

Department of Arts and Culture in Collaboration with MIAGI, 2001 to 2014 a few Highlights

MIAGI – Music is a great Investment ‘Uniting the Power of Classical, Indigenous and Jazz’ – is a not-for-profit organisation (registration number 2001/015788/08) established in 2001 with the support of the Department of Arts and Culture.

2001

- **In collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture, MIAGI brought the English Chamber Orchestra from London to South Africa to collaborate with Ladysmith Black Mambazo in concert at the State Theatre in Pretoria. Together they performed special MIAGI commissioned arrangements of LBM hits.**
- **The MIAGI commissioned, ‘Menu of Poetic Dances’, overture for orchestra, talking drums and open-ended membrane drums by Meki Nzewi, was premiered at the MIAGI Festival by the English Chamber Orchestra together with the ‘Soccajasco Kids’ percussion ensemble.**

2002

- **MIAGI intercultural concert produced in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture: The MIAGI commissioned work ‘The Songs of Madosini’ for mhruhbe, isitolotolo, uhadi, voice, clarinet quintet and narrator based on a selection of songs by Xhosa muse Lathozi Mpahleni, or ‘Madosini’.**
- **‘Our World’, arrangements for Soweto String Quartet, jazz trumpet, kora, mbira and chamber orchestra. This production, together with the MIAGI Orchestra, premiered at the State Theatre in Pretoria resulted in the SSQs ‘Our World’ CD, released in 2003**

2003

- **MIAGI intercultural concert produced in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture: The MIAGI commissioned work ‘Lifecycle’ for the Ngqoko Women Xhosa over-tone singers and classical ensemble of wood winds, strings and percussion. The English Chamber Orchestra returned to South Africa to perform and record the MIAGI commissioned ‘No Boundaries’, arrangements for Ladysmith Black Mambazo and chamber orchestra. This production, together with the ECO resulted in LBM’s ‘No Boundaries’ CD which was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2005.**

2004

- **Together with the Department of Arts and Culture and the Department of Foreign Affairs, MIAGI arranged the UShaka tour to Europe within the European Union’s and the South African Government’s celebration of ‘10 years of Democracy’.**



90 South African choristers and eight South African soloists performed Mzilikazi Khumalo's epic oratorio UShaka in some of the most prestigious concert halls in Europe together with renowned European orchestras such as Brucknerorchester Linz. Performances took place in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Austria and Switzerland at venues including the Vienna Musikverein, Brucknerhaus Linz, Auditorio di Roma, Batiment des Forcemotrice Geneva and Palais des Beaux Arts Brussels.

2005

- **MIAGI Gala Concert produced in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture: MIAGI commissioned 'Arrangements' for jazz legend Miriam Makeba and symphony orchestra.** This production marked Makeba's first performances in South Africa with a full symphony orchestra, as well as the beginning of her retreat from the stages of the world. The concert also included 'Arrangements of Kwela & Mozart' for the four Kwela Tebza pennywhistle virtuosos from Soweto, and orchestra.
- **Cultures of the Oceans Concert with Musicians from different corners of the African Continent and the Middle East.**The Baladna Taarab Orchestra (Zanzibar) performed with virtuosic lute player Habib Hana (Israel) and our Cape Malay choir the Alabama Entertainers. The sensual, enchanting sounds of the Taarab, perhaps Africa's most unique and beguiling musical styles, met the lively sounds of Cape Town and the poetic compositions of the Middle East.

2007

- **MIAGI was invited by the Department of Arts and Culture to produce the evening of music and entertainment for the 2nd annual trilateral IBSA Summit – India/Brazil/South Africa - held in October 2007 in Johannesburg.**

2008

- **MIAGI was invited by the Department of Arts and Culture to produce the evening of music and entertainment for the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,** held in April in Cape Town.
- **MIAGI Youth Orchestra and Youth BigBand Spring Concert** in partnership with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Southern African - German Cultural Fund, the Goethe-Institut and the Department of Arts and Culture .
- **Thikundwi kha Sialala** Venda Ngoma drummers and dancers performed the MIAGI commissioned intercultural work, 'Ciacona & Tshikona' at the **MIAGI Gala Concert in the Cape Town City Hall, together with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra.**

2009

- The MIAGI Youth Orchestra, conducted by Kutlwano Masote, performed for **President Zuma and other heads of state and dignitaries at the banquet held after the presidential inauguration.**



