

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

As a lyric baritone, I, Uche Nwabueze, have performed professionally with the operatic ensemble Lumina Voices since 2015. Lumina Voices is based at the International Central Gospel Church (ICGC).

At ICGC, I participate in ministrations while teaching and collaborating with other groups for major church events. My responsibilities include being on audition panels, leading rehearsals, and providing vocal training for children, youth, and the hymnal choir at ICGC Christ Temple East.

My service over the past 13 years under the leadership and teaching of the General Overseer of ICGC, Mensa Otabil, has deepened my faith and strengthened my desire for a thorough understanding of Scripture and Christian leadership. Through my work with Lumina Voices, I have contributed to introducing and promoting operatic music in Ghana. This has supported the inclusion of traditional classical and sacred music in contemporary church worship, especially within the African context.

I have developed a strong interest in Christian leadership for several reasons. Across Africa, development in many fields has been significantly influenced by Christian and missionary efforts. In my experience, the church plays a vital role in providing both foundational and advanced musical training, as well as purpose and direction. In teaching various music groups, I frequently engage with Scripture, which carries deep historical, legal, and poetic meaning. I therefore seek structured academic training to deepen my understanding and to minister and teach more effectively.

I also recognize the importance of studying Greek and Hebrew to interpret scriptural texts accurately within their original contexts. My multilingual ability—English, Igbo, Twi, Ga, and Fante—supports my capacity to engage with different languages and cultures. In addition, I have attained B2-level proficiency in German through the Goethe-Institut in Accra, demonstrating my commitment to intercultural engagement and international ministry through teaching, music, and scholarship.

Ultimately, I seek to undertake this academic journey to strengthen my testimony in Jesus Christ, provide thoughtful and accurate leadership, and serve as a bridge between traditional, contemporary, and evolving forms of Christian/music ministry through performance, teaching, curated discussions, and the development of relevant literature and recordings.

In addition to my musical work, I have skills in writing, photography, videography, graphic design, and administrative tools, which equip me for effective church administration and accurate record-keeping.