

Representation i Sverige

N.Jl)/nwm

Our ref: Your ref:

26th February, 1991.

.1152 WHEEZM IT MAY. SZSEZMEEERN

Dear Cemrades,

The Office of the African National Congress in Sweden sends its fraternal greetings to you.

It has been a pleasure for the structures at home to have allowed (temrade VU51 MAHIASQEA to participate in various activities of the 80th Anniversary of the ANC here

As you are well aware, Vusi accompanied the band, TANANAS around the length and breadth of Sweden, in order to raise funds for our organisation. Vusi stayed on after TANANAS left to continue by going around addressing schools in the Uaiahna area, where his talent as a musician made it possible for him to reach the students through speech and music.

Here are some of the speeches that he addressed:

1) Brunnevik Folkhighskola in Ludvika

2) H515inggbhderskolan in Humlevagen 2

3) BJursasstTan in BJureee

a) Hothskolan in Faiun

Apart from these engagements, he participated in the opening of the "Black Township" exhibition in various parts of Sweden, including Faiun and Stockholm.

We understand that his tasks of using his talent inside the country are greatly needed, we are very grateful to have had him here.

You're in the struggle, w.- .

(min: in National Congress (ANC)

I . r r...:..r

\$qu... w "x Hm'ica

I E: '0)! 6133 IL".

NOIIPH. J. UISFKO.

('lin Gprpeentativa 193 33 Stockholm

.,' . 4-

Wu: u

FOTO: DALA-DEMOKRATEN

Vusi Mahlasela, sydafrikansk musiker och poet. Vusi kommer till Sverige igen i januari
(c/I kommer arr uplärda Iillsammans
med T ananas i deing den 22 januari.
Festivalen i Falun

A j7'ikagruppema har medverkat
vid flemfestivaler. En av de
stb'rre iirfolkfolkfestivalen i
Falun. Om hur det gick till och
fiirberedelserna info'r den bert'it-
tar Amz-Katrin S viird, en av de
fem sex mer aktiva av Falu
A frilgmpps 35 medlemmar. De
fiesta fir riitt trb'tta pd att sitta pd
miiten. Men m'ir det blir frdga om
praktiskt arbete dd kommer dc.
Som m'ir (let fir I(liitlinsamling,
gliigg mot apartheid eller eldvaka
pt? Sltm'pevilledagen.
Och m'ir det blir storfestivalyra,
jb'rslds.

1 5r blev det tvi stora aktivileter fdr Falu
Afrikagmpp. I mars hadc vi den helt
fantastiska gruppen Tananas hiir och dct
blcv succie. Jiiuekul! Sedan ringdc Lasse
X

Tallert fr 5n Folkparkerna om 'Afrika,
Afrika-turntin' och d5 blev det jobb.
April

Vi tiimde ur oss massor av id&er. Och
tog kontakt med Magnus Biickstn'im, ge-
neral 161' Falu Folk Musikfestival. Fick
rcda p51 vad som gallde.

Dr6mmar och visioner: Jag hadc ctt
par somrar drbmt om ZIU. vi skullc siilja
afrikansk mat p51 fcslivalen, mcu reg-
lerna var sfl hiirda alt dct inte gick.
Elt afrikanskt liilt i liiroverksparken
med 61 och smfl "chamussas" och mas-
sor av afrikanska varor? Det gick inte i
liiroverkspzn'ken, barn mm IFir siiljas diir.
P5 torgel far into mat siiljas ulzm siir-
skilda tillstiind. Min dr6m om mat gick
inte att uppfylla.

Mnj

Efler nz'igra mijlcn blcv vi rcalistiska
och insag hur 12? vi iir som kan arbela
och allra helst under dessa dagar, d5 alla
vill upplcvn allt som bjuds.

SIDA-pengar l6ste en del av proble-
men. Karin hade lriiffat Magnus Biick-
striim. Vi insflg att Fdrarbctet var vik-
tigt. Att locka hit folk. FFF log hand
om utskick av amschr mot betalning.
Sk6nt att ha pengar.

