



Hugh Masekela

with

Hugh Masekela Flugelhorn and Lead Vocals

Abednigo Sibongiseni Zulu Bass Guitar

Francis Manneh Edward Fuster Percussion and Backing Vocals

Cameron John Ward Lead Guitar and Backing Vocals

Randal Skippers Keyboards and Backing Vocals

Lee-Roy Sauls Drums and Backing Vocals

Garrick Quentin Van Der Tuin Sound Engineer

Andrew Georgiou Senior Manager

Rapelang Eugene Leeuw Band Manager

PROGRAM.

Set list will be announced from stage.

Saturday, April 14 at 7 PM*

Zellerbach Theatre

*INSIGHT Event: Stay after the performance for a chat with Hugh Masekela.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hugh Masekela (Trumpet)

Legendary South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela is an innovator in the world music and jazz scene and continues to tour the world as a performer, composer, producer and activist. This iconic artist is best known for his Grammy®-nominated hit single “Grazing in the Grass,” which sold over 4 million copies in 1968 and made him an international star. He later played an integral role in Paul Simon’s tour behind the classic album *Graceland*, which was one of the first pop records to introduce African music to a broader public.

Masekela was born on April 4, 1939 in Witbank, near Johannesburg. Masekela showed musical ability from a young age and began playing piano as a child. Inspired by the movie *Young Man with a Horn* (in which Kirk Douglas plays a character modeled after American jazz trumpeter Bix Beiderbecke), Masekela began to play the trumpet. He was encouraged by anti-apartheid activist Father Trevor Huddleston, who helped him acquire an instrument.

As Apartheid tensions rose in 1960, Masekela escaped South Africa and enrolled in London’s Guildhall School of Music. With the assistance of Miriam Makeba and Harry Belafonte, Masekela was eventually accepted into the Manhattan School of Music in New York. His first night in New York found him in several jazz clubs seeing Thelonius Monk and Dizzy Gillespie in one, Charlie Mingus and Max Roach at a second and John Coltrane at a third. It was clear that New York would be the perfect place to pursue his jazz aspirations while studying classical trumpet at school during the day.

Masekela was deeply affected by his life experiences and consequently made music that reflected his experiences in the harsh political climate of South Africa during the 1950s and 1960s. Masekela’s music portrays the struggles and joys of living in South Africa and voices protest against slavery and discrimination.

Masekela has collaborated with numerous artists in the USA, Africa and Europe including Miriam Makeba, Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte, Herb Alpert, Fela Kuti (in Nigeria) and Franco (in the Congo). Renowned choreographer Alvin Ailey chose a piece by Masekela to create a work for his world famous Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Masekela also co-created the Broadway smash musical *Sarafina* that introduced the sounds and passion of South African music to theater audiences worldwide.

Masekela’s work as an activist raised international awareness of the South African government’s restrictive Apartheid policies. In the 1980s Masekela’s hit song “Bring Him Back Home” became an anthem for the Free Nelson Mandela movement. In the 1990s, Masekela finally returned home to South Africa to renew the musical ties to his homeland and the sounds and rhythms of Central and West Africa, in particular the mbaqanga style. In 2004, he released his autobiography, *Still Grazing: The Musical Journey of Hugh Masekela*.

In 2012, Masekela launched his own record label—House of Masekela. The first recording under this label is a four CD box set *Friends* featuring Masekela and American pianist Larry Willis. It is a collection of 40 American jazz standards reinterpreted by the two musicians, whose friendship dates back more than 50 years, hence the title. Willis and Masekela played a series of concerts at The Jazz Standard to celebrate their new release.

In April 2013, Masekela will return to the U.S. for an 18 city tour in support of yet another new recording, entitled *Playing @ Work*.

Francis Manneh Fuster (Percussion)

Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone in the 1940s, Francis Fuster is one of Africa's best known percussionists. As a young teenager, he began learning his craft under the tutelage of Batu Biosei and then honed his skills playing in the church group every Sunday. In 1962, he joined The Heartbeats, a seminal West African band that was influential in the development of the Afrobeat style. They toured regularly in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia and counted the young Fela Kuti as one of their many fans. In 1972, The Heartbeats split up, and Fuster moved to Lagos, Nigeria where he formed his own group, Baranta. In the 1970s, he also played regularly with Fela, Manu Dibango and Osibisa.

