

CARNEGIE HALL

Festivals

MUSIC AND ARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

UBUNTU

CARNEGIE HALL PRESENTS

UBUNTU: MUSIC AND ARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

**A CITYWIDE FESTIVAL EXPLORING
SOUTH AFRICAN ARTS & CULTURE**

October 10 to November 5, 2014

**Dozens of Events at Carnegie Hall and Partner Venues Across New York City
Explore South Africa's Dynamic and Diverse Culture
Including Music, Film, Visual Arts, and More**

**Featured Artists Include Trumpeter, Vocalist, and Composer Hugh Masekela;
Vocalist Vusi Mahlasela; Jazz Pianist Abdullah Ibrahim;
Vocalist Angélique Kidjo; Vocal Ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo;
Visual Artist William Kentridge; and Many Others**

carnegiehall.org/SouthAfrica

(For Immediate Release: January 29, 2014, NEW YORK)—Carnegie Hall today announced *UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa*, a three-week festival from [October 10 to November 5, 2014](http://carnegiehall.org/SouthAfrica), featuring an exciting array of events to be presented at Carnegie Hall and partner venues throughout New York City, inviting audiences to explore the incredibly dynamic and diverse culture of South Africa.

With its *UBUNTU* festival, Carnegie Hall salutes South Africa, a country with a dizzying patchwork of cultures, eleven official languages, and a cultural life like none other. Roughly translated as “I am because you are,” *ubuntu* is a philosophy from Southern Africa that emphasizes the importance of community, a way of thinking that has influenced recent moves toward reconciliation and cultural inclusion in South Africa as fostered by the country's former president, the late Nelson Mandela. The spirit of this philosophy is embodied in the festival's programming, which features a varied lineup of artists representing the many threads that together make up the country's musical culture.

“In creating the *UBUNTU* festival, we were inspired by the cultural life of this incredibly diverse country,” said Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall's Executive and Artistic Director. “It is a nation with a dynamic, often surprising culture like no other—the birthplace of larger-than-life musical presences like Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, Abdullah Ibrahim, and now, a seemingly endless array of vocal talent from every corner of the country. Our festival also comes twenty years after the first free elections in South Africa, an anniversary made even more resonant by the recent passing of Nelson Mandela. The country's landscape continues to evolve, and this makes for fascinating explorations through the arts.”

Dedicated to Mr. Mandela's legacy, the *UBUNTU* festival features Carnegie Hall performances by artists representing different musical traditions, including performances paying tribute to notable South African icons and milestones. In addition to showcasing world-renowned South African musicians who are beloved the world over, festival programming will also provide a window for audiences into many kinds of South African music which may be less well-known: the powerful spirituality and ecstasy of the *maskandi* music of the Zulu people, music from the Cape region including a Cape Malay choir with folk musicians from remote regions of the Karoo desert, and two thrilling generations of South African jazz artists. In addition, two critically-acclaimed South African classical vocalists will make their New York recital debuts as part of the festival. Looking beyond performances at Carnegie Hall, the *UBUNTU* festival will extend citywide through performances and events at prestigious partner organizations, with programming showcasing visual art, film, and dance, as well as panel discussions featuring leading social and political voices on significant cultural issues.

Carnegie Hall programming will include performances by legendary South African artists, beginning with a concert by two musical icons—trumpeter, vocalist, and composer **Hugh Masekela** and vocalist **Vusi Mahlasela**—joined by special guest artists for *Twenty Years of Freedom*, a program celebrating the anniversary of 20 years of democracy in South Africa (October 10). Additional festival highlights include world renowned vocal ensemble **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** in *Voices of South Africa*, exploring the central role the voice plays in South African music (October 18); Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Angélique Kidjo** celebrating the South African cultural icon Miriam Makeba in *Mama Africa* (November 5); acclaimed visual artist and filmmaker **William Kentridge** hosting an evening of his short films with live musical accompaniment (October 27); and revered pianist and composer **Abdullah Ibrahim**, a great champion of Cape jazz, in a solo concert coinciding with his 80th birthday (October 17). Mr. Ibrahim will also lead a master class for young jazz musicians, presented by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (October 18).

For two consecutive evenings in Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall features performances incorporating dramatic elements. In a program titled *Paper Music: A Ciné Concert by Philip Miller and William Kentridge*, Mr. Kentridge presents an evening of his short films with live music by composer **Philip Miller** (October 27). The following evening, violinist **Daniel Hope** curates a music theater production entitled *A Distant Drum*, joining forces with his father, preeminent South African writer **Christopher Hope**, for the Carnegie Hall commissioned work which follows the life of Nat Nakasa, a brilliant, impassioned spirit of his generation who left behind South Africa's apartheid of the 1960s for New York. Noted authority on South African music **Andrew Tracey** is musical supervisor (October 28).