Juni

Mattias kollade Forcing som tryckte
dckalcr. Scmcstcrtidcr och problem. Till
slut ell Rirctagi Borliingc. Mattias gjordc
enjiiltcf'm skiss.

Vi liimnade ell kasettband till musik-
affiircr och rcstauranger. F&jrslod an vi
bordc ha hafl CD i dcssa moderna tidcr.
Vi bcsluil att ha cn egen kviill p51 Da-
lurnns museum i b6rjan av FFF-vcckan.
Vi bjiid in Vusi Mahlasela, musikcr och
poet friin Syd Afrika. Mattias gjorde en
jiilleHn amsch. Vi tryckte kontakblad
med alla afrikansk aklivileter och cn

presentation av oss. Karin gjorde ett för-
slag, mycket bra.
aktiviteten nöjdes Sig. Mycket ring-

VFUIAYHVACRUTP

Uuy?7

f?! 7' V'LLud

?i 3 UK ,3

s KULTURJ.

3 1MG1' 1':- i

3 A?ARTHEID 3

To whom it may concern

3

In connection with the Falun Folk Music Festival, Vusi Sidney Mahlasela appeared in a cultural evening organized by the Africa Group in Falun and the Museum of Dalarna. SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency financed the event.

Vusi Mahlasela sang principally his own songs, accompanied by guitar, and he explained the role of culture in a South African context.

Local artists had donated paintings that were sold in favour of cultural work in South Africa. This, the entrance-fee and the surplus of the sale of T-shirts and African handicraft, has been transferred through the account of AGIS (the Africa Groups in Sweden) to the ANC. The performance, on 8th of July, was preceded by a pressconference that resulted in interviews with Vusi Mahlasela in the local press.

In addition to this performance he also participated singing his songs together with Swedish, Danish and other African artists (from Sierra Leone) in a Falun Folk Music Festival event called "African Night" on 12th of July.

At the farewell party that AGIS and ISAK (the Isolate South Africa Committee) had for the ANC Chief Representative in Sweden on 20th of July, he also contributed.

Vusi Mahlasela has been most successful and was very much appreciated by the audience as well as by the organizers, his contribution has been of great value.

Stockholm 910721

Karin Vadfors

President of the Africa Group in Falun

cc ANC Representative in Sweden

African National Congress

MISSION IN NORWAY

SOUTH AFRICA

18 February 1992

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Vusi Mahlasela was in Oslo, Norway from 7-10 January 1992, and performed during the opening ceremonies of the ANC exhibit "Arts and Handicrafts from Southern Africa" on January 8, as part of the commemoration of ANC's 80th Anniversary in Norway. Vusi, together with another South African singer Hlekeio Lazarus Mphahlele (popularly known as Ndonga), awed the Oslo audience with his impeccable performance.

Sincerely yours,

Yvonne O'Neill Beck

Administrative Officer

ANC Mission In Norway

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Reviewed by Michael Brown

VUSI MAHLASELA

"When You Come Back"

Limited Edition

It is sad that one has to hear about an album like this via a friend who happened to bump into the rare cassette. "When You Come Back" is a remarkable piece of African folk, sung deliciously by the sweet voice of Vusi Mahlasela. It should be pushed into the public eye as much as possible- not released on a Limited Edition ticket.

It is remarkable World Music.

Wonderful African music. Vusi has the ability to broach the harshest realities with the gentlest of touches. He dances his way through sadness and inspires, with hope. The sort of release one would like to slot into the CD collection. (Are you listening Lloyd?)

"When You Come Back Home", which was produced and recorded by Lloyd Ross at Shifty Studios, is competently backed by Ian Herman on drums and percussion, Mauritz Lotz on guitar, Victor Masondo on bass except for on "When You Come Back Home" which features Jantshi Mayol, Lloyd Ross on guitar and keyboards, Kelly Petlana blowing gentle flute, pennywhistle and sax and all vocals and splatterings of guitar by Vusi 4.

