Zimbabwean counterparts and make a contribution to that community. But to move 32 people across Southern Africa and house, clothe and feed them - all at very short notice - will cost around US\$ 40,000.

**WE APPEAL TO YOU TO SUPPORT THE AMANDLA PROJECT -
CULTURE FOR SELF-RELIANCE, LIBERATION AND
DEMOCRACY!**

AMANDLA IS MAKING ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION.

US\$20,000 from the expected profits of the Japan tour has already been pledged by the group as bridging expenses, in case there is a shortfall in fundraising. ANC Departmental and Regional

cultural funding is being donated, along with all the administrative costs for the project. However, if we cannot repay these amounts through fundraising, we will have that much less for the vital task of resettling our cultural workers in South Africa.

A CONTRIBUTION TO AMANDLA IS ALSO A CONTRIBUTION TO ZIMBABWE'S CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Plans are already underway for joint projects with the Ethnomusicology Programme of the College of Music in Harare. Amandla musicians also hope to raise funds for other relevant Zimbabwe charities. Amandla has the full support of the relevant Zimbabwe authorities in moving here. For this we are grateful and we intend to demonstrate our gratitude in the most practical way we know how - with our talents.

WHAT DO WE NEED ?

Amandla is seeking contributions in cash or in kind to our costs of US\$40,000. Airfares alone will cost the group around US\$20,000. Living and accommodation costs for the first six weeks will amount to US\$11,000. We also need insurance (medical and equipment) to protect the group and a bus or kombi to move us around Zimbabwe.

WHAT CAN WE GIVE ?

Amandla is prepared to undertake workplace performances. In addition, those organisations which have made pre-tour rehearsal possible will receive full acknowledgement when we tour.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANISATION CAN BECOME INVOLVED IN THE AMANDLA PROJECT. CONTACT: