



PULSE

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Newsletter September -October 2021

'Songs of Queen Lozikeyi'
Now Released



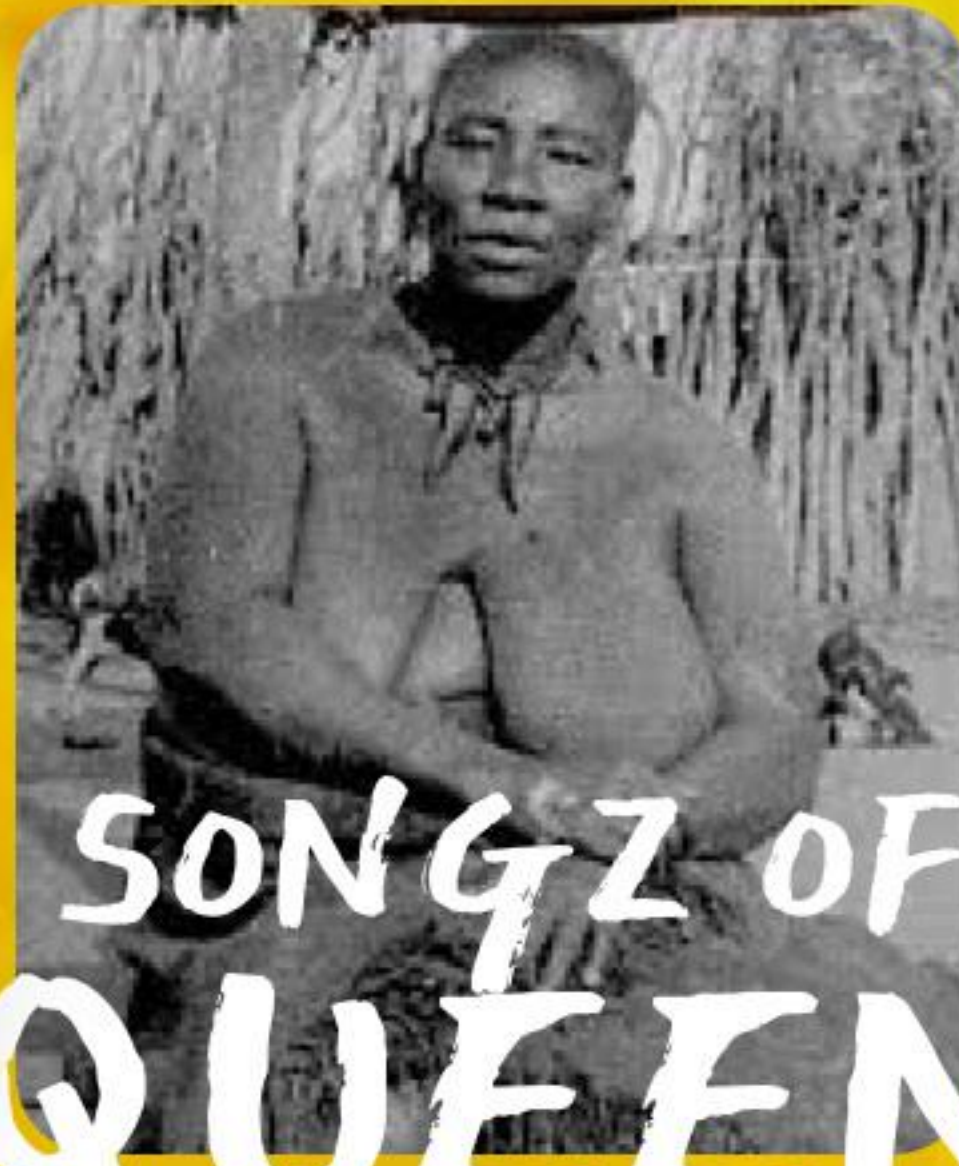
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[Photo credit: Google.com]

SONGS OF QUEEN LOZIKEYI



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THE QUEEN EMERGES IN 'SONGS OF QUEEN LOZIKEYI'

Songs of the great Ndebele Queen, Lozikeyi of Lobengula, have emerged from the recording studio and are ready to be released to the world. A royal collaboration of 11 acclaimed artists of Bulawayo, 'City of Kings', the studio production SONGS OF QUEEN LOZIKEYI follows a scintillating performance and rave reviews of the initial collaboration staged at Bulawayo Arts Festival in June 2021.

