

**PROGRAM DATE: 2015-02-05**

**PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY**

**GUEST NAME: DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA (GUEST SYNOPSIS)	This week's programme features multi award winning singer, composer and performer Dr. Sibongile Khumalo. Our discussion addresses contributions of the arts towards humanity; emphasising cultural, social and educational contexts. We highlight the outcomes of arts education towards cognitive development and life skills. We consider the multidimensional characteristics of women that should be embraced rather than suppressed as women assert their identities and pursue their choices in life whilst overcoming gender stereotypes. Tune in for more...
DR. MALKA	Joining us in studio today is multi award winning singer, composer and performer Dr. Sibongile Khumalo, who has been described as South Africa's first lady of song. Her dynamic repertoire includes opera, jazz, choral music and musical theatre, grounded by the traditional and folk musics of South Africa. Her performances as a soloist and in collaboration with other artists have taken her across the globe. She has received numerous accolades for her stage and recorded work, is a recipient of The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver, is a recipient of the Naledi Theatre Lifetime Achievement Award and holds 3 honorary doctorates from Rhodes University, University of South Africa, University of Zululand. Sibongile Khumalo is fundamentally an integral part of the South African music industry. Welcome to the show.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for having me here.</b>
DR. MALKA	You were born and grew up in Orlando West Soweto.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Yes</b>
DR. MALKA	Your mother, Grace, was a nurse and your father, Khabi Mngoma, was a music professor and historian
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Yeah.</b>
DR. MALKA	Now along the years you have been described interchangeably as South Africa's "First Lady of Song" and "The Empress of Song". You are the most celebrated member of a musical dynasty marked by an extraordinary vocal gene pool and passion for music making. Can you please take us to some of those moments growing up as a child in Soweto, who tried to make sense of understanding the world around her and what influenced your life perspective the most?
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Ok, where do I start? Yes indeed I was born and raised in Soweto in Orlando West Soweto. Born of highly musical parents, who were both professionals. My mother was a nurse and my dad was initially a teacher.</b>

	<p>My elder brother is a cellist, umm, very involved with choral music himself and interestingly enough when I grew up, you know it was a question of, yes hearing the music that my dad played but also hearing a lot of the music that my elder brother played because he was a jazz, what was I supposed what is referred to as a jazz efficianary. So I found myself straddling those worlds. But then also without knowing that, that was what I was doing, I found myself listening a lot to radio stations like Springbok radio or like Radio Zulu which played a lot of mplikana music, muskati music, ethnic music basically of all kinds. All little bit of the Sotho stations I suppose umm. I don't even know what they were called then. But it, it was yah, Radio Ubuntu.</p>
DR. MALKA	So it was a full mix of not only
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Totally!</b>
DR. MALKA	Different genres, but different languages.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>Totally! I mean living in Soweto there was no way you couldn't be influenced by all those languages. But also there was a very interesting tradition where you, you could find yourself listening to say the music of Leta Mbulu being played on a Sunday morning whilst somebody cooked and cleaned their yard and cleaned the outside stoop. Umm and listening to the music of Hugh Masekela, listening to the music of the Soul Brothers. Your next door neighbour there would be a sangoma perhaps, you know, and the night before, this is during the weekend now, there would have been drumming going on and somehow you know, I suppose a child's mind is a sponge, so you absorb all of these sounds. The back opposite neighbour would be having a prayer session with their Zionist church, and I grew up in that kind of space because indeed our next door neighbour was a sangoma and our back opposite neighbours were Zionist church people. So it yah, and it, Zionist</b></p>
DR. MALKA	What a fascinating way to grow up
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>It was a beautiful way to grow up. I didn't know at the time it was awesome but indeed when I grew up and I could actually fully appreciate and understand what was going on, I've never been able to say thank you enough for being in that space.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	I think diversity is critical but to have it right there on your door step. What a special experience.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>Yah up the road, and actually up the road was a man's hostel. The Dube Hostel, as it was called and members of the Church of Shembe used to worship there every Saturday afternoon. So even as I hated to be sent to the shops, Saturday afternoons was an okay time to go to the shops because, then you know I would walk across the road and stand outside the fence there and just listen to this music and watch them do their delicate, ancient actually, shoe shuffling you know, it looked like ballet but almost pre something, I don't know pre what, but yeah it was a fascinating, fascinating experience and that beautiful exposure, I guess to a young mind. Yah.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	And going through from having grown up in that environment to I suppose the middle of your career, you performed at numerous prestigious venues, including The Royal Festival Hall and Elizabeth Hall at the Barbican Centre in London, The Kennedy Centre in Washington DC, the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, the Het Muzik Teater-Amsterdam, Ronnie Scott's London, as well as, what I think is more important, every major theatre and jazz club in South

