ADDRESS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR CYRIL XABA AT THE KWAZULU-NATAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SPRING SYMPHONY SEASON, 6 NOVEMBER 2025

- Programme Director
- Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr Bongani Tembe
- Members of the Orchestra
- Our guest conductor, Maestro Daniel Boico, and our featured soloist, the acclaimed violinist, Mr Jack Liebeck
- Esteemed sponsors, partners, and patrons whose generous support sustains the arts in our city
- Members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of business and civil society
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening.

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to this inspiring Spring Symphony Season concert, proudly presented by our very own KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ladies and gentlemen, we take immense pride in this institution — not only for enriching South African culture through world-class musical excellence, but also for its contribution to the economic and social vitality of our city and province.

We deeply appreciate the Orchestra's educational and community outreach programmes, which play a vital role in nurturing and developing the artistic talent of our young people.

I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Durban Playhouse Company for preserving this magnificent, state-of-the-art complex — a true hub of the performing arts and a driving force behind cultural tourism in our city.

The partnership between the eThekwini Municipality and the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra is one founded on shared purpose and vision — the belief that culture is essential to the wellbeing and cohesion of our communities. The Symphony is not only a jewel in our artistic crown but also a catalyst for education, tourism, and social harmony.

Tonight, as the curtain rises on this splendid season, we come together to celebrate the beauty of orchestral music and the spirit of renewal, creativity, and unity that define both spring and our shared humanity.

As we listen to tonight's performance, let us reflect on the power of the arts to inspire, to connect, and to build a united and inclusive society. Indeed, eThekwini is proud to be home to this world-class orchestra — a bridge between communities, generations, and the wider world.

With these remarks, I wish you all a joyful and uplifting evening. Please sit back, relax, and enjoy the performance.

I thank you.