

## Jazz Globalization: South African Jazz

A brief history of South Africa:

- South Africa's history dates back approximately 4 million years according to fossil scientific evidence, (United Nations study: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915>)
- Indigenous people, the *San* (commonly known as the *Bushmen*), hunter-gatherers who, to this day, live in South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana
- *San* DNA suggests origins of modern humans (Stanford University scientific study: <http://www.pnas.org/content/108/13/5154.short>)
- First European contact in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Chronological key event to present day: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094918>)

### Languages

South Africa has over 29 languages in circulation of which 11 are official and over 18 are unofficial. The official languages are: Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Tsonga, Venda, Pedi, Ndebele, Afrikaans, and English.

### Apartheid

A discriminatory political system based on race. The word *apartheid* (meaning to separate) comes from Afrikaans, a language of the Dutch descendants (known as Boers or Afrikaners) who, along with the English, colonized South Africa in the mid-seventeenth century. Races were separated as 'white', 'black', 'coloured' (bi or multi-racial), and 'Indians': whites were treated as 'first-class citizens', and the other races as 'second-class citizens'. This separation ensured that whites would benefit from the country's natural resources of gold and diamonds. This discrimination extended to living, transportation, marriages, and other aspects of life.

- Officially, *Apartheid* began in 1948, but discrimination was already a way of life before 1948
- Non-whites needed permission to enter cities in the form of 'passes' (a document that designated one to be working for a white person/company in particular areas mainly cities, prime real-estate, and vacation spots)

A Stanford University link on the History of Apartheid in South Africa can be found here: <http://www-cs-students.stanford.edu/~cale/cs201/apartheid.hist.html>

### Political Struggles

In 1912, the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) was formed; in 1923, its name was changed to the African National Congress (ANC); and in 1961, a military wing, Umkhonthe we Sizwe (Zulu for 'Spear of the Nation'), was formed. In the mid-1950s, Nelson Mandela, a black lawyer, led the organization on a sabotage campaign (first of non-violence) against the apartheid regime. Mandela would be imprisoned in 1962 for conspiracy to overthrow the state and served over 27 years at Robben Island Prison

### Music

As many languages as there are, as much musics as there is.

- *San* music is perhaps the oldest known music in mankind's history (*samples*: <http://www.bushmanmusic.org/>)
- Zulu music, like the culture, is based on warriorism and it is rhythmically hard driving, traditionally choral and percussive, and involves dancing with a spear and a shield; additionally, techniques such as 'call-and-response', monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, and utilizes mostly major scales, (*samples*, *native nudity* in the first link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TISI4-VmcM&list=PLB50130773D4A8A9C> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVQfNMwjVgl> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBs1W5Zbk8Y>)
- Music was obviously affected by apartheid; songs by non-whites were mainly against the apartheid system and vice-versa
- In the townships where non-whites lived, the music culture was lively. The melting-pot effect, Zulu music was influenced by American Jazz from around the 1930s onward and this came to be known as 'Township Music'
- South African musicians who attracted the government's attention found themselves tortured, dead, or in exile

## **What is South African Jazz?**

1. The elements; melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture.
2. Traditional and contemporary
3. African verse African-American musical language

South African Jazz is a marriage of African music and American jazz. Miriam Makeba (1932-2008) is one such artist who embraced this marriage through her songs of defiance, she attracted the government's attention and found herself in exile. Makeba was the first to popularize African music on the world stage and won several Grammy-awards as a singer. She was also married to trumpeter Hugh Masekela (b. 1939).

## **The music of**

1. Hugh Masekela, *Uptownship*
2. Miriam Makeba, *Pata Pata*
3. Paul Simon, *Township Jive*

## South African Jazz/Music/History Resources

- 1) South African Music as Influenced by Apartheid, (<http://southafricaproject.web.unc.edu/background-2/sophiatown/>).
- 2) South African History Online, towards a people's history: The development of Music in South Africa timeline 1600-2004, (<http://www.sahistory.org.za/topic/development-music-south-africa-timeline-1600-2004>). On this website, there are different disciplines including art and culture, places, people biographies, and also classroom (Grade 9 through 11 at the bottom of the page), click on *Grade 9*, and then click on *Topics*.
- 3) Gateway to South Africa ([http://www.southafrica.info/about/arts/922565.htm#.Ustr\\_S1wk0](http://www.southafrica.info/about/arts/922565.htm#.Ustr_S1wk0)). At the bottom of each article, click on *The New Jazz*, *Jazz in Exile*, *Jazz at home*, etc., for additional readings.
- 4) *Music and Emancipation: The Social Role of Black Jazz and Vaudeville in South Africa between the 1920s and the Early 1940s*, ([http://www.ekayasolutions.com/FRS003/FRS003ClassLectures/MusciandEmancipation\\_Ballantine\\_JAS\\_91.pdf](http://www.ekayasolutions.com/FRS003/FRS003ClassLectures/MusciandEmancipation_Ballantine_JAS_91.pdf)).
- 5) *Gender, Migrancy, and South African Popular Music in the Late 1940s and the 1950s*, Author(s): Christopher Ballantine. Source: *Ethnomusicology*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (Autumn, 2000), pp. 376-407. Published by: University of Illinois Press on behalf of Society for Ethnomusicology (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/852491>).
- 6) *The World of South African Music: A Reader*, introduced, compiled and edited by Christine Lucia. This book first published 2005 by Cambridge Scholars Press, 15 Angerton Gardens, Newcastle, NE5 2JA, UK. British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. Copyright © 2005 by Christine Lucia and contributors. ISBN 1904303366, or pdf version at this link: <http://www.c-s-p.org/flyers/9781904303367-sample.pdf>.
- 7) *Township/Kwela Jive*, (<http://soulsafari.wordpress.com/category/south-african-music-general/south-african-jazz-jive-1950s/>).

## South African Music YouTube/Sound Files

- 1) Soul Safari presents Township Jive & Kwela Jazz (1940-1960): *samples*, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gof43orcA2M>).
- 2) African Jazz Pioneers: 1950s, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHyAIVWLO2Y>).
- 3) Miriam Makeba, *Pata Pata*, ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0Oj6Scol\\_M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0Oj6Scol_M)).
- 4) Hugh Masekela, *Uptownship*, (<http://grooveshark.com/#!/album/Live+At+The+Market+Theatre/3419916>).
- 5) Spokes Mashiyane, *Meva* - South African Penny whistler, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BghcwUaVbvs>).
- 6) Paul Simon, *Township Jive*, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeO0CJqjsgU>).
- 7) Abdullah Ibrahim in Poland Part 1, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENmYxyccwm0>).
- 8) Jonathan Butler, *Tribute to Nelson Mandela*, ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF\\_zkoqz9BM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF_zkoqz9BM)).
- 9) Johnny Clegg, *Asimbonanga* (Tribute to Mandela), (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZFS41yFqg0>).
- 10) Johnny Clegg, *Impi*, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNAXa-qNkvI>).
- 11) Mahlathini Mahotella Queens, *Kazet*, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0NHScOnD2w>).
- 12) Harry Belafonte & Miriam Makeba, *Khawuleza* (Hurry, Mama, Hurry!), ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwi\\_MdAdyHc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwi_MdAdyHc)).