	<p>Africa, because I think often when people become a success they almost gauge their success on what their international contributions are, done the international circuit, but you have also represented in your homage to South Africa. You've appeared as a guest for all major orchestras on home soil, performed at all major jazz festivals in South Africa. I won't ask you about your outstanding achievements, which I'm sure you've been asked many times before, but what I would like you to share with us is your personal perspective on how you've seen places and crowds change along the years that you've performed.</p>
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>You know, human nature is human nature. There are so many similarities among people. When people go out to a concert or festival. Firstly they go out there because they want to be entertained. So the wish to be given a quality performance of whatever nature, is common amongst all the people. How have they changed? Perhaps, you could say they have changed the demographics of a country, perhaps is more represented. You know, just to go back a little, you were saying, you were talking about having performed in all the major festivals and concert halls of this country . My one big wish still is to travel more on the African continent . I just don't know enough about Africa. Yes, the southern part of, of this continent I could safely say I've been there, I've been to Swaziland, Botswana, I've been to Lesotho, I've been to Zimbabwe, I've been to Mozambique. You know that kind of thing. So I'd like to create an opportunity for myself somehow to go to all these other places I haven't been to</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And going into those environments would you consider it more from a musical element. So doing collaborations with local artists of those countries or as opposed to just as an individual and being able to appreciate and value the cultures of those different countries.</p>
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>Either way. Either way. Either way, whichever way it happens, um, I would hope that I would have an opportunity to, to share something besides the music. I think there's, there's a common thread amongst all people, to be touched as a human being, to be appreciated as a human being. It, it, it sounds like a cliché now but we all share common humanity, I believe. We all share that sense of oneness . Umm there are certain values, I suppose, that are common also, you know umm, compassion, a sense of loyalty, umm that just goes through ever race, ever country on the planet.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Well it's a whole sense of humanity that you've described in a nut shell.</p>
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>Absolutely!</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>We, I think that's something that we should all aspire for.</p>
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>Absolutely!</b></p>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	<p>Turning back towards the music element. Music has always been a huge inspiration to people and occasionally it has been exploited to influence political as well as social agendas around the world. How do you see the role of musicians in that regard.</p>
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<p><b>I will die a happy woman if musicians themselves first start to understand what their role is. Yes there's the entertainment element which is an important element, but artists in general, but musicians more specifically are spiritual beings. That essence of their spirituality is something that musicians need to understand, need to appreciate, need to interrogate a bit</b></p>

