



# NOBUNTU

**Duduzile Sibanda  
Zanele Manhenga  
Heather Dube  
Thandeka Moyo  
Joyline Sibanda**

## **PROGRAM**

*There will not be an intermission.*

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**Saturday, November 17 @ 8 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre

## PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight's program will be selected from the following:

UYANGIPHOXA by Duduzile Sibanda

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

UTHIXO by Thandeka Moyo

A sacred song of praise. UTHIXO is Ndebele for the Creator.

CRY SONG by Dumisani Moyo

This is a cry 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 by Zanele Manhenga

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

STREETS by Heather Dube

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

CULA by Zanele Manhenga

A song that fixes negative emotions. We encourage anyone who's down and out to sing and they will be happy again. If you are happy, sing some more.

SILELE Traditional rearranged by Japhet Mlauzi

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 by Dumisani Moyo

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 by Zanele Manhenga

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

EWUWE Traditional

A medley of traditional lullabies.

LAY DOWN by Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir

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 by Zanele Manhenga

A victory song.

UMUSA by Heather Dube

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

AMAZING GRACE Traditional rearranged by Nobuntu  
Our Imbube version of the famous song *Amazing Grace*.

MOYA MOYA Traditional rearranged by Zanele Manhenga  
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 by Zanele Manhenga  
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 ARTISTS

### **Nobuntu**

Nobuntu is a five-part a cappella vocal ensemble made up of young women from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The name Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, purpose, unity and family from a woman's perspective. Their repertoire is a fusion of traditional Zimbabwean-rooted music, Afro jazz, gospel and crossover in pure voices with minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the Mbira, and some dance movements.

The ensemble won Outstanding Imbube Group in the inaugural 2017 Bulawayo Arts Awards and was nominated for Best Musician of the Year at the Zimbabwe International Women Awards 2015, which were held in London.

The video of *Narini*, their lead single from the second album, *Ekhaya*, went on to be #1 of the Top 10 Zimbabwean Music Videos on DSTV's Zambezi Magic TV. *Narini* stayed in the Top 10 for over four weeks.

Nobuntu is a production identified by its concept and philosophy, a new generation of young women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty and heritage through art. Nobuntu was founded in 2011, as there was an absence of an all-female professional a cappella group in Bulawayo and Zimbabwe. The ensemble's mission is the belief that music is the most important and original wheel of change. It's an expression of a new generation of young women singers, transcending racial, tribal, religious, gender and economic boundaries.

Through their voices and movement, Nobuntu celebrates the identities of being an African woman. Their voices, energy and breathtaking performances are an experience that communicates humanity. The release of their debut album in 2013 titled *Thina*, immediately took them beyond their African borders to countries such as Austria, Germany, Belgium and the Czech Republic, playing in concert halls, theatres and festivals such as Voice Mania in Vienna and Trans-Vocal in Frankfurt-Oder.

In 2016, Nobuntu released their second album called *Ekhaya*, a homage to all things African; its beauty, the values and their norms as a people. The album is an attempt to leave behind a world and legacy their children will be happy to inherit and preserve. The album highlights the importance of a place called home.

### **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, 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 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 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 on both 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 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.

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. With these and other artists, she 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. Manhenga has released a single online in 2013 called *Nginje*. 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 a percussionist for the Austria-based group Mozulu Art. Her journey with Nobuntu started in 2011 as 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 2008-2010, she went to study 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, she has worked 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 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. Sibanda is a singer and dancer and original member of Nobuntu.