

Meet Bongi and Tshidi!



Sanibonani Musical Explorers!

Have you heard of the musical called *The Lion King*? We are both in that show on Broadway! A lot of the music in *The Lion King* is in a South African style called mbube, which means "lion" in Zulu. We both grew up in South Africa where we first learned to sing Zulu songs and even made instruments from things we found in our neighborhoods. We're excited to share both traditional and new songs with you at Carnegie Hall!

Sala kahle,
Bongi and Tshidi



Durban, South Africa

Leaving from
Fort Greene, Brooklyn



We asked Bongi and Tshidi ...

What is your earliest musical memory?

Bongi: I remember singing with the school choir in middle school and with my community group outside of school.

What are some of the foods you ate growing up?

Tshidi: Food in my culture? Where do I start! We have ujeqe, which is a dumpling; amanqina, which is either chicken feet or cow feet; and pap, which is cornmeal. One of my favorites is the insides of a cow or goat with isitambu, a mixture of corn and beans. Oooooh mama!

How many languages do you speak?

Tshidi: I speak six African languages, plus English.

What inspires you?

Bongi: I'm inspired by people and their wild stories, and by different cultures and their music and customs.



Arriving at
Broadway, Manhattan