A double-bill performance showcasing two aspects of contemporary Zulu *maskandi* music (often dubbed the "Zulu blues") features two masters from the KwaZulu-Natal province: **Madala Kunene** leading a quintet that draws on the spiritual aspects of the style, and **Phuzekhemisi** performing exuberant, high-energy music with singers and dancers in traditional attire (October 11).

A second double-bill program in Zankel Hall features the **Young Stars: Traditional Cape Malay Singers**—a 15-voice male choir led by **Moeni Jacobs**, performing a style of vocal music from Cape Town that combines Dutch folk songs with beautifully ornamented vocal traditions from as far afield as Malaysia, Arabia, and East Africa. The program also features a performance by guitarist, singer-songwriter, and tireless champion of Cape music traditions **David Kramer**, joined by folk musicians from the remote regions of the Karoo desert (October 25).

Kesivan Naidoo, a drummer, composer, and one of the leaders of the next wave of Cape jazz performers will perform original compositions, standards and avant garde selections for his New York debut concert with his band **Kesivan and the Lights** (October 30). **Dizu Plaatjies** and his group **Ibuyambo** will perform the music of the Xhosa people as well as other southern African traditions (November 1).

In addition, two young, critically-acclaimed South African sopranos will make their New York recital debuts in Weill Recital Hall as part of the festival—**Pretty Yende** (October 13) and **Elza van den Heever** (October 24).

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute will present *UBUNTU* festival events at Carnegie Hall and in community venues throughout New York City, inviting families, young musicians, and the community at large to experience a wide range of music from South Africa. In addition to the master class led by **Abdullah Ibrahim**, events

include a lively **Carnegie Hall Family Concert** featuring **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** (October 19), and a variety of free **Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concerts** in community venues, including performances by **Phuzekhemisi**, Abdullah Ibrahim's **Ekaya**, and **Kesivan and the Lights**.

Festival programming at leading cultural institutions throughout New York City will include music, dance, film, visual arts, panel discussions and more. *UBUNTU* partners include: African Film Festival Inc.; Anna Zorina Gallery; Apollo Theater; Axis Gallery; Flushing Town Hall; Jazz at Lincoln Center; The Juilliard School; Keyes Art Projects; (Le) Poisson Rouge; Live from the New York Public Library; New Heritage Theatre Group; The New York Public Library; Queens College, City University of New York; Ubuntu Education Fund; World Music Institute; and Yossi Milo Gallery.

A complete schedule for the *UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa* festival will be announced in summer 2014. Tied to *UBUNTU*, Carnegie Hall has launched a special web site: carnegiehall.org/SouthAfrica, which will feature information on festival events, interviews with artists, videos introducing the music being performed, and other content designed to illuminate festival offerings. For a video overview of the festival, please [click here](#).

Information about the *UBUNTU* festival was unveiled as part of the announcement of [Carnegie Hall's 2014–2015 season](#).

UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa at Carnegie Hall

(Chronological listing of Carnegie Hall programming)

Friday, October 10 at 8:00 PM | Stern/Perelman

**Hugh Masekela
Vusi Mahlasela**

Twenty Years of Freedom

Two of South Africa's true freedom fighters and musical icons, legendary trumpeter, vocalist, and composer Hugh Masekela and vocalist Vusi Mahlasela, are joined by guest artists to celebrate the anniversary of twenty years of democracy in South Africa with a program of stirring freedom songs.

Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 PM | Zankel

**Madala Kunene
Phuzekhemisi**

Two masters from the KwaZulu-Natal province headline a double-bill that showcases two aspects of contemporary Zulu *maskandi* music. Often dubbed the "Zulu blues," *maskandi* music is traditionally performed by Zulu singer-guitarists. Madala Kunene and his quintet draw on the spiritual aspects of the style, while Phuzekhemisi performs exuberant, high-energy music with singers and dancers in traditional attire.

Monday, October 13 at 7:30 PM | Weill

Pretty Yende, Soprano

Internationally-acclaimed young South African soprano Pretty Yende makes her New York recital debut in Weill Recital Hall. Pianist and repertoire for this performance is to be announced.

