

Advance Program Notes

Nobuntu

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.



Duduzile Sibanda
Zanele Manhenga
Heather Dube
Thandeka Moyo
Joyline Sibanda

Tonight's program will be selected from the following.

UYANGIPHOKA	Duduzile Sibanda
UTHIXO	Thandeka Moyo
CRY SONG	Dumisani Moyo
NOBUNTU CLICK SONG	Zanele Manhenga
STREETS	Heather Dube
CULA	Zanele Manhenga
SILELE	Trad. rearranged by Japhet Mlauzi
OBABES BEMBUBE	Dumisani Moyo
MISODZI	Zanele Manhenga
EWUWE	Traditional
LAY DOWN	Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir
AVUMILE	Zanele Manhenga
UMUSA	Heather Dube
AMAZING GRACE	Trad. rearranged by Nobuntu
MOYA MOYA	Trad. rearranged by Zanele Manhenga
IMPI	Zanele Manhenga

Program length approximately 90 minutes, no intermission

Nobuntu programs can be found on



Program Notes

UYANGIOHOXA

In this song we blame all woes and troubles on Satan, and we ask for courage and strength from the Almighty.

UTHIXO

A sacred song of praise. Uthixo is Ndebele for "the Creator."

CRY SONG

This is cry against abuse to all peoples and nations to stop all forms of abuse. Abuse is a tragedy we face in our day to day living and it must STOP!

NOBUNTU CLICK SONG

A song in the language of Ndebele that features unusual clicking sounds. Ndebele is one of the main languages of Zimbabwe.

STREETS

This song encourages people to be themselves and proud of who they are; a song of empowerment.

CULA

A song fixes any emotion, we encourage anyone who's down and out to sing and they will be happy again. If you are happy, sing some more.

SILELE

This song talks about a spiritual healer who is a wanderer. In our culture spiritual healers are revered and always sought out for advice.

OBABES BEMBUBE

This is homage to the type of music that we do. We've been affectionately called Obabes BeMbube by our fans, this song celebrates us and what Mbube has done to us giving us the opportunity to travel all over the world.

MISODZI

A mother encourages her child to stand up and fight for whatever they want.

EWUWE

A medley of traditional lullabies.

LAY DOWN

It's a motivational song that was sung by slaves as they were working in the fields. It encourages one to keep going even in the toughest situations.

AVUMILE

This song is a victory song.

UMUSA

Here we encourage kindness and love to prevail in our society at all times.

AMAZING GRACE

Our Imbube version of the famous song, *Amazing Grace*.

MOYA MOYA

A song about a sad woman lamenting her inability to have children. She is considered inadequate and incomplete because this is how the society views a barren woman.

IMPI

Our warrior song where we thank the Almighty for fighting for us and helping us see places we never thought we'd see.

Translations

STREETS

Lead: Sadza ndobikira mupoto inovindza

Backing: wona

Lead: Mriwo tinodya usina mafuta

Backing: Wona

Lead: Ndiro dzando'ndyira

Backings: dzinoswero pfambwa nemabete

Lead: ukawona pandorara

Backers: Unoseka...wona

(Repeat from top)

Chorus

Tongosangana muma Streets

Tichizviyita se tinemari

Mumoyo tichizva tinotambur

Tongosangana Muma Streets

(Repeat chorus)

Lead: Mosva yemunhu kutya maziso evanhu

Backing: Wo-l-yeee

Lead: Achizvinetsa nemakanda kwete nendzungu

Backing: Wona

Lead: Takabva neko kumunga hakuna ipwaa

Backing: Won

Lead: asi mufaro uripakuzvininipisa

Backing: Won

Lead: Takabva neko kumunga hakuna ipwaa

Backing: Won

Lead: asi mufaro uripakuzvininipisa

Chorus

Tongosangana muma Streets

Tichizviyita se tinemari

Mumoyo tichizva tinotambura

Tongosangana Muma Streets

(Repeat chorus)