The tracks "When You Come Back Home", "Gijimane Masotsha" and especially the breathtaking "Hello Mams" are glowing gems. Vusi Mahlasela is a great artist who deserves well-orchestrated marketing and exposure. Expose the gem.

DA G.H.E.T.T.O.

Steven Biko

Interesting. Don't quite know what to make of this lot. They sound all over the place and yet, somehow together. Not your Lucky Dube-clone gang at all, not uptight at all - quite possibly some of the most laid-back local reggae to be released for a long time. And, pleasingly enough, as a vocalist Daniel Sengati is not trying to be Bob Marley or Peter Tosh. The absolute Shiner on the album is undoubtedly "I Don't Need Your Love". Unfortunately, there are two very big defects with Steve Biko. The drums, programmed and unprogrammed are not tight and convincing enough to quite enter the reggae hardcore realm. You gotta convince wit da riddim. The other flaw is the overall recording itself. (Les Goode at Stylus Studios.) It lacks balls. "Where is da reggae thump, mon?" These two factors alone will cut this album short of the impact it could have had. Maybe the band needs a tweek more rehearsal as well.

16 11!1\$!11

" km . RS

W A i m . i'vxdn :.me_qW-w-uvnqymqu-m-nv-wuwwmvvwmwovww-wwv v w -- n v v3 fix?

Aftdocwe Kelano ea

YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA

The Rhythm Of Life

his good to see Yvonne progressing musi-

cally without using Americanisms as a stepping stone - unlike Brenda Fassie on I Am Not A Bad Girl. The title track is probably the closest to the edge of exploration that Yvonne has ever attempted. For this I'm sure we have arranger and producer Attie Van Wyk to

WON N l)

CHAKA u CHAKA

W

IHCRHmmsrurE

msm ,

\$l1l1

thank. There is a festering point of irritation though; Rythym Of Life contains only seven tracks plus a dance mix of Whois Got The Power. If I was one of her dedicated fans I would feel cheated. Eight-track albums are cheap shots. Its time Yvonne shortened her songs and lengthened her album release repertoire. Is she not supposed to be "The Queen Of Africa"? Or is that Miriam? Nevertheless, we expect more from a star of this calibre. Cummon! Yvonne - surprise us!

OUTLAND

Outland

If this album had come out in the late 70s it would have made an impact. Its production and songs are dated, soulless and mechanical. The guitar reminds one of pre-ethnic Hotline rock and even sometimes touch on the Rabin Rabbit-sound. Its not that it doesn't work. The songs work, the voice works, the production works, even the album cover works - but it's all pretty bland and seems like too much serious work to be of any fun. The only track that seems to have a hint of mystery or magic is Wake Up. Lyrically it isn't mindblowing. but the overall vocal production and melody are interesting, edging on haunting. If Outland want to take this show on the road, maybe they should enquire as to Steve Hofmeyr's small-town gig schedule.

RASTA REBELS FEATURING

DR.VICTOR

Proud

One cannot deny that these dudes have a serious future ahead of them. Their live performances have proved that they know how to make the masses dance. What with their skip-skop reggae coupled with Dr.Victor's polished Marley-tinged vocal deliveries laced with rattling AK47 rap, they have fast become a promoters dream when looking for mass-appeal live concert bait. Now, with their debut release Proud, The Rastas have successfully side-stepped their coverband image and stepped into the arena of original African dancelloor pop. World Dance Music? Maybe? Add a little time to the brew. As a debut album Proud shows plenty of promise, though it dies a blandish death as the second side progresses.