	<b>more than just singing and making nice sounds whether it's your voice or through an instrument.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	Well they have such an impact on people lives.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Yeah. It's something that not most musician understand or appreciate and I think the day musicians come to grips with that, is the day that we'll probably find a lot more change in the world than we have at the moment. Everything is used for good and for bad.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	Well music can bring out emotions, people listen to different things when they are feeling a certain way, when they feeling sad, when they feeling happy so it has a tremendous affect...
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>No it does, it does. Music has that essence actually to it and so when musicians understand that their work goes beyond just making money as well. You know they say that money is the route of all evil. There's nothing wrong with money, it's how you understand and appreciate and use it. So musicians have a responsibility, I believe, to try and draw out something good in people, something grounding into people. Musicians, artists, generally musicians particularly again, are healers as well. So when a musician understands that of him or herself, you see it in the music that they create, in the music they perform, the music they write for others if they are just song writers. You hear it even in the chords, the way the music flows and follows each other. The way a melody rises and falls, brings out that healing. You hear people say it to you "You know I was so down when I came here but now I am feeling so much better. Thank you". That's why I say you know artists generally, musicians especially they have that role, they have that place um in our lives and the day that they understand that, before even understanding what or how society understands or perceives, um, what music does to them, the creators of this music need to understand that themselves, first and fore most.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	I think that is very insightful perspective on getting that understanding and realisation that musicians are spiritual healers in a way for, for humanity.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I believe that. I really do believe that. I've seen it with a lot of people I know and a lot of my friends.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	We'll be right back after this.
<b>AD BREAK</b>	
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	You're listening to Womanity – Woman in Unity on Channel Africa. The voice of the African renaissance on frequency 9625 kilo hertz on the 31 meter band. Today we talking to multi award winning musician, Sibongile Khumalo, We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. In our previous segment we were talking about the early days, the cultural influences, the influences of your neighbours, on how that shaped your perspectives of music, whether you had sangomas, whether you had the Christian church's. It was a whole eclectic mix which influenced your career. Now what I would like to talk about is moving almost away from your personal journey, but the way you have touched others and I think you have been very instrumental in terms of the involvement of different associations and organisations. You are a founding member of the Performers Organisation of South Africa, The Association of South African Business Woman in the Arts, you sit on the board of The Southern African Music Rights Organisation and you've served on the boards of National Arts Festival Grahamstown and among others Opera Africa. Does taking an integral part in so many important organisations and associations come with the territory of a person becoming an

	international performer or is it something that has grown on you along the years and is it part of your identity?
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I think it's safe to say that somehow one has gotten involved with these different organisations simply because it became expected that one would contribute something to, to, to one's community.</b>
DR. MALKA	But some people don't.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I know some people. Yeah. I'm a sucker for punishment. I don't know. Some people don't. No. I guess just seeing, especially my dad, my mom was a nurse, a mother and a house wife, but my father was, was a, was a big champion of community involvement. He believed very firmly that when you exposed a child to, to the arts, you not developing the next big thing in that particular field that they were training in but you were developing an all rounded human being who would be a contributor to society, who would be a good citizen, who would be an empathetic person, because say you in a choir or a dance troupe or whatever other group you in, of necessity you have become sensitive to what other people's needs are, because you have to listen right. And so coming from that kind of back ground I guess I found an imperative dimension of my life to be part of something so that I can contribute something to that . I guess that thing also is that you have to open your mind to new possibilities and I guess that's what being, being able to, to join in like that forces you to grow, it forces you to keep an open mind. Being able to say yes to more things than you saying no too. Also just says you know okay I've said yes, what am I bringing into this space, what am I bringing, what am I saying, what am I contributing into this space and it allows you an opportunity to learn. You have to learn. You have to. You have to learn.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	I am a full supporter of lifelong learning, an absolute advocate and I see it in every dimension but being able to view aspects, all aspects of your industry, to understand how all those intrinsics work, how they fit together, having that broad perspective. But focusing from an education point of view, as a person who has consciously pursued her academic education and believes that education is a vital tool to empower individuals and societies. You began your musical journey at the age of eight through the guidance of your dad who seemed to be so instrumental in your life. A professor of music Khabi Mngoma. You then obviously completed your academic education. You hold music degrees from the University of Zululand and Wits University as well as a higher diploma in personal management. You have taught and researched music at the University of Zululand, the Federated Union of Black Arts Academy at the Madimba Institute of African Music. Do you think that we as a country are doing enough to actual educate the next generation of our citizens especially women in under-privileged communities?
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	That's a question that always gets me into trouble because I get so angry. There's a lot of lip service that's paid to, to, to the education umm of our children generally. There's very little arts education in our schools for our children. And I think part of the challenge with that, in particular with regards to arts education is that arts has been seen as a, we talk of a creative industries now, we don't talk of arts, because our country is embroiled in so many social issues, right. Every, every sphere, every aspect of, of our development of our education is, is linked to social development and how we create jobs for people.
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	There's an economic aspect.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	There's always economic, yes, there's always an economic interest to things I do. And that's, that's okay I suppose. That's necessary
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	I, I have to say though on what you've said to me in terms of the community involvement, the way that being in a choir forces you to listen to other people.

