



ADRIAN BOHM PRESENTS

**SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST ACCLAIMED VOCAL GROUP**



**AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2011**

<b>MELBOURNE</b> Book at The Arts Centre Box Office 1300 182 183 <a href="http://www.theartscentre.com.au">www.theartscentre.com.au</a> or Ticketmaster 136 100 <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com.au">www.ticketmaster.com.au</a>	<b>STATE THEATRE</b>	<b>FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER</b>
<b>BRISBANE</b> Book at QPAC 136 246 <a href="http://www.qpac.com.au">www.qpac.com.au</a>	<b>QPAC CONCERT HALL</b>	<b>SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER</b>
<b>ADELAIDE</b> Book at BASS 131 246 <a href="http://www.bass.net.au">www.bass.net.au</a>	<b>HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE</b>	<b>MONDAY 31 OCTOBER</b>
<b>PERTH</b> Book at BOCS 9484 1133 <a href="http://www.bocs.com.au">www.bocs.com.au</a>	<b>CONCERT HALL</b>	<b>TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER</b>
<b>CANBERRA</b> Book at Canberra Theatre Box Office 6275 2700 <a href="http://www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au">www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au</a>	<b>CANBERRA THEATRE</b>	<b>THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER</b>
<b>SYDNEY</b> Book at Ticketmaster 136 100 <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com.au">www.ticketmaster.com.au</a>	<b>STATE THEATRE</b>	<b>FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER</b>
<b>TICKETS ON SALE WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 9AM</b> <b>ALL TICKETS \$89.90 (booking fees may apply)</b>		

*"It isn't merely the grace and power of their dancing or the beauty of their singing that rivets the attention, but the sheer joy and love that emanates from their being."*  
Paul Simon

*"If the creative discipline and good spirits of the South African singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo are any indication of the prevailing will and temperament of its homeland, South Africa has a great chance of completing its transition from racist tyranny to equal rights democracy with joy, not further bloodshed."*  
Los Angeles Times

For more than four decades, Ladysmith Black Mambazo have married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions to the sounds and sentiments of Christian gospel music. The result is a musical and spiritual alchemy that has touched a worldwide

audience representing every corner of the religious, cultural and ethnic landscape. Their musical efforts over the past three decades have garnered praise and accolades within the recording industry but also solidified their identity as a cultural force to be reckoned with.

Mention African song and most people think of South African practitioners of the vocal arts – **Solomon Linda**, **Miriam Makeba** and perhaps more than anyone else in recent memory, **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**. It is **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** who has come to represent the traditional culture of South Africa. They are regarded as South Africa's cultural emissaries at home and around the world. In 1993 at **Nelson Mandela's** request, Mambazo accompanied the future President, and then South African President **FW de Klerk**, to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway. Mambazo sang again at President Mandela's inauguration in May 1994. They are a national treasure of the new South Africa in part because they embody the traditions suppressed in the old South Africa.

The traditional music sung by Ladysmith Black Mambazo is called Isicathamiya (is-cot-a-me-ya). It was born in the mines of South Africa. Black workers were taken by rail to work far away from their homes and families. Poorly housed and paid, they would entertain themselves after a six day week by singing songs into the early hours every Sunday morning. **Cothoza Mfana** they called themselves "tip toe guys" referring to the dance steps choreographed so as not to disturb the camp security guards. When miners finally returned to their homeland, the tradition returned with them.

In the mid fifties **Joseph Shabalala** took advantage of his proximity to the urban sprawl of the city of Durban, allowing him the opportunity to seek work in a factory. Leaving the family farm was not easy, but it was during this time that Joseph first showed a talent for singing. After singing with a few groups in Durban he returned to his hometown of Ladysmith and began to put together groups of his own. He was rarely satisfied with the results. *"I felt there was something missing... I tried to teach the music that I felt, but I failed, until 1964 when a dream came to me. I always hear the harmony from that dream and I said 'This is the harmony that I want and I can teach it to my guys.'* Joseph recruited members of his immediate family - brothers Headman and Jockey, Cousins Albert and Abednego Mazibuko and other close friends to join. Joseph taught the group the harmonies from his dreams. With time and patience, Joseph's work began to reveal the colours of these dreams.