One message Proud does convey is that The Rasta Rebels can play anything as long as the bottom line is boo-

gie with a rasta edge. The tracks All
The Love In Me and Hold On show
that The Rebels also have a natural grasp of
seductive melody. A strong point to be nour-
ished. Proud is a clean recording lGeorge
Vardis and Chris Ghelakisl and is a fresh
break away from the boredom presently
caused by the overdose of derivative mbaqan-
ga and cliched reggae thatis been polluting
our ears of late. Refreshing. Did someone say
Eddie Grant?
3968,94... Vra'vw- - ,

E l

l kviillspelar Vusi Mahlasela, till winner, och bandel Tananas med Gila Balai, Ian Herman (under trumman) och Steve Newman pd musikhuset i' Omskdldsvik.

7 Musik iir deras Vapen mot

NJ; .2

" . _ , rasfdirtrycket i. Sydafrika

Ci - VI muslker nr betar iir

kxirlek och frihet. VI vill alt

minnskors ska komma till-

sammans, vill gara dem opti-

mistiskn.

El - l Sydafrika hnr vl nyss

(ippnai fi'mstret mot framliden

och kikar ut. Del ir viktigt att

f5 resa u! och se.

Dei sage! den sydafrikansk

musikcrn och poetep Vusi Mah.

lasela som gislai Omskijldsvik

och musikhuset lillsammans med

bandel Tananas.

Giuppcn har inhjudits till Sve-

rige i samband mcd all befrielse-

rbrelsen ANC firar sin 80.5rsju-

bilcum. Tumen inlcddes med en

konsen i Berwaldhallcn i Stock-

holm dar bland andra ivcn Tiliyo

och Mikael Wiehc upptridde.

Tananas bar in: medlemmar:

Ian Herman trummor. Gilo Ba-

lni bas och Steve Newman gitarr.

Musiken dc framf6r 5r en bland-

ning av afrikanskt och laliname-

iikanskt och bandet mknas som

ctt av de bista i Afrika.

El Svensk rasism?

Vusi Mahlasela. Steve New-

man och Ian Herman staller upp

f6! en pralstund i musikhuscls

kale. De liggcr lag! och berittar

ingenting dramatiskt. lngcn av

darn vill ge cxempel p3! problem

dc mist! i silt hemland. Svarighe-

ter at! (5 resa utomlands existerar

inte heller, fdrsiikrar dc.

Hur slarka it rasislorganisa-

linnema i Sverigc? undrar Ian

Herman. Dc! 5r inte lit! at! sva-

ra.

- Rasfdrdomar 5r mycket far-

liga. Jag vill varna f6! dcm, sage!

han med eftermyck.

Ian Herman 5r 28 Ar och har en

lilen son. I Sydafrika h6r han

hemma. diir vill han bo.

- Jag hoppas att apartheid-ia-

garnn kommcr an avskaffas gans-

ka smug, Men det 5r som en sjuk-

dom. Aven sedan apartheid 5r

avskaffad kommer vi an lida

Iiinge. Del 5r vikiigl all alla poli-

liska partier kan samarbcta. an-

scr hnn.

27-5rige Vusi Mahlasela skri-

ver "muso-poetry". texter som

han tonsancr och framfar till-

sammans med Tananas. Han set

inte optimislisk! pa hur king lid

dct kommer alt ta innan raspro-

blemen a: iiisla.

- Vi masle utbilda minniskm-

na i Sydairika och arbela th.

Dirfar behr'jvs 516d utifrån f6!
ANC.

- Allt nyt! som hinder 3!
svarti Sydafrika 5r 5;!) vackert
men har stora problem. Fonfa-
rande inns dc! till exempel poli-
tiska fingrar, siigcr han.

III F ri som musiker

Steve Newman 5! 40 5r, frbn
Kapstadn.

-Som musiker har jag alllid
kin! mig fri. Jag miiler inga and-
ra problem in dem Sam 51' vanli-
ga f6r popmusik i hela varldcn.
Vi 5r berocndc av samhalici om-
kring ass, siigcr han.

- Steve Newman iii intiesscrad
a'v 6slcrlandsk mosoii, yoga, al-
ternativ tcknologi, decentralise-
ring.

