



Nobuntu

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.

Duduzile Sibanda
Zanele Manhenga
Heather Dube
Thandeka Moyo
Joyline Sibanda

Program

Tonight's program will be selected from the following:

Uyangiphoxa
Uthixo
Cry Song
Nobuntu Click Song
Streets
Cula
Silele
Obabes Bembube
Misodzi
Ewuwe
Lay Down
Avumile
Umusa
Amazing Grace
Moya Moya
Impi

Duduzile Sibanda
Thandeka Moyo
Dumisani Moyo
Zanele Manhenga
Heather Dube
Zanele Manhenga
Traditional arr. Japhet Mlauzi
Dumisani Moyo
Zanele Manhenga
Traditional
Linda Tillery and The Cultural Heritage Choir
Zanele Manhenga
Heather Dube
Traditional arr. Nobuntu
Traditional arr. Zanele Manhenga
Zanele Manhenga

The program will last approximately 90 minutes without an intermission.

NOBUNTU RECORDINGS CAN BE FOUND ON



NOBUNTU IS REPRESENTED BY



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PLEASE NOTE

- Latecomers will be seated at the house manager's discretion.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus!

Program notes

Uyangiphoxa

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 and for 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 to be proud of who they are. It is 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 an 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 for 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

This is 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 Mbube 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 her 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.

About the performers

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, 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 a two-time winner for the Best Mbube Group at the Bulawayo Arts Awards (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. The group's 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.

Dudzile Sibanda

Dudzile 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, she 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, she joined a theatre project titled *Stitcha* produced by Qhube Productions, where she further explored her music career as well as theatre. After *Stitcha* she began doing backing vocals for Ramadu, an Austria-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 on both the albums *Thina* and *Ekhaya*. 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 Manhenga

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. She has also appeared numerous times as a performer and an emcee 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. Manhenga 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 she has performed at Harare International Festival of the Arts (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. Manhenga released a single online called *Nginje* in 2013. In 2014, 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, as well as 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, she 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, Chambery 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 performed as a percussionist for the Austria-based group Mozulu Art. Her journey with Nobuntu started in 2011. She is a dancer, vocalist and percussionist on stage and in the studio.

Thandeka Moyo

Thandeka Moyo is a talented songwriter, singer, dancer, make-up artist and designer. She started singing in high school at St. Columbus in 2003 and was very much involved with the high school choir. From 2008-10, 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 the UK-based gospel artist Nkosie ka Ndlovu and afro-soul artist Mduduzi Ngoma. Moyo 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 Mhlana 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. Sibanda is a singer and dancer and original member of Nobuntu.



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