In the mid-1980s, **Paul Simon** made his initial trip to South Africa and met members of Black Mambazo. Having listened to a cassette of their music, Simon was captivated by the stirring sound of rich tenor/alto/bass harmonies and incorporated those traditional sounds into his **Graceland** album – a landmark album that was considered seminal in introducing world music to mainstream audiences. **"Graceland"** won many awards including the **Grammy Award for Best Album of the Year**.

A year later, Simon produced Black Mambazo's first U.S. release, **Shaka Zulu**, which won the **Grammy Award**, in 1988 for **Best Traditional Folk Album**. Since then, and in total, the group has received fifteen **Grammy Award Nominations** and three **Grammy Award** wins, including one in 2009. Their work with Paul Simon on the **Graceland** album attracted a world of fans that never knew that the subtleties of Zulu harmony could be so captivating. They have recorded 46 albums and sold over 6 million records world side.

A documentary film titled **On Tip Toe: Gentle Steps To Freedom**, which is the story of **Joseph Shabalala** and **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**, was nominated for an **Academy Award** as **Best Short Documentary Film** in 2001. In addition **On Tip Toe: Gentle Steps to Freedom** was nominated for American television's Emmy Award in 2002 for Best Cultural Documentary.

In addition to their work with **Paul Simon**, **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** has recorded with numerous artists from around the world, including **Stevie Wonder**, **Josh Groban**, **Dolly Parton**, **Russell Watson** and **Ben Harper**. Their 2006 CD, "**Long Walk To Freedom**" had guest singers join them, such as **Sarah McLachlan**, **Natalie Merchant**, **Melissa Etheridge**, **Emmylou Harris**, **Taj Mahal** and others. Their film work includes an appearance in **Michael Jackson's Moonwalker** video and **Spike Lee's Do It A Cappella**. They provided soundtrack material for **Disney's The Lion King**, Part II as well as **Eddie Murphy's Coming To America**, **Clint Eastwood's Invictus**, **Marlon Brando's A Dry White Season**, **Sean Connery's The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen** and **James Earl Jones' Cry The Beloved Country**. Their performance with **Paul Simon** on **Sesame Street** is legendary and is one of the top three requested Sesame Street segments in history.

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo** has been invited to perform at many special events. By special invitation from **South African President Nelson Mandela**, they performed for the **Queen of England** and **the Royal Family** at the **Royal Albert Hall** in London. The group has also performed at two **Nobel Peace Prize Ceremonies**, a concert for **Pope John Paul II** in Rome, the South African Presidential inaugurations, and the 1996 Summer Olympics. In the summer of 2002, Black Mambazo was again asked to represent their nation in London at a celebration for **Queen Elizabeth's 50th Anniversary as Monarch**. They shared the stage with **Paul McCartney**, **Rod Stewart**, **Eric Clapton**, **Joe Cocker** and **Phil Collins**.

Just when one think the group should be slowing down they are entering what should be the busiest years of their career since "Graceland." They have six new recording projects they are readying for release, a new concert DVD and a Children's project. They have long wished to release a trilogy of CD's that sing of their life experiences in South Africa called "**Our South African Life**." Volume one, is "**Songs From A Zulu Farm**." This wonderful recording is important to the group members because the older members of the group were born and raised on the farms outside of Ladysmith. It is a collection of original and traditional songs that sing of life on the farm. This release will coincide with a world tour that brings them to Australia in November 201.

No, time is not slowing down for the group. As Joseph Shabalala says, "We are teachers. We travel the world spreading our message of Peace, Love and Harmony. What could be better or more important than that?"

[www.abpresents.com.au](http://www.abpresents.com.au)

[www.mambazo.com](http://www.mambazo.com)

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