



HUGH MASEKELA's Chissa All-Stars- page 1 of 2

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Weiler
Phone: (617) 876-4275
Email: Susan@WorldMusic.org

WORLD MUSIC PRESENTS
From South Africa
HUGH MASEKELA'S Chissa All-Stars

Sunday, February 17, 7:30pm, Berklee Performance Center

Boston, MA – **WORLD MUSIC** presents, from South Africa, Hugh Masekela's Chissa All-Stars on Sunday, February 17, 7:30pm at the Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. Tickets are \$37, \$32 and \$28. For tickets and information call World Music (617) 876-4275 or buy online at www.WorldMusic.org.

South African music legend Hugh Masekela and his seven-member band create supple grooves that blend Afro-beat, funk and jazz. With a career that has spanned four decades, Masekela is no less than a worldwide superstar, and his trumpet has long been a call to freedom and a celebration of the resilience of his people. For this special concert, Masekela and his band will be joined by his Chissa All-Stars, featuring many exciting South African performers, including Afro-pop diva Sibongile Khumalo, urban-Zulu singer Busi Mhlongo, young *kwaito* singer Corlea and others.

Born near Johannesburg in 1939, Hugh Masekela was introduced to the trumpet in 1954 by anti-apartheid activist Father Trevor Huddleston, his school chaplain. As a teenager, he performed with Abdullah Ibrahim, Jonas Gwangwa and Kippie Moeketsi in the Father Huddleston Band. As the brutality of the apartheid state increased, Masekela finally left the country to study at London's Guildhall School of Music. Miriam Makeba, who was already enjoying major success in the USA later helped him with Harry Belafonte, Dizzy Gillespie and John Mehagan to get admission to the Manhattan School of Music in New York. It was in New York seven years later in 1968 that he struck gold with his instrumental pop hit "Grazing in the Grass."

By the beginning of the 1970s, Hugh Masekela had attained international fame and his career began to explode. His groundbreaking albums and legendary collaborations with Miriam Makeba, Bob Marley, Fela Kuti, Paul Simon and so many others went on to introduce the joys of African to the world. A true pioneer in contemporary African music and one of the leading crusaders against apartheid, Masekela laid the groundwork, along with such musical giants as Fela Kuti, Franco, Miriam Makeba, King Sunny Adé and others, for the world beat explosion that paved the way for today's African superstars.

With more than 40 albums to his credit, Masekela has recorded for Chissa, MGM, Mercury, Universal, Motown, A&M, Warner Brothers, Jive Records Sony Music, among others. He performed with artists as diverse as Dizzy Gillespie, The Crusaders, Harry Belafonte, Bill Cosby, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Paul Simon, Santana, Stan Getz and Herb Alpert. He also conceptualized and composed the music for the Broadway smash musical *Sarafina* with actor-director-songwriter-playwright Mbongeni Ngema. His 1987 hit, "Bring Him Back Home," became the anthem for Nelson Mandela's world tour following Mandela's release from prison in 1992. In 2005 he was awarded a Kora Award (Africa's equivalent to a Grammy), for Best Male Performer. The same year he released *Revival* on Heads Up Africa.

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Masekela's most recent album, *Live at the Market Theatre*, was released in July 2007 on Times Square/4 Q Records in collaboration with Chissa Entertainment Group. The Market Theatre itself is one of the most significant cultural institutions of South Africa, having survived through the apartheid regime to today. With origins in liberation theater, it became an incubator for the nation's great playwrights, actors, and musicians. It is there that Masekela's *Sarafina* was born. For its recent 30th year anniversary, Masekela was included in a month-long series of performances representing the defining acts of the South African nation. *Live at the Market Theatre* was recorded during these celebrations.

On this tour, Masekela is joined by his Chissa All-Stars, African-based artists affiliated with Chissa Entertainment Group. Chissa Entertainment, established by Masekela in 2001, is African-owned and represents and produces emerging and established African artists, creating (in Masekela's own words) "platforms for the excellence of the continent to be seen and heard."

To download high resolution digital photos go to www.WorldMusic.org and click "PRESS CENTER".

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