'Songs of Queen Lozikeyi' portrays a vivid image of the queen's power, energy and leadership, a 6-track album of high-energy foot-tappers and haunting ballads, interspersed with poetry by two young poets in the style of traditional praise poetry for African Kings in the Ndebele culture.


Lead singers and songwriters are Thandy Dhlana and Nomathamsanqa 'Nkwali' Mkwanzani, along with poets Sithandazile Dube, and Thandokuhle Sibanda, musicians Prince Joel Nyoni (keyb), Obey Mudiwa (drums), Paul Maseko (bass), Mthabisi Moyo (guitar), Gomez Dube (percussion), Vuyile Qongo (saxophone), and Laura Ngwenya on backing

Featured in the six track recording is the song Halala Lozikeyi by Nkwali which was commissioned by the Queen Lozikeyi Trust, set up by her descendants to preserve her legacy. The song salutes the queen with evocative lyrics, a fitting tribute. Also written and performed by Nkwali are Mbungazeni and Sizopika, a folk song with poetry by Sithandazile Dube; and from Thandy Dhlana come Story with poetry by Thando Sibanda; Asambeni, co-arranged by Nkwali, and Queen Lozikeyi where Thandy is accompanied by both poets.

Featured poetry works are Amandla and Call Me By My Name by Thando Sibanda, and Sibongile Ndlovukazi, Indlovukazi and KoBulawayo by Sithandazile Dube.

Musician Prince Joel Nyoni, who is a member of the award-winning group Ngoma Ingoma and music director and arranger for the Queen Lozikeyi project said, "I am very happy about this project because it's something that we've been waiting for. We have celebrated so many people's histories – we know about Snow White, Julius Caesar and Mbuya Nehanda, but I feel like we didn't know a lot about who Lobengula's wife was, and what better way to bring her out than through music? I think the idea of sharing this knowledge through music is great, so that besides people seeing it, it can be archived for future generations. Not only for Bulawayo but for Zimbabwe overall, as she was also instrumental in the Ndebele resistance.

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“I’m very happy to be part of the project and the fact that I was working with amazing team of musicians and great singers. Also thanks to Nhimbe Trust, Josh Nyapimbi and Saimon Mambazo Phiri for the opportunity, and for actually coming up with the idea where we can finally document Lozikeyi as the queen that she was and reveal to people her influence in the struggle for justice in colonial times.

Both the lyrical content and musical effect are just beautiful; and the story is not finished, we still want to make it bigger, add more music. There are so many stories to tell – of women’s empowerment, encouragement, exhortation and celebration.”

Nyoni said the music developed as rooted in traditional Ndebele folk style with strong vocals and drums, but also modernised with western instrument effects. Where Nkwali’s music keeps close to the traditional styles, Thandy breaks into afrojazz. The track Mbungazeni is infused with the maskandi style which is celebrated in the Southern Africa region. Sizopika fuses the past and the present, with different Ndebele and other traditional music styles, and the music also employs elements of east and west African flavours.

Local and international tour arrangements are underway.

The exciting SONGS OF QUEEN LOZIKEYI will be streaming online from the end of September, and available on CD/USB from the Nhimbe Trust office – contact Laura +263774320490.

[PREVIEW HERE](#) 



‘KATSO’ EMERGES WITH A DEBUT RECORDING: KUNJANI?

The young musician Laura ‘KATSO’ Ngwenya of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe has grown out of a rich artistic background across different disciplines and genres, and evolved with a soulful, jazzy afro-pop sound that resonates with a wide spectrum of music-lovers. As a taster, Katso released her debut single Kunjani (How are you), in September.

In Kunjani, co-written with Thandy Dhlana, Katso’s music embodies her vivid journey across genres and styles, and her vocal delivery speaks to the soul. The message of the song is simple: Check up on your loved ones; expressing the struggles of daily existence and the need to show affection towards one another as human beings – especially at a time when the world needs healing.