Friday, October 17 at 8:30 PM | Zankel

Abdullah Ibrahim

A revered pianist and composer, Abdullah Ibrahim has been hailed as the greatest exponent of Cape jazz. Over the course of his long and glorious career, Ibrahim has toured the world extensively, performing as soloist with symphony orchestras and with legendary jazz artists like Max Roach and Randy Weston, and with symphony orchestras. He returns to Zankel Hall for a solo concert that coincides with his 80th birthday. While in New York, Ibrahim will also share his musical knowledge and expertise with a new generation of artists, directing a master class for young professional jazz musicians, presented by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute.

Saturday, October 18 at 8:00 PM | Stern/Perelman

Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Friends

Voices from South Africa

One of the most famous groups to hail from South Africa, multiple Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo have toured and recorded with artists around the world. For this concert, they are joined by guest artists and a band from their homeland to share the many vibrant styles and influences of South African music.

Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 PM | Zankel

Carnegie Hall Family Concert: Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute presents a lively Family Concert featuring the acclaimed South African vocal ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Designed for families with children, ages 7-12.

Friday, October 24 at 7:30 PM | Weill

Elza van den Heever, Soprano

A native of Johannesburg, rising young soprano Elza van den Heever will perform in Weill Recital Hall, an appearance marking her New York recital debut. The program will include songs by Handel, Schumann, Fauré, Brahms, Le Roux Marais, Pescod, and Lemmer. Pianist for this performance is to be announced.

Saturday, October 25 at 9:00 PM | Zankel

Young Stars: Traditional Cape Malay Singers

Moeniel Jacobs, Director

David Kramer Band

The fascinating hybrid folk music from the Cape region of South Africa is explored by two groups in this concert. New York audiences have a rare opportunity to hear a Cape Malay choir—the Young Stars: Traditional Cape Malay Singers, a 15-voice male choir led by Moeniel Jacobs—performing a unique style of vocal music from Cape Town that combines Dutch folk songs called *nederlandslied* with colorful inflections and ornaments drawn from vocal traditions from as far afield as Malaysia, Arabia, and East Africa. David Kramer is a composer, guitarist, singer-songwriter, and a tireless champion of Cape musical traditions. For this concert, he performs with a lineup of folk musicians from the remote regions of the Karoo desert.

Monday, October 27 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

Paper Music: A Ciné Concert by Philip Miller and William Kentridge

Introduction by **William Kentridge**

Joanna Dudley, Voice

Idith Meshulam, Piano

Philip Miller, Foley Sampler

Paper Music is the latest project in an ongoing collaboration between the Johannesburg visual artist William Kentridge and his South African compatriot, composer Philip Miller. The program features a selection of 10 Kentridge films with music by Miller, including three that were presented as part of the work *The Refusal of Time* at the international exhibition dOCUMENTA (13) in Germany.

Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

A Distant Drum

Daniel Hope, Violin

Vincent Segal, Cello

Jason Marsalis, Percussion

Andrew Tracey, Music Supervisor

Atandwa Kani, Actor

Christiaan Schoombie, Actor

Additional artists to be announced

Violinist Daniel Hope curates a one-time-only music theater evening, joining forces with his father, writer Christopher Hope, founder of South Africa's Franschhoek Literary Festival. Commissioned by Carnegie Hall, *A Distant Drum* is a portrait of Nat Nakasa, a brilliant, impassioned spirit of his generation, who left behind South Africa's apartheid of the 1960s for New York. Nakasa was a young writer who heard a different music and marched to a distant drum. Noted authority on South African music, Andrew Tracey is musical supervisor and the outstanding ensemble of musicians and actors includes cellist Vincent Segal, best known for his collaboration with Sting; percussionist Jason Marsalis; and actors Atandwa Kani and Christiaan Schoombie.

Thursday, October 30 at 8:30 PM | Zankel

Kesivan and the Lights

Kesivan Naidoo is one of the exciting leaders of the next wave of Cape jazz performers. A composer and drummer, Naidoo leads a fiery quintet that is equally exciting when playing a standard, an original composition, or covering an Ornette Coleman tune. Kesivan and the Lights make their New York debut in this concert.

Saturday, November 1 at 9:00 PM | Zankel

Dizu Plaatjies and Ibuyambo

A traditional instrument maker and master, Dizu Plaatjies and his group Ibuyambo perform stunningly beautiful music of the Xhosa people as well as other southern African traditions. Plaatjies and Ibuyambo make music that is pure, proud, fascinating, and unforgettable.