In 1982, he moved to London, England where he reconnected with Hugh Masekela (whom he had originally met in 1974), and not long after, he became a permanent fixture in Masekela's touring band. His association with Masekela also led him to tour the world with Paul Simon in the late 1980s and early 1990s as part of the Graceland Tour. After 28 years, Fuster is an integral and vital part of the Masekela sound.

Abednigo "Fana" Zulu (Bass)

Widely regarded as South Africa's finest bass player, Fana Zulu has developed his own unique style with his upside-down strung, 6-string bass guitar.

Born in Soweto township (outside Johannesburg) in 1961, Zulu started making his own guitars on the dusty township streets at the age of 9, using pieces of wood, oil cans and fishing wire. He picked up tips from various neighbourhood musicians. At the age of 17, he joined local music group The Editions. He earned a good reputation on the township music scene, and in 1982, he toured South Africa with the highly regarded blind vocalist Babsy Mlangeni.

In 1984, he joined the seminal South African band BAYETE (which also featured the legendary Jabu Khanyile). BAYETE recorded some of the great protest music of the 80's—a turbulent time in South Africa's political history—and are considered as pioneers for their musical and political stance.

In 1994, Zulu left BAYETE to pursue solo projects and worked as a session musician on recordings by Miriam Makeba, Jimmy Dlodlu, Sibongile Khumalo and Themba Mkhize, among others. In 2000, he joined Hugh Masekela's touring band and has been a permanent fixture ever since.

Randall Skippers (Keyboards)

32-year-old Randall Skippers is a graduate of the vibrant Cape Town jazz scene. Born into a musical family, his uncle is well-known jazz guitarist Derrick Skippers.

From the age of 15, Skippers was part of his uncle's band, and he cut his teeth in Cape Town's late night jazz clubs, while on Sundays he played in his local church—the Apostolic Faith Mission.

Skippers' desire to further his musical career led him to Johannesburg in 2003, and he quickly earned a reputation amongst the Jo'burg jazz cognoscenti, playing with established names like Ernie Smith, Vusi Khumalo, Judith Sephuma and Selaelo Selota.

In 2007, he was brought to Hugh Masekela's attention by Malawian producer and guitarist Erick Paliani (who was Masekela's guitarist at the time). After Skippers played on some sessions for Masekela's album *Phola*, Masekela quickly realized his skill and potential and recruited him as a permanent member of his band.

Lee-Roy Sauls (Drums)

Essentially a rock 'n' roll drummer, the 25-year-old Lee-Roy Sauls got his start in the Cape Town night clubs. Like his good friend Randall Skippers, Sauls was a member of his church band during his teenage years.

Escaping the tough Cape Town neighbourhoods where gang-life and drugs were commonplace, Sauls moved to Johannesburg in 2004 and started performing in jazz and rock circles where he made a name as a talented and versatile drummer.

He was introduced to Hugh Masekela through Erick Paliani at the *Phola* recording sessions in 2007, and the young drummer soon made the grade under Masekela's strict tutelage. Sauls is now an integral member of the touring group.

Cameron John Ward (Guitar)

The third Capetonian and "baby" of the band at the tender age of 22, Ward is the latest South African musician to benefit from Hugh Masekela's constant desire to identify and nurture exceptional young talent.

Ward first picked up the guitar at the age of 11 and hasn't looked back since. After graduating from the highly regarded Prompt College of Music in Cape Town with high grades, Ward was considered something of a teenage prodigy and the hottest young guitarist in South Africa.

Still in his teens, he had already played with heavyweight South African and Mozambican jazz musicians like Themba Mkhize, Jimmy Dlodlu, Luis Moreira and Judith Sephuma.

When Erick Paliani decided to leave Masekela's band in 2008 to return to Malawi and pursue his dream of opening his own studio, Ward took his place. Ward has fitted seamlessly into the band and his youthful exuberance adds a great counterpoint to Masekela's worldly wise statesman.