- Jag skulle vilja bryta ner sy-
stcmcl och g6ra minniskorna
mcdvelna om an dc betalar f6r
iiirgiftat vatten, farliga medici-
ner, dilig ulhildning. Del giller
intc bara i Sydafrika utan i hcla
virliden. Jag vill bilda sma enhe-
ter dir man lit u! alternativ mc-
dicin och anna! som 5r viktigt alt
kunna, siger han.

El Faltiga ulnyltjas

Varfar lun inle dc svnrus

grupper l Sydnfrlkl hill: lhop?

Varfiir slridcr ANC och lncatn?

- Del fir den vita regimen som
ligger bakom kampen! Man uh
nynjar faltiga nnalnbeler f6r at!
splima, fiiiklarar Vusi Mahlase-
la. i

Kan vi som svenskar b6rja lu-
risla I Sydafrika'!

- Nej, jag lyckcr intc ni ska
g6ra dc! nu, sage! Slevc Newman
och paminer om elt bomhallen-
tat i samband med alt Paul Simon
var p5 bcsi'vk.

Sanktionerna mot Sydafrika

bdr fortsfma. anscr han.

- De 5r ju skruven som drivii
p5 ulvccklingen.

Mcr vill musikerna inlc siga
om just deti Kanskc 5r amncl i6:
politiskt laddal.

- Vikligasi 5r all ni gcr 05's
forlsau 516d. ANC bchbvcr alla
pengar som gin an (:5, ffirklarar
dei

D Framlidsdriimmnr

Vld gbr dc ire om llo Ir?

Vusi Mahlascla:

- Om jag har slulal som musiv
ker kommer jag an vara Rirfana-
rc. Jag vill skriva f6r barn ocksa.
det 5r viktigt. Annars jobbar jag
kanske som musiktcknikcr cller
nagot liknande.

Steve Newman:

- Jag vill b0 me i bushcn, kan-
ske i beign. cha pa cu annor-
lunda sin.

Ian Herman:

- Jag ska spela trummor. Det
5r allt jag villi
Tananas fick ett entusiastiskl
mottagande i Sverige vid sill (firs-
ta besbk hir ffirrg 5m. Gruppcn
3r inbjuden lill Omskblsvik av
ABF och Koniaktnilcl. Pengar-
na som kommei in vid frammi-
dandena gAr till ANC:s forlsana
kamp mot apanhcid i Sydafrika.
Text: BERIT NORSTEDT
F010: LEIF WIKBERG
- Kom ime (ill Sydafrika som lurisler. Sanklionema b6! forl-
siz'lla, Sager Sieve Newman.

