

# PRESS RELEASE: Adam Glasser revisits 'King Kong'



The legendary 60's musical 'King Kong' has always been part of London based South African harmonica player & pianist Adam Glasser's personal history. As a child he saw dress rehearsals in the Wits Great hall before the cast left for London in 1961 with his father Stanley 'Spike' Glasser, their musical director. Adam's mother Mona wrote the only book ever published on King Kong. As a Johannesburg teenager Adam was drawn often to Dorkay House to seek out original musicians from the King Kong band, and has a particularly strong memory of meeting Mackay Davashe and then attending his funeral in Soweto just a few days later in January 1971.

As pianist with Dudu Pukwana's Zila in London in the mid '80s Adam began to meet some of the ex-King Kong artists who had not returned to SA. When the Manhattan Brothers re-united for the 1990 Wembley Concert celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela, Adam became their pianist/musical director for a line up that briefly included original 'King Kong' star Nathan 'Dambuza' Mdledle as well as Walter Loate and Josh Makhene, members of the group's last incarnation led by the brilliant composer, vocalist Joe Mogotsi with whom Adam produced the Manhattan Brothers final album 'Inyembezi' for EMI in 2006.

The great compositions penned by Todd Matshikiza for 'King Kong' have rarely been performed or recorded as jazz standards in their own right ( though you can hear an instrumental version of 'Quickly in Love' on the album "Free at First" which won Adam a SAMA Award in 2010). The subsequent discovery in his father's loft of the original fading scores of King Kong orchestrations inspired Adam to arrange the bulk of songs from King Kong and assemble a group of leading South African jazz musicians to perform them:

*"These gigs are an opportunity for a band of modern South African jazz musicians to explore Todd Matshikiza's songs in their own way - compositions that deserve wider recognition.as part of our country's great jazz heritage. Don't expect a 'show' recreating the old days! Our focus is the magic of group jazz improvisation on great material the way musicians continue to re-interpret the best output of the likes of George Gerswhin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern".*

## Tour Dates/Venues

**Friday 29 July 2016 / 8:30pm**  
**The Orbit Jazz Club**  
81 De Korte St, Bramfontein,  
Johannesburg

**Saturday 30 July / 8pm**  
**Sopiatown The Mix**  
71 Toby Street, Sopiatown  
Johannesburg

## Musicians

Adam Glasser - *harmonica/piano* • Lwanda Gogwana - *trumpet*  
Sisonke Xonti - *tenor sax* • Siya Makuzeni - *trombone*  
Bheki Khoza - *guitar* • Mpumi Dhlamini - *keyboards*  
Viwe Mkizwana - *bass* • Basi Mahlasela - *percussion*  
Sphelelo Mazibuko - *drums*

## All Adam Glasser media enquiries

UK Mobile: + 44 7958 557 589  
Email: adamgharmonica@icloud.com • Twitter: @adamgharmonica  
Facebook: Adam Glasser revisits King Kong  
www.adamglassermusic.com