

THEMBA MKHIZE



Finest jazz music & more from
South Africa

Biography

A. The Artist

B. Director - 1. Music Shows - 2. Musicals

C. Producer - 1. Music - 2. Films

D. Sessions

A. THE ARTIST

Themba Mkhize has journeyed, since his 1999 debut album, “Tales From The South”, in unison with his audiences. The album deservedly won two SA Music Awards for Best South African Traditional Jazz Album and Best Producer in 2000. In his artistic sojourn, Mkhize has in triumph communicated inspiring messages as a result of his clever composing abilities and sprightly piano playing. It is such artistic expertise that won him the Daimler Chrysler Award for South African Jazz in 2001.

Mkhize named his second album Lost and Found. In Lost and Found, he continues to paint South African traditional rhythms capes on the jazz canvass. He does this by mixing elements of traditional South African rhythms with traditional jazz elements to produce a distinct SAfro beat. “Lost and Found” was nominated 4 times in the 2002 SAMA awards.

The pianist, composer, producer and director sustains his exhilarating way of telling South African music tales on his third and latest recording, “Hands On”. The 13-track record is compressed with straight ahead jazz tunes, Afro-fusion songs that are strongly peppered with maskandi elements and soothing smooth jazz tracks. Mkhize continues his role of being a custodian of some great local compositions and celebrates South African music and songwriters. “The songs in this album have always had a special place in my heart”, says Mkhize.

His fondness with most of the songs that he gives his own interpretation is exhibited in their sprightliness. The album opens with his own version of Shosholoza (S’timela Sase Msawawa). The lively tune is an easy sing along and will be familiar to the ear. Mkhize dusts off Princess Magogo's inspiring compositions, Wathint'uPhefeni. His version of Magogo's tune is stirring and evokes the soul - taking it on a refreshing spiritual journey.

He sets new standards with his tight arrangement of popular composition LakuTshon'llanga. The pianist does not only create a romantic but also paints a breezy and tranquil atmosphere on the leisurely version of the popular ballad.

Mkhize also covers Dr.Philip Tabane's eMkobola and Hugh Masekela's Polina. "Other songs in this recording pay homage to our ten years of freedom. Walk the Talk is a warning against resting on our laurels. It's okay to talk about how we won our freedom but we should realize that the honeymoon is over. It is now time to work for our country and for every citizen to adopt a HANDS ON attitude," says Mkhize.

Themba's third offering, "Hands On" won two of the major awards in the country namely Metro FM Award (Jazz category) and MTN SAMA Award (Best Male Artist).

The gifted pianist, producer and composer was born in KwaZulu-Natal and was encouraged by his father to take up piano playing as a career. Mkhize was eight when he commenced his piano lessons with the help of his aunt. In 1976 whilst still at school Mkhize formed one of his first bands with his cousin and guitarist, Vusi Thusi.

Nearly five years later he appeared on his first high profile gig after he joined Afro-fusion group Sakhile. The humorous pianist later joined Bayete and moved on to perform as a session musician with among others Miriam Makeba, Caiphus Semenya and Letta Mbulu. He became a member of the political and musical stage play Buwa which featured a host of exiled South African musicians during apartheid.

Being part of Buwa enabled him to be a globetrotter, traveling to countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Libya, Ethiopia and neighbouring Zimbabwe. Audiences in Japan and Germany have also delighted on Mkhize music. Mkhize

was part of Hugh Masekela's band when the trumpeter did a live recording of popular album, "Hope", in Washington DC's Blues Alley in 1993.

He also features on Miriam Makeba's "Eyes of Tomorrow" and "Sing Me A Song". Among the musicians that have benefited from Mkhize music expertise is song bird Sibongile Khumalo. Mkhize was on the producer's seat when Khumalo recorded her debut "Ancient Evenings".

