

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 25 MAY 2021, 2:43PM

A pioneering, family friendly Jazz Celebration at the Ditsong Pioneer Museum in Pretoria

The Ditsong Museums of South Africa in collaboration with Concerts SA bring you an exciting musical line up at their first Jazz Concert taking place at the picturesque Pioneer Museum on Keuning Street, Silverton, Tshwane, close to Mamelodi, on 30 May 2021. The collaboration seeks to create a greater awareness for art, culture and heritage bringing artists and the public closer to our heritage spaces. This partnership is aimed at establishing support for live music concerts at all Ditsong museums and with Concerts SA taking the model to other museums within South Africa. It extends Concerts SA's live music collaboration with the Albert Luthuli Museum in Groutville, Kwa Zulu Natal. Ditsong Museums of South Africa CEO Annabelle Lebethe said "Supporting the connection between living cultural heritage, intangible heritage and heritage through culture and art will bring new life into our heritage spaces, new engagements with our exhibits and most of all new audiences to share and interpret our histories."

The jazz concert will exhibit an intergenerational blend of South African musicians including renowned jazz guitarist Selaelo Selota, 'Kwaai-jazz' founder Don Laka, Berita, Sol Shibambu and Gina Mabasa.

Tickets are available at Webtickets and Pick n Pay outlets. No tickets will be sold at the venue. Doors at the Pioneer Museum open at 10h00 am.

As part of package deal, concert goers will be treated to a free tour of the museum and a host of traditional African games for children to enjoy. Families are encouraged to bring their picnic baskets and blankets.

This concert is set to be the first of a series of concerts that are to be part of the Ditsong museums' campaign to revive the declining support for the cultural institutions by promoting South African cultural heritage to people who would not ordinarily participate in museum programs.

Don Laka, who has stated that this is his first live concert in a year, is a jazz musician, songwriter and music producer, as well as the founder of "kwaai-jazz". Born in Mamelodi (Tshwane), Laka's musical journey began with him starting a band in his high school years. Don Laka's musicianship grew as he joined the revolutionary Afro-fusion band Sakhile in the 80's. Over the years, Laka played different roles within the music business and has produced for an array of South Africa's greats. Don Laka now heads a new label that specializes in jazz and world music called Bokone Music also known as the home of Kwaai Jazz. Laka also owns high tech studios called Lakdon Studios, where he records most of the hit records. Don Laka is also a vocal advocate for increasing local content on radio and TV, an issue he has been promoting for much of the past two decades.

Selaelo Selota is one of the defining voices of post 1994- jazz revival. He is a singer, composer, producer and arranger who has contributed significantly to the contemporary local jazz scene. Selota's exposure to traditional music of various ethnic groups on the gold fields of Welkom, Free state where he worked as a miner inspired his passion to be one of the country's leading Afro-Jazz artists. Having graced international stages, award winning Selota is renowned for his ability to deliver performances that combine beauty and passion leaving his audiences transfixed.

Berita is a multi-award winning, platinum selling singer-songwriter, guitarist, music producer and founder of music rights and talent management company Assali Music. Introduced to South Africa in 2012 with the now classic debut 'Thandolwethu' Berita has gone on to release four studio albums to critical and commercial acclaim. Berita, previously participated in the Concerts SA mobility fund.

Sol Shibambu was born in Mamelodi where he spent most of his life. As a young boy, his music interest was nourished by his mother who used singing and dancing as a means of storytelling. With over 15 years'

experience in the music industry, this seasoned African contemporary soul artist has developed into a formidable musician and entrepreneur. As the founder of Bounce Entertainment since 2006, his company specialises in sound, stage, lighting, bookings and other service offerings tailor made to fit to the client's needs for both indoor or outdoor live events.

Gina Mabasa's talents rose to fame in 2013 when she became part of Team North West in the South African Show, Clash of the Choirs. Mabasa is a trained drama and dance professional having debuted her talents on "Marikana the musical", "Hungry", "Amandla the musical", "Xova" and "Mother and Child" by Joseph Komani. As an exceptional talent, Gina Mabasa knows all corners of her capabilities, knows that her dreams are her future reality, and she will grace great stages.

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ABOUT DITSONG

DITSONG MUSEUMS OF SOUTH AFRICA is an amalgamation of eight museums, seven in Tshwane and one in Johannesburg.

Our museums have diverse collections covering the fields of fauna and flora, palaeontology, military history, cultural history, geology, anthropology, and archaeology. We offer tours to both local and international tourists, children, students, and researchers.

ABOUT THE NAC PESP PROGRAM

The Presidency has made a special employment stimulus programme available to the sector to disburse via the National Arts Council and the National Film and Video Foundation. The Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP) is geared towards employment creation and retention initiatives for artists, creatives, heritage sector workers and cultural workers. This includes (but is not limited to) support to innovation in digitisation efforts for content creation and the dissemination and development of e-commerce systems. For more information, [click here](#).

ABOUT CONCERTS SA

Concerts SA is a live music project that has impacted over 10 000 artists and 900 venues across southern Africa, administered by IKS Cultural Consulting. Aimed at supporting live music, the Digital Mobility Fund finds its roots in the Concerts SA Music Mobility Fund. Initiated in 2013, with funding support for the pilot project from the British Council, the Music Mobility Fund offers opportunities for South African musicians to undertake music tours across southern Africa. To encourage ongoing 'movement' in the locked-down music sector, Concerts SA opened the call for applications for the 2020 DIGITAL MOBILITY FUND in September 2020 and again in April this year. For more information, visit website www.concertssa.co.za, follow [@ConcertsSA on Twitter](#), or like us on [Facebook at www.facebook.com/ConcertsSA](http://www.facebook.com/ConcertsSA)

ABOUT IKS CULTURAL CONSULTING

IKS is a consulting and project management agency is based on sound research and analysis. IKS provides strategic consulting, planning and project management services in arts and culture. Established in 2004, IKS took over the management of the Concerts SA programme in April 2020.

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