

Pinky Ngcobo-Khoza

– Finding her passion under COVID-19

We have always known that Pinky is a very talented musician. Today she is referred to by the media as MaNgcobo-Khoza with great respect and admiration.

MaNgcobo-Khoza has always been singing at MUT's year-end events and probably at some private functions too. She has produced a single, "Izizwe," which is available on all online platforms and is taking South Africa by storm. She is also busy producing an album which is soon to be finalised.

It was MaNgcobo-Khoza's video on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube that got her noticed by the SABC who did a cutting-edge profile on her on Women's Day this year. The SABC interview drew attention to the government's lack of support for the arts, leading to artists' talents being hidden because they still have to work full-time while pursuing their passion. In the case of Pinky, she works full-time providing secretarial support to the Executive Management Committee at MUT – a job she does tremendously!

MaNgcobo-Khoza grew up in Ozwathini, at Bhamshela in the Maphumulo region. She attended Ngayiphi Primary School and later Ngcongcongcong and Skhulile Secondary schools. After studying at MUT, she went to DUT for her BTech and thereafter acquired a Master's degree in Public Administration.

Under the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020, she began pursuing her dream. Starting small, she realised that she could combine her passion and her job. The result was to select a music genre that fitted her and dovetailed with her mission in life. This is to contribute to the nation-building agenda and encourage women and the youth to shine wherever they are, regardless of circumstances. Her genre, African Spiritual Music, aims to bring hope amidst all the pain that South Africa has gone through, from the COVID-19 pandemic to Gender-Based Violence. This genre has made a hit in KwaZulu-Natal and soon MaNgcobo-Khoza will be a force to be reckoned with.

"I am on a journey to make people appreciate their roots through my music. During the lockdown in 2020, I read about so many painful things that were happening among the disenfranchised communities. I then took it upon myself to write music that would heal the nation. At the back of my mind I also wanted a music genre that would remind us of where we have come from. As I wrote my music I realised that I had to align it to my own voice. This is the voice that my people long ago used when they sang songs. Embarking on this journey is not easy at all. First, I must be loyal to my employer. This means a lot of hard work for me and I still have to give my time to my family. As the saying goes, 'Where there is a will there is a way.' I pray that my dream to make my voice heard through music will be realised soon," said MaNgcobo-Khoza.