Gordimer
 slat, hail p&
 apartheid
 m_yta
 ' , Av JOHANNA AGREN
 , -KULTURFN An El'l' VIKTIGT redskap i
 kampen flit demokrati.
 1' Del slger den sydafrikanska f6rfnlla-
 ' ten Nadine Gordimer, 1991 AI; nobeipn'slai
 ' . gate i iilleralur. Vid ell male med lSAK och
 ' Afrikagmppea bclonade hon viklcn av ell
 framlida ulbyle av kullur mcllan Sverige och
 Sydafrika. I i x .
 Nadine Gordimer har som ingen an-
 IIIIn fljrfallare skildral livpl i apartheid:
 Sydai'rikn. "Del klndcs som nll ha picknick
 l pl en vucker kyrkogmd dlir folk bcgravdes
 levmdc under ens Fdller", hnr hon skrivit.
 . F yra sekler
 '3 Med sill Mrfallarsknk krafsar hon hon
 livels skenban lugna yla i dcl Vila Sydafrika
 och lyfler fram den holl'ull: hyslcric som
 diiljer sig dimnder.
 Apartheid Hanger sis in i mlinniskans
 nlim innersln, mcnar Nadine Gordimer. och
 format obevekligl dill liv vnre sig du Ir svan
 gmvubelm eller vil hcmmal'nl.
 ' Gordimer sjllv Riddes 1923 in i en
 familj dllr fadcm var jude Mn grilnsen mel-
 lan Lilauen och Lcllland och had: juvelerar-
 ' :Av JOHANNA AGREN
 VUSI MAHusaL/ls saregna slimma lar
 ih6raren med p5 en flird in i universums
 '7 vinnga: diir lidcn. slannar upp och livels
 -:9-I-G-
 ,;m mwlrz:yIm-..__f_. -
 Nadine Gordimer: 1991 drs
 nobelprismgare i lilleralur ger en
 ' _ inlrc'ingande bild av apartheidssyslcme.
 F olo: Jalmn Winglmrg
 bulik i en lilcn slad i Transvaal. mcdnn
 modem ignade sig Al viigiircnhcl. Del var ell
 hem dHr del sillan lilsles en bok, och dilr
 malskillnadspoliliken aldrig ifragasiillcs.
 Nobelprislagarens fdrfallarskap span-
 ner nu liver fyra sekler. Med hjtilp av cll
 knivskarpl. sparsmikal spraik hnllcr hon slan-
 digl upp olika aspekter av Sydal'rikas sjlll. Vi
 miner lill excmpel Hillcla. den Vila privile-
 gicradc nickan som dras mcd i den svarla
 majorilclens uppror (A sporl ofNalurc 1987),
 den vile affarsmannen Meyer som i sin stra-
 viktiga fIAgor fAr skarpere konlurnr. Kanske
 kan denna musiker och poel Mn Sydafrika
 inlc Ririindra viirlden, men nog rubbar hnn
 den vardagliga viirldsmdningcn en smuia.
 Sjiiiv hiivdar han alt kulturen spclar en
 myckcl viktig roll i dc processer i virldcn
 som siller ighng Wrandringar. Nalurliglv
 syftar han p5 den poliliska silualioncn i
 Sydafn'ka. Sam lilen pojke i Mamelodi, en
 fdrslad lill Pretoria. gjordc hnn musiken lill
 sin virld och ser sill skapande som oAlerkal-
 lciigcn ihoplvinna med kampcn fiir demo-
 kraliska rillighcler och Flir ell viirdigl liv.
 Han sjungcr om fdnryck, om irihels-
 kamp, om IIopp om cn biillre Iillvarol
 -Mcni iika ofla r6r jag vid allmiln-
 manskliga klmslor i an vidare bemiirkelse;
 karlek. olalighel och fruklan. siiger Vusi. Jag
 vill f5 manniskors sinncn all Rirdas lill cn

Ivarid av insikt. FGI. som han pApckar. inle
Rimin vi fdrstir oss sjilva kan vi slilla krav
p5 ltl samhhllet ska fdrindras.

Poesilisningar

Nilr Vusi arbcladc som flinnan pa en
lexlilfabrik i Pretoria brukadc han ordna poc-
sililsningar Fdr de andra arbelama.

-Gcnom all la del av kullur viicks
minniskor. Dc blirjnr ifrAgasHlla viirldcn

.Vl... u." mu

5. Mn... ..,-

AMANDLA ISAKS MASSTIDNING 1992 11

HOTFULL HvSTEI'II AVSLOJAS

Smales glimd under en prescnning och
Dirdns iangs skakiga vllgar' In i del oidinda.

Julys folk. Ell skriimmandc framlidsscena
'aralal av vnld och orolighelcr har fulll. In

bbidcskrig bmlil ul i Sydafrika; Rirswder
myckcl noga med all behandin sin ijllnare

July vill: nilr den (inn mallan blivil 'slilen fir

July. In d_en lill sill rum pa glinien och

van cilct all bcszrII alll som lidignrc blir
of'drmiigcn all in nAgIa som hclsl kanslomlis-

siga bindningaI (Bcvamrcn 1974). den svanc

ljiinaren July som piiilsligl ancr sig std i

ombylla roller rnd familjcn han llr :Inslilild

hos (Julys folk i981).

