

Wouter Kellerman receives Order of Ikhamanga

University of Johannesburg (UJ) alumnus and internationally acclaimed flautist, composer, and producer Wouter Kellerman received the prestigious Order of Ikhamanga in Gold from President Cyril Ramaphosa on May 19, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to music, cultural diplomacy, and community development.

Kellerman, who graduated in electrical engineering from the former Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), now part of UJ, was honoured during the national investiture ceremony at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria.

His recognition with one of South Africa’s highest civilian honours places him among the country’s most celebrated cultural figures, and further demonstrates the growing global influence of UJ alumni across the arts, science, business, and public life.

In 2024, UJ recognised Kellerman with its prestigious Dignitas Alumni Award for bridging cultural divides through music and mentorship, and for building a global legacy of art infused with activism.

Kellerman’s journey from engineering student at RAU to internationally celebrated musician and three-time Grammy Award winner reflects the transformative and interdisciplinary ethos of UJ, where

innovation, creativity, and excellence are cultivated across fields.

Over the past two decades, Kellerman has become synonymous with musical innovation, blending African rhythms with classical, jazz, world, and contemporary music traditions. His genre-defying sound has earned him three Grammy Awards, nine South African Music Awards, multiple international nominations, and chart-topping success across global music platforms.

His first Grammy Award came in 2015 for the album *Winds of Samsara*, created with Indian composer Ricky Kej. In 2023, he won a second Grammy alongside South African artists Zakes Bantwini and Nomcebo Zikode for the global hit *Bayethe*. Earlier this year, Kellerman secured his third Grammy for *Triveni*, a cross-cultural collaboration with Chandrika Tandon and Eru Matsumoto that won Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album at the 67th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Beyond his musical accolades, Kellerman has consistently used music as a platform for social impact and mentorship. His collaborations with artists such as the Ndlovu Youth Choir helped shine an international spotlight on emerging South African talent and demonstrated the unifying power of music across cultural and



Grammy-winning flautist and composer Wouter Kellerman (third from right) is honoured with the UJ Dignitas Alumni Award 2024 for bridging cultural divides through his music and mentorship, leaving a global legacy of art infused with activism.

geographic boundaries.

In announcing the honour, the presidency praised Kellerman, “for his outstanding personal achievements as a flautist, composer and arranger and his contribution to community development by leveraging music as a means to motivate young people to flourish through musical expression.”

The presidency further noted that he has demonstrated the power of music as a universal language, which can unify

South Africans and bring people across geographical and cultural borders together in appreciation of heartfelt art.

The Order of Ikhamanga, named after the strelitzia flower, is South Africa’s highest national honour for exceptional achievement in arts, culture, literature, music, journalism, and sport. Bestowed by the president of South Africa, the gold class recognises exceptional achievement and international acclaim.

Campaign for domestic workers looks to bring dignity to every home

Domestic workers across South Africa are regularly working 14-hour days, living apart from their families, earning below the national minimum wage, and subjected to bullying, assault, and discrimination behind the closed doors of private homes.

This is the reality the Dignity in Every Home campaign is seeking to change.

Launched as a national initiative and running with particular relevance during workers’ month, the campaign is focused on strengthening awareness of domestic workers’ rights, and supporting employers to create fair, safe, dignified, and lawful home/work environments.

The campaign is a collaboration between Izwi Domestic Workers Alliance, the Socioeconomic Rights Institute of South Africa (Seri), the United Domestic Workers of South Africa (UDWOSA), and the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU).

Amy Tekie, co-founder of Izwi, says the nature of domestic work means abuses often go unseen. “It is now time for us to talk about this as a society, to admit that these practices are unconstitutional yet widespread, and to ensure that things change.”

Tekie added that some employers treat domestic employment as an informal arrangement, even framing it as a favour to the worker, while simultaneously depending on those workers for the most intimate care of their children, elderly relatives, and homes. “As employers, we must understand the responsibility we take on when inviting someone to work in our homes.”

The campaign has produced three

practical resources to guide employers. The first: Are you a fair employer?, is available as an interactive quiz and checklist on the campaign website and covers essentials such as UIF registration, minimum wage compliance, working hours, and respectful treatment.

At the national minimum wage of R30.23 per hour, a full-time domestic worker earns R5 239.46 per month, from which they must cover transport, rent, food, electricity, and school costs for their families.

The website also offers a living wage calculator to help employers assess whether what they pay is genuinely enough.

The second resource: The code of good conduct for accommodating live-in domestic workers, addresses the situation of workers who live on their employers’ properties, including those in residential estates and body corporates.

The code sets out standards for accommodation, privacy, food, freedom of movement, and freedom from harassment, noting that many residential associations still impose rules that discriminate against domestic workers in ways that are plainly unconstitutional.

The third resource: Employing a domestic worker: A legal and practical guide, developed by Seri and Izwi, covers working hours, wages, deductions, overtime, leave, disciplinary procedures, UIF and COIDA registration, and termination of employment, along with a frequently asked questions section.

When a domestic worker is employed, the home legally becomes a workplace and the employer is bound by labour law. “Fair and respectful working conditions create stability, protect employers, allow workers to thrive, and are a fundamental building

block of our nation’s social prosperity,” Tekie says.

All three resources are available at www.dignityineveryhome.org.za. Employers or organisations with queries can contact Izwi at info@izwi.org.za.



Domestic worker Anna Nkobebe works at the house of her employer.



YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE!

SILVER STREAM RETIREMENT VILLAGE

9 HEATHER STREET, MALANSHOF

ON SHOW

Discover a lifestyle of comfort, care, and community at Silver Stream Retirement Village. Offering beautifully maintained accommodation and tranquil surroundings, Silver Stream provides a warm and welcoming environment where residents can truly feel at home.

With a strong focus on security and peace of mind, residents benefit from a safe, well-managed setting, along with access to supportive healthcare services when needed. A variety of social activities and communal spaces encourage connection, engagement, and an active lifestyle, while still allowing for privacy and independence.

Whether you’re looking to simplify your lifestyle or enjoy a relaxed and fulfilling new chapter, Silver Stream Retirement Village offers the perfect balance of convenience, comfort, and community.

FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2026
10am - 12pm
BY APPOINTMENT

- ✓ Tour our beautiful retirement village and on-site Care Centre
- ✓ View available units designed for comfortable living
- ✓ Meet our friendly team and welcoming residents
- ✓ Experience the warm, vibrant community atmosphere

Managed by Flower Foundation Retirement Homes
Trusted Since 1963 - Over 60 Years of Caring Experience

For More Information

🌐 www.flower.org.za
☎ 011 781 4920
📞 066 031 9052