

Guitar legend Cameron Ward releases new album



By [Martin Myers](#)

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Cape Town's only legendary legacy festival, Jazzathon, celebrates 25 years this June with an all-new celebratory experience. Affectionately known as 'The People's Festival', Cape Town's Jazzathon is back with an exceptional weekend line-up of festivities on 17, 18, and 19 June 2022 at the Grand Arena, GrandWest.



Image supplied: Cameron Ward

Fans can expect to be spoilt for choice with three days of local jazz, including acts like the Jazzathon All-Stars, featuring Cameron Ward, Don Vino, Jonathan Rubain and Kyle Shepherd.

I caught up with Cameron Ward who was the guitarist in the late great Hugh Masekela's band for over a decade and is now the music director for Yvonne Chaka Chaka's band. Only last week, he released his latest album called *Gospel Meets Jazz*.

Ward is arguably one of the most versatile guitarists of his generation. He has a beautiful tone, great improvisational ideas, superb speed and knows how to make you dance to the African beat that's equal to none.

■ **What is your job description?**

My job description is to let people know that they are loved and important.

■ **What does music mean to you?**

Music means the world to me, without music there's no Cameron.

■ **My music is about...**

My journey in life and the experiences, I was born in Lotus River so lots to tell via my music

▣ ***What is your motto?***

Do good and be good.

▣ ***Fame is about...***

What you make of it - and that applies to life itself.

▣ ***Retirement will happen when...***

Retirement happens when I am longer alive, until then we continue to keep pushing.

▣ ***I don't do...***

Drugs, alcohol and gossiping.

▣ ***I would love to co-write with...***

The legendary bra Sipho Hotstix Mabuse

▣ ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

I like nature, that is where I draw all my inspiration from.

▣ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

To travel and make people feel great when they watch us work and perform.

▣ ***The song you must do during every show?***

I must play *Cheleshe* by the late Hugh Masekela.

▣ ***Any funny moments on stage?***

Whilst I was doing my dance moves my trousers broke badly - crown jewels and all - but hey, the show had to go on.

▣ ***My heroes are...***

The late bra Hugh Masekela, Bra Sipho “Hotstix” Mabuse and Jimmy Dludlu.

🎱 ***My style icon is...***

The legendary George Benson.

🎱 ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

My mom, she's been through everything yet she stands tall and that I admire.

🎱 ***What is your most treasured possession?***

Being called Daddy.

🎱 ***It's your round; what are you drinking?***

Definitely Stoney!!

🎱 ***Dream gig to do?***

Guitar summit with George Benson and Carlos Santana.

🎱 ***What makes you stand out?***

My sound and dress sense definitely.

🎱 ***Any nicknames?***

Cammy or Cams.

🎱 ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

Medical doctor.

🎱 ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Loving, caring, honest, humble and respectful.



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🎱 ***What are you streaming?***

Jimmy Dludlu live at Emperors Palace

🎱 ***Greatest movie ever made?***

Fast and Furious.

🎱 ***What book are you reading?***

Authentic Fathering by Jose Van Rensburg.

🎵 ***What song changed your life?***

Look What The Lord Has Done by Nathaniel Bassey.

🎵 ***Who do you love?***

My family, family first always.

🎵 ***What is your favourite word?***

Absolutely

🎵 ***Top of your bucket list?***

To host the biggest guitar summits, let's start at Madison Square Gardens

🎵 ***Your greatest achievement?***

Working with the late bra Hugh Masekela.

🎵 ***What do you complain about most often?***

Not enough work for our creatives.

🎵 ***What is your biggest fear?***

Losing my family.

🎵 ***Happiness is...***

A choice



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🎵 ***On stage, I tend to...***

Talk a lot

🎵 ***The best life lesson you have learned?***

Always be thankful for what you have.

🎵 ***What has been your favourite journey so far?***

Being back in Cape Town and giving back. I toured all over the world with bra Hugh and relocated to Johannesburg.

🎵 ***Do you do charity work, and if you do – what do you do?***

Yes, I have the CW Music Foundation where I teach kids for free who come from the Cape Flats.

🎵 ***Wishes and dreams?***

To have my own building, recording, rehearsal studio and music school.

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ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

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