Wednesday, November 5 at 8:00 PM | Stern/Perelman

Angélique Kidjo and Friends

Additional artists to be announced

Mama Africa: A Tribute to Miriam Makeba

Grammy Award-winning vocalist Angélique Kidjo celebrates the life and music of iconic South African singer and political activist Miriam Makeba, known popularly as “Mama Africa.” Kidjo shared a close relationship with Makeba, studying with her and eventually performing together with her in Paris and South Africa. Kidjo returns to Carnegie Hall, with Makeba’s supporting singers—Zamokuhle “Zamo” Mbutho, Faith Kekana, and Stella Khumalo—in this tribute to a remarkable woman.

UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa Throughout New York City

(A complete festival calendar will be announced in summer 2014)

The *UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa* festival will extend citywide through performances and events at prestigious partner organizations in New York City, including music, film, visual arts, panel discussions, and more.

Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute will present **free Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concerts**, inviting audiences to experience music-making by South African artists, including concerts by Phuzekhemisi, Abdullah Ibrahim’s Ekaya, and Kesivan and the Lights in community venues, including **Flushing Town Hall**.

Musical highlights at partner venues across New York City will include a program presented by **The Juilliard School** performed by the New Juilliard Ensemble directed by Joel Sachs in Juilliard’s Paul Hall, featuring music by leading composers such as Kevin Volans, Michael Blake, and others. In addition, **(Le) Poisson Rouge** will present a concert featuring bands from the “born free generation,” those who came of age in a free and democratic South Africa—musicians and bands representing the way that urban popular music has exploded on to the country’s music scene.

The **Apollo Theater**, in partnership with the **World Music Institute**, will present a special South African edition of its annual *Africa Now!* festival with a series of performances spotlighting today’s South African popular music and theater scenes. The festival commemorates Harlem’s enduring relationship with South Africa and includes a collaboration with the **New Heritage Theatre Group**, the iconic Harlem-based theater that introduced seminal South African theatrical works to American audiences, with a limited run of a new South African production.

In October, **Jazz at Lincoln Center** Education will engage South African musicians in videotaped public master classes on its online Jazz Academy, and will host a free-to-the-public Listening Party featuring top South African Jazz artists sharing some of their favorite and most influential records from the US and South Africa.

Other fascinating partner presentations: **African Film Festival, Inc.**, acclaimed for its annual spring film festival in partnership with Film Society of Lincoln Center, will schedule a special series of films and documentaries as part of *UBUNTU*, providing insight into the vibrant state of contemporary cinema in South Africa.

Keyes Art Projects will highlight contemporary trends in visual arts in South Africa, coordinating a series of exhibitions, receptions, and lectures at leading galleries in New York City. Participating galleries will include **Anna Zorina Gallery, Axis Gallery, Yossi Milo Gallery**, as well as **Keyes Art Projects**. Featured artists will include Shaun Ellison, Pieter Hugo, Bobson Sukhdeo Mohanlall, Graeme Williams, Sue Williamson, and Gary van Wyk.

Live from the NYPL—The New York City Public Library’s flagship ticketed event series of conversations, debates, and performances, presented under the direction of Paul Holdengräber—will invite leading cultural figures and influential leaders from South Africa to participate in wide-ranging discussions on the country today.

In addition, **The New York Public Library** will explore the music, films, poetry, stories, and crafts of South Africa through a series of programs for children and teens with their families.

The **Ubuntu Education Fund** provides comprehensive educational and health support for orphaned and vulnerable children in the townships of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. As part of the festival, Ubuntu leads a panel discussion on the social and economic challenges the country faces 20 years after apartheid while posing creative approaches to these ongoing issues.

In addition, throughout the 2014–2015 academic year, **Queens College, City University of New York**, will turn its attention to South Africa. *The Year of South Africa*, a university-wide initiative, will be launched in October in conjunction with the *UBUNTU* festival and will include talks, film screenings, dance, musical performances, and more.

A complete *UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa* festival calendar will be published in summer 2014. Check carnegiehall.org/SouthAfrica in coming months for more details.

Lead funding for the *UBUNTU* festival is provided by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

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Ticket Information

UBUNTU: Music and Arts of South Africa subscription packages are currently available. Single tickets for all Carnegie Hall events will go on sale in late summer 2014. Please note that tickets for festival partner presentations will only be made available through the box office of each specific partner.

For more information and updates in coming months, please visit carnegiehall.org/SouthAfrica or call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800.

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For high resolution images of featured artists, please contact the Carnegie Hall Public Relations Office at 212-903-9750 or publicrelations@carnegiehall.org.

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