 **Spotify** Also available across all other major digital streaming platforms



Katso

Katso said, "I am a person who likes to know how people are doing. I am naturally a bubbly person and so I like seeing people happy. Kunjani for me means checking upon our friends and relatives especially at a time like this (Covid-19). No matter where you are in the four corners of the world, you need someone to talk to. People are going through the most and they don't know who to talk to. Reaching out to them could be one of the most considerate things we can do to express our love. We all need a brother, a sister or friend to check up on us. Kunjani is my way of reaching out to people and asking them how they are doing in this life." Katso is on the right path towards creating meaningful music with substance.

No stranger to the music industry, Katso has performed with various young music groups in Bulawayo, including Praise Unlimited Acapella (2013-2014), the Bulawayo Polytech Band/choir (2014-2016), Vocal X (2015), and Afro Queens Band (2016).

In 2017, she was introduced to the theatre world with a role in the exciting production 'Blood Tongue: The Musical' by Nhimbe Trust, where Katso began to realise how her voice could be a valuable instrument in theatrical productions. In 2021 she has been part of the 'Here, There, Now' project, an artistic collaboration between Lyric Hammersmith Theatre of London, and Nhimbe Trust. The digital storytelling project linked young female actors from Bulawayo and London to create, portray and share thought-provoking monologues on issues of womanhood, identity and race.

Behind the scenes Katso has taken it upon herself to offer vocal training to young girls in her community, helping them to discover and nurture their talents. When not in the studio, practice room or doing vocal training, Katso works as a qualified Automobile Electronics Mechanic. Versatility!

Kunjani was recorded by **Erastus Nlelya** at Loud Records and produced by **Prince Joel Nyoni**. Katso is working on her album and more uplifting afrojazz can be expected from her.

'Kunjani' is streamed online on Spotify, Deezer and iTunes platforms, and the CD available locally in Bulawayo from Katso's team on +263772831221.

LISTEN to 'Kunjani' click below.

LISTEN HERE

NOW AVAILABLE
on these and more major digital streaming platforms.



NHIMBE TRUST'S NYAWO LWAMI PROJECT RESUMES!!

This September Nhimbe's Nyawo Lwami (Our Dances) project resumed after the long COVID-19 lockdown with a visit to Hwange, in the ongoing tracing and documenting of traditional dance expressions as part of our intangible cultural heritage in western Zimbabwe. Leading the team as documenting officer was Trust Gumbo, who is the Provincial Coordinator of the Zimbabwe National Traditional Dancers Association. The purpose of the visit was to work at finalising of inventorying the dances, and inter-generational transmission from the elders to the youth.

Gumbo said, "It was good to finally be able to return to Hwange where we met the traditional leaders who took us through the process of re-introduction to the community, and managed to document two traditional dances, Basa and Insombule, which were elements identified during our last visit. We had the opportunity to watch and film elderly members performing Basa, and showcasing Insombule with some of the youth also.

The team from Bulawayo included Bongani Sibanda and Caroline Ncube from Sekunjalo Dance Ensemble and Joseph Ngubo from Umkhathi Theatre Works – dancers from Bulawayo with roots in Hwange who interacted well with the leaders and community, with positive results. The 6-day trip was very positive, and our objective met. We are now looking forward to the next planned trip and to make up for time lost to Covid-19 restrictions."

The main objective of the project, which is now continuing, is to enhance the capacity of communities to safeguard traditional dance expressions as performing arts heritage in western Zimbabwe, in line with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was passed by the UNESCO General Conference held in 2003. At that time, the international community recognised the need to raise awareness about cultural manifestations and expressions that until then had no legal or programmatic framework to protect them.

Along with other international instruments that protect cultural heritage – such as the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage – the 2003 Convention is aimed at safeguarding the uses, representations, expressions, knowledge and techniques that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals, recognise as an integral part of their cultural heritage. This intangible heritage is found in forms such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship knowledge and techniques.

Read more from UNESCO:

[READ MORE](#)



Zimbabwe ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006.

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