Lead: Sadza ndobikira mupoto inovindza

Backing: won

Lead: Mriwo tinodya usina mafuta

Backing: Wona

Lead: Ndiro dzando'ndyira

Backings: dzinoswero pfambwa nemabete

Lead: ukawona pandorara

Backers: Unoseka...wona

Backers: Wona

Backers: Wona

Backers: Wona

(End)

I cook my meals in a leaking pot

Have a look

We eat un-oiled relish

Have a look

The plates I eat from

Cockroaches walk all over them all day

If you see where I sleep

You will laugh...have a look

(Repeat from top)

Chorus

We all just meet in the streets

Pretending we all have money

When internally we are suffering

We all just meet in the streets

(Repeat chorus)

The humans' fault is fearing people's eyes

(Chant)

Bothered with shells not the nut itself

Have a look

We have been to the fields and there is not harvest

(Meaning: we have been there and it's all meaningless)

Have a look

But joy is in being humble

Have a look

We have been to the fields and there is not harvest

Have a look

But joy is in being humble

Chorus

We all just meet in the streets

Pretending we all have money

When internally we are suffering

We all just meet in the streets

(Repeat chorus)

I cook my meals in a leaking pot

Have a look

We eat un-oiled relish

Have a look

The plates I eat from

Cockroaches walk all over them all day

If you see where I sleep

You will laugh...have a look

Have a look

Have a look

Have a look

(End)

Translations

CULA

Lead: Nom'udanile
Backing: Nom'udanile cul'ingoma
Lead: Nom'ujabula
Backing: Nom'ujabula cul'ingoma
Lead: Nom'udangele
Backings: Nom'udangele cul'ingoma
Lead: Aw'nom'ukhala
Backers: Nom'ukhala cul'ingoma (x2 entire verse)

Backings: Ngob'umculo uyayiduduz'inhliziy
(Lead: Umculo, Uyayiduduz'inhliziy)
Won'umculo uyawutshintsh'umqondo
(Lead: Umculo uyawutshintsh'umqondo)

Backing: Ngob'umculo uyayiduduz'inhliziy
(Lead: Umculo, Uyayiduduz'inhliziy)
Won'umculo uyawutshintsh'umqondo
(Lead: Umculo)

Backings: Cula Hlabel'ingoma
(Lead: Cula wena'Hlabel'ingom'emnandi) (x2)
Backings: Cula Hlabel'ingoma
(Lead: Hlabel'ingom'emnandi, Cula wena)
Backings Cula Hlabel'ingoma
(Lead Ngob'umculo uyayiduduz'inhliziy)
Backings: Cula Hlabel'ingoma
(Lead: Won'umculo uyawutshintsh'umqondo)
Cula Hlabeli ingoma
(Cula wena Hlabel'ingom'emnandi)

(repeat until the end)

Even if you are sad
Even if you are sad sing a song
Even if you are happy
Even if you are happy rejoice in song
Even when dumbfounded
Even when dumbfounded express it through song
Even if you cry
Even when you cry , cry through song (x2 entire verse)

Because music soothes the heart
(music soothes the heart)
Music can change your train of thought
(music can change your train of thought)

Because music soothes the heart
(music soothes the heart)
Music can change your train of thought
(Music...)

Sing... Sing a song
(sing oh sing a beautiful song) (x2)
Sing... Sing a song
(sing a beautiful song...oh sing)
Sing... Sing a song
(music soothes the heart)
Sing... Sing a song
(music can change your train of thought)
Sing... Sing a song
(sing a beautiful song...oh sing)

(repeat until the end)

About Nobuntu

Nobuntu, the female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe, has drawn international acclaim for its inventive performances that range from traditional Zimbabwean songs to Afro-jazz to gospel. The ensemble's concerts are performed with pure voices and augmented by minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the mbira (thumb piano), and organic, authentic dance movements.