Fiirbjuden

Nadine Gordimcrs poliliska engage-

mang liar vilxl lill all bli en oskiljaklig dcl av

IICIIncs b6ckcr. Medan hon prisms av om-

runlomkring och Ilingln cflcr all skaffa sig

met kunsknp. stiger IIan och blir ivrig.

Nu har han lnmnal fanikcn bakom

sig. Han fdrdclar sin lid mcllan sina upplril-

dandcn p5 poliliska m6len. rcslivaIcr och

demonslralioner i Iiirsladcma och sin post

som chef flit ANC:s lokala kullurdepnrle-

menl i Pretoria.

Flcra ginger hnr han bcsiikl SveIige.

Manniskor Hr nyfikna Mir, lyckcr han. Eflcr

spclningama brukar dc komma frum folk och

sliilla frAgor och visa inlrcssc. Del kiinns bra

- all lian med musikcns hjiilp kan chka ell

engngcmang.

Vusi sjungcr obchindral pa nio afri-

kanskil sprlik. plus cngclska och afrikaans.

SprAkcl Hr en ocrhlsn viklig del av manniskun

mcnar haul

Gcnom kombinalioncn musikcr och

pocl klinncr han all han kan skapa konlakl

med Lien slora del av Sydafrikas svnrln bc-

. folkning som air nnull'abclcr:

-Munllig poecilillsammansmcd musik

ger folk en chans all bli mcdvclna om vad

som skcr i samhlllcl - del iir ell spriik som alin

fbrslnr.

-Kullur Hr Inakl! Kullurcn kan aldrig

pdlvingas mmliskor uppiMn, ulan dcl iir

nligol som mus hiir. siger Vusi och g6r en

gesl mol hjiinlraklen.

P1 OOLVEI' l EN 1w iigger Mallncn .

Hon kt vil. "liberal" och pi i'lykli sill egel i i i

land, ell land hon inle lungrc hbr hemma I '

3' SA bbrju NadineOordimcrs ,roman

.lin milas upp iblirjan p4 hillidlalct. Elle 7 llghelpa ' villan l dd iummlga formwm, i

i llrldsoidnIngdn lvingas bAd: m a_li

apartheid: prdblem och braillvisor. De Er ,, manslrel av ela den konflikkl som' Sid;

V IIL'rika mds'le enomleva f6; all Apaltileids

zskskalakm' v55 "

idel. D5 trader den slindigl nlrvarande

_ 'skuggan I fnmiljens iiv fram. och erbjuder.
Ii July fdr sin hverievnad oi;h del'lr him ,
Ulan foiRlsle' i deIi nyn
omprOwI silt RirhAllnnde lill im'miru:
dams pcrso ga konfronlalion
viirldcn har "cm av hcnnccs vcrk Rirhljudils- I
hcmlandcl. - I1
Hon vnr cn IIV dc Rinln viln nll gii IIch
i ANC och var mcd och grundadc dcl sydafrii
kanska Fdrfallarfdrbundcl Cosaw (Congress
of South African Wrilcrs).
-Hon har gcII ullryck RSI en bcrgl'nsI
lro p5 frihcl och rilllvisa. och dllrigcnom
bidragil lill all Rimndra den poliliska situa-
lioncn. sade Njabulo Ndcblc. ordfiimndc i
Cosaw. i samband mcd all Nadine GOIdimcr
belijnades med nobclprisel. ,
Vusi MaIIIaseIa: Poet. musiker och
mmwra dven polilikcr.
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- .lm
.. _ .l_-m._., ' _ 'w,

, 88My music is not
that kind which
music 'promoters'
would readily
support

Vusi attributes this disturbing phenomenon
to be among other things, the nature of the
music he plays. "My music is not that kind
which music promoters would readily support,"
he admits. "It is not commercial. It is a serious
kind of music that transcends the rhythm. Its
power lies in the lyrics which transport the
listener's mind to enlightenment."