B. DIRECTOR

1. Music shows

a) Themba Mkhize

Themba Mkhize has directed his own shows here in South Africa and abroad. The list includes Standard Bank Joy of Jazz, Cape Town Jazz Festival with Jimmy Dlodlu, Jazza thorn in Cape Town, Gauteng Music Academy, Nelspruit Jazz Festival, Soweto Jazz at Power Park, Moretele Park Jazz Festival and numerous corporate gigs. He toured Germany after winning the Daimler Chrysler Award in 2001. He has done many shows in Japan including the famous Fuji Rock Concert.

b) Sekunjalo

Directed a music show that featured Hugh Masekela, Bayete and Sankomota. Sekunjalo toured the major cities of South Africa.

c) Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba

Directed shows for Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba that toured several countries in Europe and USA.

d) Sibongile Khumalo

Directed a number of music shows around the country.

e) Women of Africa

Directed a show that toured England and Europe featuring great African Women Singers including Oumou Sangare from Mali, Sally Nyolo from Cameroon, Antshi from Madagascar and our own Sibongile Khumalo.

f) Busi Mhlongo

Directed Busi Mhlongo's shows that toured Europe.

g) Shows in France featuring different South African Musicians

Directed music for Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, Jonas Gwanga, Busi Mhlongo, Jabu Khanyile and Dorothy Masuka .

h) Journey to Msawawa

This show was performed in Tokyo Japan, showcasing South African music from the 60's to date, including the music of Themba Mkhize and Judith Sephuma.

i) Jazz meets symphony

Directed a 45 piece band featuring, Xolisa Dlamini, Sello Galane, Bhekumuzi Luthuli, Marcus Wayatt and Themba Mkhize.

j) Standard Bank Joy of Jazz "African Soul Sisters"

He directed the music of African Soul Sisters featuring Wanda Baloyi, Nombulelo Maqethuka, Thembisile Ntaka, Nokukhanya Dlamini and Corlea Botha. The show was paying tribute to Letta Mbulu.

2. Musicals

a) Buwa

Directed a musical which was written by Caiphus Semenya and featured exiled South African musicians during the apartheid era. The musical toured a number of African countries including Libya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe.

b) Woza

Directed a musical bringing together and celebrating music of South African plays like King Korn, Ipi Ntombi, Sikhalo and Sarafina. The musical was staged in Civic Theatre, Johannesburg.

c) Tribute to Gibson Kente

Directed a musical celebrating the work of the late playwright and father of Township theatre, Gibson Kente. It was performed at the Grahamstown Festival and Civic Theatre.

d) Milestone

Directed a musical written by Mandla Langa. It was staged at the Grahamstown Festival and State Theatre in Pretoria. Themba Mkhize won a SAMA award in 2001 for producing the sound track of this piece of work.

C. PRODUCER

1. Music

a) Sibongile Khumalo

Produced the following albums: 1) Ancient Evenings, 2) Live at the Market Theatre and 3) Immortal Secrets.

b) Jeff Mapaya

Produced Jeff Mapaya's latest album "Statements"

c) Nokukhanya Dlamini

Produced "Tribute to you"

d) Pat Matshikiza

Produced "Seasons, Masks and Keys"

e) Andile Mseleku

Produced "Essence of Joy"

2. Films

a) Soweto Green

Co-Produced the sound track of “Soweto Green” with Jonas Gwanga.

b) Zulu Love Letter

Wrote original music and produced the sound track of “Zulu Love Letter”.

D. SESSIONS

Worked as a session musician with a number of South African musicians including Miriam Makeba, Caiphus Semenya, Sibongile Khumalo, Hugh Masekela, Linda Kekana, Phillip Tabane, Vusi Mahlasela and Jimmy Dlodlu.

EXCLUSIVE BOOKING THEMBA MKHIZE

GRIOT GmbH
Marion & Wulf v. Gaudecker
Gut Horst
D-24601 Stolpe

Tel +49(0) 4526 33 82 0
Fax +49(0) 4526 3 82 10
Mail info@griot.de
Site www.griot.de

Territory: Europe