Nobuntu was nominated for Best Musician of the Year at the Zimbabwe International Women Awards in London in 2015 and is currently a two-time winner for the Best Imbube Group at the Bulawayo Arts Awards in 2017 and 2019. In the last few seasons, the quintet has performed at festivals and concert halls in Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and throughout the African continent. The ensemble was a huge critical success at Trans-Vocal in Frankfurt and Voice Mania in Vienna. Their first tour to Canada in 2016 included performances in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Victoria.

The word Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, purpose, unity, and family from a woman's perspective. The ensemble represents a new generation of young African women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty, and heritage through art. The ensemble's mission is the belief that music can be an important vehicle for change, one that transcends racial, tribal, religious, gender, and economic boundaries.

Back at home, Nobuntu holds a number of community initiatives, one of which is the Nobuntu Pad Bank, where they gather sanitary pads for young women in the arts in underprivileged communities.

Nobuntu has released three recordings—*Thina* in 2013, *Ekhaya* in 2016, and *Obabes beMbube* in 2018. The group has made numerous television and radio appearances throughout Africa and Europe promoting these recordings and the culture of their homeland.

Biographies

DUDUZILE SIBANDA

Duduzile Sibanda is a self-taught singer and songwriter who discovered her ability to sing at a very young age. Coming from a music-loving family, Sibanda grew up singing at family gatherings, church functions, and in the school choir. Her passion for performing has continued to grow. After high school, Sibanda pursued music as a backing singer for local musicians like Khulekani Bhethule (Khuxxman), Zenzele Ndebele, Gabs Fire, Mjox, and many more. She also worked vocally on a series of jingles for Radio Dialogue.

In 2011 Sibanda joined a theatre project, *Stitsha*, produced by Qhube Productions, where she further explored her music career as well as theatre. After *Stitsha*, she began doing backing vocals for Ramadu, an Austrian-based musician, who at the time was working on his release, *Zim Classics*. Sibanda joined Nobuntu when the group was founded. She is a singer, songwriter, and dancer. In 2016 Sibanda, along with friend and fellow Nobuntu member Zanele Manhenga, started uMuz'Wentombi (The House of Woman), a culture and arts platform meant to bring women together in the city of Bulawayo.

ZANELE MANHENGGA

Zanele Manhenga is a talented singer, songwriter, and poet who began her journey as a child singing at family gatherings together with her older sister, Afro-jazz artist Dudu Manhenga. Manhenga has also appeared numerous times as a performer and an MC at the Sistaz Open Mic, a Pamberi Trust initiative to give young and upcoming female artists a platform to enter the mainstream of the arts in Harare. In addition to the open mic sessions, she has attended several grooming workshops under the gender project F.L.A.M.E. This has contributed to her growth and confidence along her musical journey.

She has performed, recorded, toured, and been mentored by Dudu Manhenga and Color Blu in South Africa and Mozambique. She has also performed as a background vocalist for many artists including Pastor Gee, Ignatious Mabasa, Ronny Roots, Bob Nyabinde, Jeys Marabini, Lwazi Shabangu, and Cool Crooners, to mention but a few. With these and other artists Manhenga has performed at Harare International Festival of the Arts HIFA (2007), Beira Jazz Festival (Mozambique 2009), Harare Jazz Festival (2010-2012), Grahamstown Arts Festival (South Africa, 2009-2010), October Jazz (2011-2014), and Bob Marley Commemoration (2012)

In 2011 Manhenga studied for a National Certificate in Musicology at the Zimbabwe College of Music where she trained with various instruments including the Mbira and traditional Zimbabwe dance among other subjects. Zanele released a single online called *Nginje* in 2013. In 2014 Zanele Manhenga was signed by 10th District Music and joined Nobuntu. She has since contributed songs on the latest Nobuntu album EKHAYA. She is the Mbira player of the group, a singer and songwriter.