	It has that community connection, it's got a bonding affect. And I, until this conversation now, I never thought of music in that way. I've never thought about that type of connection, which so vividly has come through in the conversation.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Arts education is a life skill. It's about empowering children. It's about equipping children with an ability to do certain things. There are studies, anecdotal evidence of how when fourteen, fifteen year olds are exposed to music education, in this particular instance they develop cognitive, cognitive understanding of so many other things. The critical thing here also that we need to keep in mind Dr. Malka, is that when a child is taught, say a song, they have the need to stand on that stand in front of the peers and do well, right. There's, there's no way you going to stand there and make a fool of yourself, you cannot.</b>
DR. MALKA	Absolutely.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>If you're an actor, a dancer, a painter, you want to be seen to do well and you go there to do well. And that experience translates to other school subjects. So a child who does well in music will do well in mathematics, will do well in science. I know this, I saw this with my own peers, with the kids I grew up with.</b>
DR. MALKA	They have confidence.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>They have confidence to go out there, to stand out there and, and be okay with themselves, with what they are doing. But importantly they strive for excellence and that's one of the big benefits of arts education. They understand what it means to be an achiever. They understand also what it means to be a thinker because you need to find solutions to, to how to get these results. Right. What we are turning out are not thinkers, we are turning out artisans, and there is nothing wrong with that. The artisans, we need artisans, but not everybody is going to be an artisan. Not everybody thinks that way. Not everybody understands that one plus one is equal to two. Many of us understand that, yah one plus one is equal to two, but perhaps you can put it differently. Instead of putting the numbers parallel to each other, how about you put them at an angle. What does that give you. It's not true, it's not quite eleven. So the mind expands.</b>
DR. MALKA	That is so right. We have been limited by this linear thinking, which means you cannot derive new solutions if you going through in a blinkered approach.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>And that's what arts education does.</b>
DR. MALKA	Sadly I think its value has been under estimated.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Totally. Look . I am an optimist, an eternal optimist, so I suppose we need to go through this phase of seeing the economic value of the arts in that limited way and the pendulum will shift and swing to the other side and say no but it's not limited to, no come on guys let's remember where we come from with arts, with being, with being an artistic being and we go to the other side and we say okay can we put them together, and eventually the pendulum will settle in the middle. I'm hopeful that, that will happen.</b>
DR. MALKA	I hope that happens too. To move away from a one dimensional aspect to have this multidimensional aspect.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I'm hoping so. Really I am.</b>
<b>DR. MALKA</b>	<b>We'll be right back after this.</b>

<b>AD BREAK</b>	
DR. MALKA	You're listening to Womanity – Woman in Unity on Channel Africa. The voice of the African renaissance on frequency 9625 kilo hertz on the 31 meter band. Today we talking to multi award winning musician, Dr. Sibongile Khumalo, We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. Now picking up on our discussion. In the previous segment we spoke about the influences of your dad in the music environment but more importantly the tremendous effects of art and culture on individuals to have a rounded experience to improve cognitive ability and how it impacts on every aspect of their lives to create a richer person with multi-dimensions. The next segment of questions I would like to talk more about from a women's point of view. Gender equality is something which is tremendously important and sometimes it touches on sensitive points like culture, religion and tradition. Do you think it would be possible to overcome these points for the sake of development.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>If we understand that we are all here for a purpose. If we all understand that we are here as beings that help each other grow. If we understand that, um I can only hope that these inequalities will be overcome. When we talk of gender issues, um, especially women's issues, perhaps again the same way as musicians tend not to understand themselves, I think women also have tended to, to want to be like men. And I suppose there is nothing wrong with that, I guess, I don't know but I'm too ambitious to want to be like a man. I see myself as a higher being than just being a man.</b>
DR. MALKA	You're bench marking yourself against excellent, not against a gender.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Precisely. I couldn't of said it better than that. And so I think that's partly where the problem has been generally. There might be a slight shift now in that a lot more. I've, I've heard people say I'm too ambitious, I'm much more than a man can be. I've heard people say that right, okay, but the thing is who am I? Do I understand who I am as women. What I am all for. And I guess when we talk a balance, equality rather, among the genders, there's a need to present the intrinsic value of each of the genders and understand what those values are but let's not underestimate the importance of being a women. The soft side of women has been demigrated for so long that we've tended to want to dismiss it. I believe we shouldn't do that. We shouldn't underestimate that value because unless we have that how do we, for an example how do we raise balanced children. Balanced children between, who are raised by a male essence and a female essence. Whether it's by two women or by two guys but there has to be an understanding that, that everything has to be balanced. K. I'm crazy like that but perhaps because I'm a Libra. It's the scales may be. I don't know, but I do believe in, in finding some kind of balance. You know, when we talk, when we talk equality, what are we talking about? What do we mean by that? Actually. And is that not perhaps where some of the challenges lie. You know. Do we understand that, that is an area that needs attention.</b>
DR. MALKA	For me equality is about having equal access, equal opportunity
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Right</b>
DR. MALKA	Because men and women as you rightly say, we're different. We're not the same.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I believe that but sometimes, but people look at me kind of strangely but I'm old fashioned as well like that. You know. If you almost sixty then</b>

