

# Abdullah Ibrahim to headline at Standard Bank Joy of Jazz

South African jazz giant Abdullah Ibrahim joins Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Terence Blanchard and pianist Ahmad Jamal at the opening night of Standard Bank Joy of Jazz, which runs in Newtown from 22 to 24 August, 2013.



A stellar line-up of musicians from around the globe are to appear, including: American Carmen Lundy, an enduring artist in a jazz vocal tradition that stretches all the way back to Billie Holiday; "Big Chief" of the sax Donald Harrison who will be performing with his nephew, New Orleans trumpeter Christian Scott and South African trumpeter Lwanda Gogwana; Grammy Award-winning tenor saxophonist Eddie Daniels; Japanese jazz pianist Tsuyoshi Yamamoto and American saxophonist Tia Fuller who was a member of the all-female band touring with Beyoncé.

Also on the bill, which features more than 50 artists, is Dennis Edwards, a former lead singer for the Motown act The Temptations, who will be appearing in The Temptations Review, which features Paul Williams Jnr, son of original Temptations member Paul Williams; Peter White from the UK who first gained fame with his distinctive guitar style as accompanist to Al Stewart and played on Stewart's landmark "Year of the Cat" album; Argentina's Tango String Quartet; the DRC's Ray Lema; US vocalist René Marie; Cape Verde's Marie de Barros and Lenora Raphael from the US.

The South African contingent includes: Ray Phiri and Stimela; Mlungisi Gegana, who will be paying tribute to the late South African jazz double bassist and pianist Johnny Dyani; Sipho Mabuse who pays homage to Zim Ngqawana; Sibongile Mngoma (a former Standard Bank Young Artist) who will release an album in June this year in which classical meets jazz; Afrotraction; Kabomo, Selaelo Selota, Mbuso Khoza, Ivan Mazuze, Jeff Maluleke and Themba Mkhize.

## A unique jazz collaboration

From his roots growing up in Cape Town and Joburg, South African composer and keyboardist Adam Glasser is now recognised as one of the world's leading jazz harmonica players. Glasser has put together a unique jazz collaboration for Standard Bank Joy of Jazz combining musicians he has played with in both the UK and South Africa, including Australia's Carl Orr, South Africa's Concord Nkabinde (former Standard Bank Young Artist winner for jazz) and Nduduzo Makhathini as well as Ghana's Frank Tontoh.

Shane Cooper, the 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Award winner for Jazz, will be performing with Bokani Dyer, Kesivan Naidoo (another former Standard Bank Young Artist winner for jazz), Reza Khota and Justin Bellairs.

There's a performance from the Peter Aurret Trio comprising Aurret, Roland Moses and James Sunney of Watershed fame, with special guest Joe Penn on saxophone.

Described as the most gifted musician ever to blend African and American music, Abdullah Ibrahim has enjoyed a career that has spanned half a century as a pianist and composer. He has worked with many legends of South African and global jazz. When he returned to South Africa in the 1970s to record his masterpiece, *Mannenberg*, he earned his place among South Africa's greatest musicians.

In his autobiography, Miles Davis describes the impact of hearing pianist Ahmad Jamal: "He knocked me out with his concept of space, his lightness of touch, his understatement." Named as an NEA Jazz Master and a Kennedy Center Living Jazz Legend, Jamal is a bona fide jazz star and the source of inspiration to many younger pianists.

## First opera

Although he has four Grammy Awards for his jazz recordings, Terence Blanchard also ranks among the most creative, in-demand film score composers, particularly for his collaborations with Spike Lee. He is now putting the finishing touches on his first opera, commissioned for Opera St Louis. Blanchard has also assumed roles as a music educator as the artistic director of the youth-oriented Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and, more recently, as the artistic director for the Henry Mancini Institute at the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

The Standard Bank Joy of Jazz will take place on eight stages in Newtown including the Dinaledi Stage, the Conga, Mbira, Bassline and The Market Theatre. Other venues include free concerts at Sophiatown, Shikisha and Nikki's Oasis.

Event producer Peter Tladi of T-Musicman said: "Over the years we have brought the finest jazz musicians to our shores as desired by the event's fans, friends and supporters. Because we believe all people deserve to hear the best musicians the world has to offer, our 2013 line-up pays tribute to the listener's choice as it were; it is our gift to our friends and festival-goers who insist on the most interesting, the out of the ordinary, the push-the-boundaries type of artist and, most importantly, the best of class. This is a line-up for the discerning jazz lover."

[www.joyofjazz.co.za](http://www.joyofjazz.co.za)

[www.standardbankarts.co.za](http://www.standardbankarts.co.za)

*Tickets are on sale at [Computicket](#) with a 15% discount for all Standard Bank customers valid until 30 June (terms and conditions apply).*

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>