' According to Vusi, he combines music; and
poetry to the extent that the two become one.
As a result, he calls the phenomenon "muso-
poetry". This type of written word has a
profound social function, he argues. It brings a
written word to those millions of people who
are either illiterate or simply cannot afford to
buy books.

Vusi acknowledges that he would not have
come up with this innovation by himself had
he not joined the Congress of South African
Writers (COSAW) in 1988. COSAW boasts
world-respected writers such as Keorapetse
Kgositse (whose one poem is included in
When You Come Back), Wally Serote and the
1991 Nobel Literature prize winner, Nadine
Gordimer.

, "Joining COSAW meant I was constantly in
the company of creative writers who were
always pursuing new and innovative artistic
expressions: hence it came as no surprise to
me to discover that I could marry poetry and
music." -

Vusi first got to travel overseas as a result of
his attachment to this organisation. He went to
perform at the Zabalaza Festival in London in
1990, where he met musicians like Linton
Kwezi Johnson and Nejamin Zephaniah, a
British dub-poet who recently visited South
Africa during the New Nation Writers'
Conference. It was also during this time that
he got invited to play in Sweden

Vusi also played at major festivals at home
such as the Unity '91 Festival (with Julian
Bahula and The Syndicate Sisters), (the
original) Malombo's reunion. and political rallies such as the inauguration of
Nobel Peace prize-winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu at the Jabulani Amphitheatre,
and at Nelson Mandela's welcoming at FNB Stadium. , - - ,

Vusi's beginnings in music are not as rosy as it may appear. Actually, his '0' .
story is of a person whose grim determination elevated him above his dropping I -
out of school his suffering from epilepsy. his mother's death. his son '5 .
handicap (he is deaf and dumb), his working as a floor-sweeper at a textile jQ
factory in Silivenon, and lastly. unemployment - '... .

He was born in 1965 in Lady Selbourne but grew up in Mamelodi, where he ' I i
started playing music from instruments made of tins, rags, plastics, and fish .
lines. With these he played popular songs of the 70s and 80s. until he received , 8
his own acoustic guitar He then joined bands such as The Pleasure Invaders. 1'7: f . ;
Vusi also sang choral music at school and acted in local plays such as ' .
Uzenzile, So frika, Twist and Take A Lean. w , .

With this background, Vusi is quite prepared to face the painful ordeals which
musicians face trying to make a living. I I

by LANCENAWA . i F 7

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- rising fast and still going
 outh'Africa'iirs yet to experience a musical
 whirlwindsuch as Vusi Mahlasela, a young
 ladtfrom Mamelodi, Pretoria.

Vusi has already wowed international audiences with his
 music during his successful one month tour of Sweden and
 Norway, where 'he was accompanied by anothe r._renowned
 South Africanoutfit, Tananas. l . -

The tour, organised by Afrika-Groups, Isolate South Africa
 Campaign and African National Congress rhission in Sweden
 started on 12 January and ended on 26 January 1992.

He stayed On in Sweden after the tour, taking part in various
 icampaigns sgch as the one against racism (in Sweden) and
 as JIVE April 1992 ' 1', ,

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 l

conducting various lectures about South Africa in schools such
 as Fulu Kommun, Brunnsviks Fouchogskola and The School
 Of Halsinggang.

Vusi also used the opportunity to promote his debut album,
 When You Come Back, released by Shifty Records shortly
 before his departure in early January. "The cassettes sold like
 confetti or fell like snow during the tour," quips the fast rising
 Vusi, also known as "The Voice" or "Die Donkie" (from one of
 his Afrikaans ballads). Further more, he got raving reviews and
 front page coverage from Swedish newspapers such as GA,
 Falu Kiriren, Dn Pastan and Freda, and local radio. Yet inspite
 all these achievements, Vusi remains an unsung hero at
 home. He rarely obtains any recognition from our media.