	<b>your, your thinking sometimes be mmm.</b>
DR. MALKA	But that goes back to lifelong learning. One of the, the statements that always resonates with me, because I think we've made tremendous progress from it, and that was in the words of Nelson Mandela when he said "Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression". All of us take this on board that the objectives of the reconstruction of and development program will not have been realised unless we see invisible practical terms that conditions of women in our country have radically changed for the better and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society. Now you have performed and sat with Nelson Mandela, several times, whilst he was still with us. How do you think, given your experience, South Africa will look in twenty or thirty years' time concerning women's rights and gender equality.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>If I was a prophet.</b>
DR. MALKA	You are most welcome to speculate.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>If I was a prophet I guess I would, I would, I would, yeah I was like Credo Mutwa.... I would try and, and look, into the, into the, what you call it?</b>
DR. MALKA	Crystal ball.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>The crystal ball or something and try and um, and speculate a lot, speculate about it, but what I would hope for is that in the same way as we talk of, umm, of nurturing our girls, our boys don't feel embarrassed by being nurtured. Which means that, and the same way as our girls will not feel embarrassed by being empowered. You know, because we tend to look at those terms in different ways. We talk about...</b>
DR. MALKA	We do. We gender stereo type
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>We empower men. You know. We must give them that sense of confidence and ability to do certain things. And we must nurture our women to be these soft cuddly beings and we should be able to, to nurture our the same ways as we empower our girls. I'm hoping. I would hope that in twenty, thirty years' time that would be a normal state of being as a nation. That, that our children are raised, we raise our children as, as people who are able to follow whatever dreams they may have, in whatever area they may have. I would hope that in about twenty, thirty years, if not before our education, the content of our education helps our children to think rather than telling them what to think but not only that, that the content of our education highlights and celebrates what is of Africa. I would hope that if we learn about history, our history for instance or, or philosophy even, would have an aspect, a big part of it would be about, say what happened in Egypt, in Kamet, for arguments sake. I would hope that we understand that the script, the Egyptian script, um, would be understood as a very important part of some of the information that we need to glean. That as a country we would understand or have a better sense of, for instance, of what happened on this continent years ago. That the Timbuktu scrolls are appreciated enough for there to not be debate about whether we should support the restoration of those scripts or not. As an example, you know things like that we know a lot about Europe, and that's important. We know a lot about America, that's important. It makes us open minded people but we are not opened minded enough because we do not appreciate who we are. You know South African's, and I think this is, this is true of many African countries. I'm going to say something that might get me into trouble, but I'll say it any way. We are probably the only</b>