HEATHER DUBE

Heather Dube is an energetic dancer, percussionist, and vocalist who started at a very young age performing in school choirs and traditional groups. In 2007 Dube worked with Indlovukazi ZikaNyongola, a Friends of Joshua Trust Initiative. In 2008 she was part of the Amawumbo Dance Company, which toured France and Belgium and performed in festivals such as the Martiuges Festival, Chambéry Festival, and Tohout Festival. In 2009 she was part of Kwabatsha Dance Company, which toured around the country. In 2010 Dube was selected to represent Zimbabwe at the Shanghai Expo in China as a dancer. She is also a session vocalist and has done backing vocals for Khuxxman, Hudson Simbarashe, and Vusa Mkhaya, as well as a percussionist for Austria-based group Mozulu Art. Her journey with Nobuntu started in 2011, and she is a dancer, vocalist, and percussionist on stage and in the studio.

Biographies, continued

THANDEKA MOYO

Thandeka Moyo is a talented songwriter, singer, dancer, make-up artist, and designer. Moyo started singing in high school at St. Columbus in 2003 and was very much involved with the high school choir. From 2008-2010 she studied cosmetology at Bulawayo Polytechnic and focused on image consultancy and personal grooming. During this time, she joined the Bulawayo Polytechnic Choir and performed in district competitions. Since then Moyo has managed to work with upcoming artists in Zimbabwe, including U.K.-based gospel artist Nkosie ka Ndlovu and Afro-soul artist Mduduzi Ngoma. Thandeka joined Nobuntu in September 2014.

JOYLINE SIBANDA

Joyline Sibanda is a talented dancer and singer who started performing in 2004 at Vuka Africa and with Cont Mhlanga in a show called Mzilikazi. She then worked with Friends of Joshua as a dancer and singer of INDLOVUKAZI Zikanyongola. In 2011 she toured Germany with Intombi Zomqangala. Joyline Sibanda is a singer and dancer and original member of Nobuntu.

Engagement Events

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

VOCAL WORKSHOP

Nobuntu guided members of the Virginia Tech Chamber Singers in exploring vocal techniques rooted in numerous African traditions.

Friday, September 27, 2019

SCHOOL-DAY PERFORMANCE: AFRICA UP CLOSE

Students in grades kindergarten to six from the cities of Radford and Roanoke, as well as Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Botetourt, Bland, Craig, and Roanoke counties, attended this program that illustrated a diversity of arts and cultural traditions from numerous African countries.

CLASS VISIT: AFRICAN DANCE WORKSHOP

Virginia Tech students in an intermediate/advanced dance course participated in this workshop, led by members of Nobuntu.

Special thanks to Scotty Hardwig and Larry Wyatt

Go Deeper

Midway through Nobuntu's song *Streets*, a chant emerges that translates in English to "The humans' fault is fearing people's eyes / Bothered with shells, not the nut itself." What does this mean to you? How can music positively address this regrettable condition?

In the Galleries

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL CANOGAR

Imbued with rich, luminescent color and flowing abstractions, Daniel Canogar's art engages with us with light, color, movement, and the dynamics of the data-sphere. Activated by real-time data pulled from the internet, the fluid and ever-changing imagery transmitted through and across Canogar's sculptures is generated from different environmental and socio-political phenomena occurring around the globe, such as active volcanoes, atmospheric conditions, pollution, and stock market fluctuations.

Works by Daniel Canogar are currently on view in the Ruth C. Horton Gallery and Grand Lobby, located on the first floor.

DATAFORM

Yorgo Alexopoulos, Jim Campbell, and Daniel Canogar

Thursday, August 29-Saturday, November 9, 2019

All galleries

In this suite of one-person exhibitions, three nationally and internationally acclaimed artists use technology-based media—electronics, video, computer generated algorithms, light emitting diodes (LEDs)—to transform real-time data into sculptural form. Drawing from a variety of sources ranging from the environment to pedestrian traffic, data in their works become three dimensional manifestations of light, color, and movement resulting in visible and especially arresting perceptual experiences.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.