

# MIRIAM MAKEBA



South Africa's legendary musical sensation, Miriam Makeba, who returned to her homeland after 30 years in exile, has something to sing about. Her career continues to soar, the demands for performances from countries round the world continue to flood in. 1998 has been spent touring Africa, USA and Europe. Touring always has been successful all over the world. As an example of her fame, when touring Scandinavia, where Miriam sold out the longest tour ever made there, she sold out theatres beyond the Polar Circle too.

In 1995 Miriam Makeba started a charity project to raise funds helping to protect women in South Africa. She closed '95 in Italy: an audience with Pope John Paul II, and a performance at the Vatican Nervi Hall, that was televised world-wide in December and titled 'Christmas In The Vatican'. From a photographic shoot with Iman Bowie and David Bowie for Vogue America, to her pre-sold tour through Australia performing at the Brisbane Biennial, in Adelaide, Sydney and Perth, and repeated tours of Europe performing in Italy, Germany, Austria and USA, an invitation by President Ben Ali of Tunisia to perform at Carthage Music Festival, a performance with Marianne Faithful and Dee Dee Bridgewater, to Paris for the 'La Marche Du Siecle' television program regarding women and the Beijing gathering and to perform for the Pope in Italy in December. In South Africa alone, performances were staged, many television shows were filmed, her documentary done by The South Bank Show was

released and presented at the Cannes Film Festival, flew in the USA, UK France, Australia, Tunisia and many more countries. Performances for the president, Mr Nelson Mandela. Endorsements for anti-drug campaigns, supporting education, The Orlando Children's Home, interviewing Mrs. Tambo on People of the South presented by Lali Tambo to finally becoming a Great Grandmother.

Miriam Makeba now tours the world with her 8 member band, introducing new songs and ballads with all-time successes.

Miriam's last compact discs "Sing Me A Song" and "Eyes on Tomorrow" (Polydor) and the new one on release, "'Homeland" rich of emotions and remarkable duets, prove once more that the voice that has been described as "deep as the Indian ocean and sparkling as the diamonds of her own country" is one of the most valuable assets ever exported. Released worldwide, the compact disc features a collection of songs - from upbeat to the plaintive showing the vocal range and power of this celebrated performer.

Born in Johannesburg in 1932 Miriam began her career as the vocalist for The Manhattan Brothers. Her appearance in the late 50s in the documentary "Come Back Africa" led to invitations for her to visit Europe and America, where she came to the attention of Harry Belafonte and Steve Allen and was catapulted to stardom.

In 1960 Miriam was banned from returning to the country of her birth, and she was forced to spend the next 30 years as a "citizen of the world".

Despite the pain of isolation from her home, the United States took her to its collective heart with performances at the country's most prestigious venues, as well as constant television performances.

Her 1967 release of "Pata Pata" became a hit worldwide and has since been re-recorded by numerous international artists. Her recording career blossomed and she released records for RCA, Reprise and many others. She was received by such world leaders as Haile Selassie, Fidel Castro, John F Kennedy and Francois Mitterrand.

Miriam Makeba has been a Guinean delegate to the United Nations where he twice addressed the General Assembly, speaking out against the evils of apartheid.

Although always regarding herself as a singer and not as a politician, Miriam's fearless humanitarianism has earned her many International awards, including the 1986 Dag Hammarskjold Peace Prize.

Through the years both Miriam's personal and professional life have been equally tumultuous with her highly public commitment to and continuous fight for racial equality; Miriam is MamaAfrica, a peace and freedom warrior that restlessly gave and still gives the voice to millions of people against the evils of racism. Her exceptional personal and artistic profile is part of the history of this century, all adding to the dramatic elements of an extraordinary life, making Miriam Makeba a living legend.

Miriam's powerful and distinctive voice retains the clarity and range that enable it to be both forceful as a protest march and as poignant as an African lullaby.

Latest news: most recently Miriam Makeba came for a little tour in October 2007 which was a big success. She was celebrated wherever she performed – at Konzerthaus in Vienna the audience thanked her with more than 15 minutes standing ovations. Also her concerts 2008 in Sweden, Spain, UK and the Netherlands were great events and completely sold out. Miriam Makeba was awarded with the Peace Prize by the United Nations in Spain for her social engagement and her long fight against apartheid in 2008.

Latest and very sad news:

Miriam Makeba died after her concert at Castel Volturno on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2008. The funeral took place in the following week on a Sunday. And most details have been reported via media worldwide ... while quite some wrong information has been spread too. Not so important ... while the loss is big and painful.

We – and whoever has met her – thank her and will never forget Miriam Makeba !