- **MIAGI arranged a tour of Germany for the MIAGI Youth Orchestra & Youth BigBand**, to the Young Euro Classic Festival. The performance was preceded by a concert in Kassel, at the Kultursommer Nordhessen festival. ARD and Deutsche Welle, German radio and television broadcast footage from the concert. Ulrich Deppendorf, director of the ARD television station and member of the board of the German circle of friends of European youth orchestras – the organiser of Young Euro Classic – was the patron of the MYO & MYBB Concert in Berlin. Apart from an incredibly well received performance of Dvorak's New World Symphony, the MIAGI commissioned arrangement for BigBand and symphony orchestra of Gideon Nxumalo's 'Jazz Fantasia', by Denzil Weale got the audience on their feet.

2010

- **MIAGI Youth Orchestra and Youth BigBand celebrated MIAGI's 10th Anniversary** with a 'Rebirth' concert on 1 May at Linder Auditorium. The celebrated South African saxophonist and composer Steve Dyer was commissioned by MIAGI to write a large work for BigBand and symphony orchestra that he named 'Rebirth'.

2011

- **'Gilberto Gil at the Market – Connecting South'** together with special guest artist Vusi Mahlasela, MIAGI Orchestra conducted by Kutlwano Masote, Xhosa Muse Madosini, and the Wits and Fatima Choirs. The events were filmed and will be featured in a documentary film on the life and vision of Brazilian legendary musician and former minister of culture, Gil. These MIAGI Dreampixies produced events in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture and the Market Theatre, took place on May 12 and 13, 2011.
- On 15 July, members of the MIAGI Youth Orchestra & Youth BigBand performed at the launch event for the **African National Congress' centenary celebrations**.

2012

- 16 July to 1 August – due to the great success of the tour of Germany in 2009, **MIAGI Youth Orchestra & New Skool Orchestra @ MIAGI toured Austria and Germany** and performed at festivals and venues such as Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, Carinthischer Sommer Festival, Steirisches Kammermusikfest, Young Euro Classic Festival, Konzerthaus Berlin and Fabrik Hamburg.

The MIAGI Youth Orchestra and the smaller experimental formation New Skool Orchestra @ MIAGI received extensive media coverage in South African as well as in major German and Austrian press. The concerts were further broadcasted on following radio and television stations in Europe: ORF, Deutsche Welle, 3 Sat, ZDF, Deutschlandradio and NDR



Tour Programme: World premiere performances of Christian Muthspiel/Tshepo Tsotetsi: Out of South Africa, Symphonic Poem on Themes by Tshepo Tsotetsi), a MIAGI commissioned work - Tshepo is a young remarkably talented member of the MIAGI Youth Orchestra.

The programme also included: Leonard Bernstein's symphonic suite, On the Waterfront, George Gershwin's An American in Paris, Claude Debussy's Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune and Antonin Dvořák's Romance in F minor for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 11. **Conductor:** Christian Muthspiel
www.christianmuthspiel.com

2013

- **New Skool Orchestra official launch** events/tour at Soweto Theatre, Pretoria Musaion, Rustenburg and New Castle, September
- **New Skool Orchestra Madrid, Spain trip** - A selected number of the New Skool Orchestra (NSO) members including the director Tshepo Tsotetsi visited Madrid, Spain in connection with the Spain Fitur Tourism Trade Fair and locally funded by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). The group had a couple of performances and they collaborated with other local groups in Spain.

2014

- **Mzansi Golden Economy (MGE) Touring Venture Programme/ MIAGI Youth Orchestra** - MIAGI Youth Orchestra & New Skool Orchestra celebrated **20 years of freedom through a concert at Linder Auditorium, Johannesburg in May** - **MIAGI Youth Orchestra & New Skool Orchestra celebrated 20 years of freedom through a tour to Europe, to Germany, Sweden & Netherlands - 22 June to 18 July 2014**

The tour included 11 performances at some of the most prestigious stages and festivals in the world such as the Berliner Philharmonie, The Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Schleswig Holstein-Musik Festival and the Royal Palace Stockholm.

The audience and media success alike was exceptional (exceeding even the response in connection with the 2012 tour) and resulted in invitations to return to all major venues and to many new prestigious stages, where our orchestras have not performed before.