	<b>people that venerate and revere other god's other than our own. When you talk of your ancestors ..</b>
DR. MALKA	Are you talking out of a religious context.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I'm talking from a religious context now. We are a Christians, we are Muslims, we are Buddhists, we are, we are everything but who we are really. And we get surprised when we are in such trouble. We get surprised because the Muslims go to church every Friday, their men go there and they, they prayer and you know. The Jews have their Friday gatherings as family's right and they praise whoever they praising. And when I have to sit home and, and have a ritual which involves burning of impepo, which is that incense that, that goes with my ancestral worship, then these like that strange raised eye brow kind of look including by the very Africans that I think could or should understand what I'm doing. I don't say they must do what I'm doing but they, they could at least give me space to do what I need to do. But no! We are the first ones to criticise each other about that and I'm hoping that in twenty, thirty years' time that will not be the case. That there'll be sufficient space in how we do things, where we understand who we are. My hope is just that we should be more African than we are. Whatever that means.</b>
DR. MALKA	I fully support what you are saying, particularly in terms of how we view ourselves. Cause often we are always be comparing ourselves. May be it goes back to when we were talking about bench marking against excellence. We compare ourselves against other countries. We think that aspects in our culture are not good enough. That theirs are better and we should import theirs into our own. But you right we need to start appreciating Africa and African's for who we are.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Totally, totally, totally.</b>
DR. MALKA	Now we are coming towards the end of the show. I'd like to ask you the question that I posed to all our guests.
DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Every year in August in South Africa, we celebrate women's month, and during that time we have an opportunity to reflect on struggles that women have gone through, what we've achieved and where we going to in the future. So I would like to ask, your opinion, of what areas you think we need to build on the most, to benefit women in the future.
DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO	Well, I think fundamentally it will always be education. Just strengthen, umm, our education system, umm, strengthen our education again based on, on, on our understanding of, of ourselves as a people of, of what, what do we, what does being a women mean. You know, things like that. Because I think umm, I think a lot of the education that we have is based on a male gendered perspective of what education should be.
DR. MALKA	True.
DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO	Umm. And I think if we just, if we just focus on aspects that strengthen, I'm not sure if to say empower, is the right way, but that strengthen a sense of, again, the question of equality and balance comes into play here. How do you make sure that the education that we have takes into account both aspects. And I think also what we may have to be careful of, you know, putting women or putting anything in fact, not even women, putting anything on a pedestal can be problematic because a pedestal is a small space, right. Like any prison is, right. So, you, it's, we, we, we, we have found ourselves imprisoned by this

	very notion of being a women, because of the focus that's been given of, of what it means to be a women. Even before we understand what it means to be a women. So umm, women's month, month is very important, has been very important and I think must continue to be important for a while simply because it puts the women's agenda, as it were, on the national roster of things that need to be attended to. Umm, but what we need to be careful of is what are those women's issues that really need to be addressed. Yah.
DR. MALKA	Right. I think that those are very valuable comments that you've added there.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you.</b>
DR. MALKA	In closing our discussion, please will you share a few words of inspiration that you would like to impart to women listening to the show on the continent.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>What I would like to say is that as women, yes, let's work towards building each other, let's work towards supporting each other, but let's not leave our men behind. Let's not leave our men out of the loop, because what we are seeing, I believe, is men pushing back, um, what we are seeing is men feeling disempowered, neutered in their place, or what they perceive to be their place, and so while it is not our responsibility that they grow. We can always keep the door open for them to come to us for support, for them to come to us to hold their hands and for them to hold our hands, because when you close the door you also are unable, are unable to get out of there. So I'm hoping that as women, we always remember that we have a much, much bigger role, I believe, than just being as good as men or as strong as men. Our role, I believe, very firmly, that our role is much bigger than that. Our role is when you embrace, and when you open your heart out and open your hands out like that you, you receive and you are able to give. Umm and there's a lot more than just those jobs or those careers that we, we think we deserve. We have a lot more to give. Giving of your heart is not an easy thing and we are better able to do it than most men are. So let's do it without feeling shy about it. Without feeling embarrassed about it, without feeling disempowered about it. There is nothing disempowering about it at all.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you for those words of wisdom and advice
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you. I hope it's helpful.</b>
DR. MALKA	You presented such a balanced perspective of everything. Balance has been a key driver. So thank you very much for participating in the show today.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you for having me</b>
DR. MALKA	We would love to hear more from you especially on your ambitions to pursue more work in the African continent, either as an individual or as a collaborator.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>I'm sure you will hear about it.</b>
DR. MALKA	We look forward to it.
<b>DR. SIBONGILE KHUMALO</b>	<b>Thank you. Thank you very much.</b>
DR. MALKA	You have been listening to Womanity – Women in Unity on Channel Africa, the voice of the African renaissance and we have been talking to multi award winning musician, Dr. Sibongile Khumalo. Tune into the show next week when we talk to multi award winning musician, Judith Supoma.

**END OF PROGRAM**