

The Wits Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with the Wits School of Arts, and New York University present the

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2023

Friday, 26 May – Monday, 29 May

This year's Africa Day celebrations at Wits focus on ways to foster strategic partnerships that highlight a respectful approach towards cultural diversity as the foundation for sharing ideas that will empower and encourage growth in Africa.

THEME: Towards an inclusive higher education system



For online attendance of any listed event: <https://shorturl.at/iswyH>

FULL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 26 MAY: DAY 1

SESSION 1: Africa Day Seminar

Chaired by Prof. René Smith

12h00 – 14h00

Venue: Film & Television Cinema, Basement (B – 1), Solomon Mahlangu House, Braamfontein Campus East

- 12h00: **Welcome & Opening Remarks by Dr Emmanuel Ojo**, Chair: Faculty of Humanities Transformation, Internationalisation and Partnerships Committee.
- 12h15: **Keynote address from IEASA President, Dr Lavern Samuels** – Internationalisation and inclusion in Higher Education
- 12h30: **Panel Discussion 1** – Africa(n) partnerships for innovation, inclusive growth and sustainability

Panellists:

Lesley Williams – CEO, Tshimologong

Ojoma Ochai – Creative Economy Strategist

Avril Joffe – Postgrad Coordinator (and former Head) of the Wits Cultural Policy and Management Department

• 13h30: **Closing Remarks** – Prof. René Smith, WSOA Head of School and Programme Facilitator

14h00 – 15h00: Refreshments

SESSION 2: Chaired by Prof. Brett Pyper

17h30 – 18h30: Panel Discussion 2 – Elusive Dreams in Jozi. Centred around thematic developments on how migration into Johannesburg shaped the sights and sounds of Johannesburg.

18h30 – 19h00: Drinks and light refreshments at the Chris Seabrook Hall

SESSION 3: SHE/HER Concert

19h00 – 21h00

Venue: Chris Seabrook Music Hall, Braamfontein Campus East

Introduction and Welcome: Dr Donato Somma

Maria du Toit – Clarinet, **Vera Kooper** – Piano

A duo of fearless females, Maria du Toit and Vera Kooper radiate positive energy and absolute joy in music making. They are on a mission to inspire people of all backgrounds and ages, while shining a special light on the music of composers that are heard less often. In their program 'she/her' which has been received with much enthusiasm in the Netherlands, where the duo is based, Maria and Vera perform music by female composers of diverse nationalities, eras, and musical styles.

SATURDAY, 27 MAY: DAY 2

SESSION 4: Chaired by Mr Mandla Mlangeni & Prof. Brett Pyper

19h00 – 21h00: Evening concert

Venue: Wits Great Hall, Braamfontein Campus East

Introduction and Welcome: Prof. Brett Pyper

The Amandla Freedom Ensemble brings Oratorio of a Forgotten Youth to the Wits Great Hall

The Amandla Freedom Ensemble led by Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz 2019 Mandla Mlangeni, will once again bring The Oratorio of a Forgotten Youth to the stage, and reimagine jazz through the lens of poetry, classical musings and the 'black consciousness' legacy in South Africa.

SUNDAY, 28 MAY: DAY 3

SESSION 5: Chaired by Mr Jurgen Meekel

13h00 – 14h45

Venue: Film & Television Cinema, Basement (B – 1), Solomon Mahlangu House, Braamfontein Campus East

- Introduction and Welcome: Jurgen Meekel
- 13h00 – 13h10: Gabriella Blumberg and Jordy Sank will introduce the film "I AM HERE"
- 13h10 – 14h20: Film screening
- 14h20 – 14h45: Q & A moderated by Dr Teddy Mattera

SESSION 6: Concert: AFRICAN MUSIC AND THE GLOBAL ORDER OF TIME

Chaired by Prof. Martin Scherzinger

15h00 – 17h00

Venue: Chris Seabrook Music Hall, Braamfontein Campus East

This concert is part of an educational project that brings together students from across the globe -- Pakistan, Russia, Egypt, Moldova, Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Cyprus, South Korea, Guatemala, USA, India -- to consider the part played by African music in the history of mathematics and the order of time. What are the distinctive features of pre-colonial African culture that might challenge and supplement the central tenets of the Western order of time? Mbira dza vadzimu music, for example, offers a mode of patterning both pitch and time that challenges the metric-diatonic organizational principles of musical temporality and tonality that have come to enjoy a world monopoly.

Performers:

• **Nathan Chakuchichi** (and his mbira ensemble – Ronald Shonai and Simon Meki). Nathan is a well-known multi-instrumentalist musician from Zimbabwe based in Johannesburg, best known for his outstanding performances on mbira. In addition, he has produced several CDs.

• **Prof. Mzikantu Zungula Dizu** Plaatjies, multi-instrumentalist musician best known for being the founder and former leader of the South African group, Amampondo. He is a graduate of the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town where he is a professor in African Music.

MONDAY, 29 MAY: DAY 4

SESSION 7: Chaired by Dr Cameron Harris

19h00 – 20h30

Venue: Chris Seabrook Music Hall

Atem-Duo

Sören Hermansson – Horn and **Ivo Nilsson** – Trombone

Contemporary Music from Sweden and South Africa

The duo performs contemporary music by Ivo Nilsson, Jenny Hettne, Andile Khumalo, Cameron Harris, Alessandro Perini, Lina Järnegard and Magnus Bunnskog.

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