

## Going back to his musical roots

**Review: Moreira Chonguica**

**Title: Khanimambo: A tribute to the  
legends of Mozambique**

JAZZ saxophonist and producer Moreira Chonguica has just completed a project in which he pays homage to players in his country who have kept the flag of indigenous music flying.

The album came to life after 20 artists were approached in Mozambique with a proposal to contribute material. The first 10 who were quick enough off the mark earned a spot in the album.

That includes Zena Bacar, "the golden voice of Mozambique" who was part of the highly successful 1980s band Eyuphuro. Her contribution to the album is *Nunumalane*, which starts with Bacar introducing the song, with subtle guitar work on the background by Cristian Bakalanga.

As the song gets faster and more dense, Bacar allows her voice to go on an ascent along with the mood of the song.

With Allou April on guitar and John Hassan on percussion, Chico Antonio brings us a blues number in Xitsonga. He raps, sings and talks about love. The song sounds like it could have come straight out of the Deep South in the US.

On marrabenta-flavoured track *A Idade Nao*, Chico da Conceicao whispers "sweet somethings" in a captivating deep voice. Having travelled to north and south America, among many of his sojourns, Chonguica brings a number of music styles to *Khanimambo*, which was released on November 11. For example, I immediately think of France's St Germain as I hear *Ulimwengu*, by Julia Mwituu.

Giving Chonguica such beautiful raw material to produce and arrange is like giving a packet of sweets to a wide-eyed primary school boy. And Chonguica didn't just enjoy the candy, he was generous enough to share it with the world. — *Aubrey Dhlamini*



# MOREIRA CHONGUICA

BY BRENDAH NYAKUDYA



Originally from Mozambique, ethnomusicologist (the study of human music-making activities all over the world), saxophonist, songwriter and producer Moreira Chonguica is a celebrated Cape Town based musician. Together with his band "The Moreira Project", made up of five young Cape Town jazz musicians, he has established an impressive list of credits to his name.

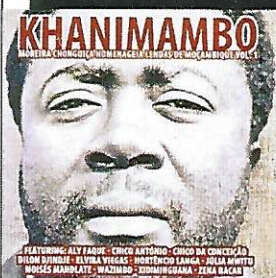
Moreira's debut album, "The Moreira Project Volume 1" was released in December 2006. Not only was it well received on the music scene, it firmly established him as an artist. Featured on the album was legendary jazz maestro Najee and it won Moreira a South African Music Award for Best Producer in 2007.

His second album "The Moreira Project Volume 2", released in 2008, laid rest to any doubts as to the extent of his talent and saw him scoop two SAMA's for "Best Contemporary Jazz" and "Best Album Packaging" at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MTN South Africa Music Awards in May 2009.

His latest offering *Khanimambo* features artists such as Aly Faque, Elvira Viegas, Julia Mwitu and Zena Bacar, and is a wonderful testament to the art of African Jazz. His diversity shows in tracks such as *Tetego*, *Ulimwengu* and *Kano*, songs that range from playful jazzy tunes to poignant melodies. While all tracks display a distinct style, they all still manage to stay in keeping with the consistent soothing sounds of the CD. Surprising additions to the CD are the interludes before every song serving as small yet pleasant introduction before the next musical offering.

Complementing the intricate instruments laid down are strong, piercing vocals making this project a most suitable companion when going on a long drive or just as easy listening sounds to wind down the weekend. **A**

A man with a heart for the community and education in particular, Moreira donated R10 000 to start a campaign to renovate the Mozambique Escola Nacional De Música (National School of Music), which he attended. In Cape Town he teaches saxophone and life skills to young aspiring musicians on a regular basis and it doesn't stop there! On an ad-hoc basis, Moreira also tutors young aspiring saxophonists free of charge!



FEATURING: ALY FAQUE - CIVICO AFRICANO - CIRILO DA CONCEIÇÃO  
 ELVIRA VIEGAS - HORTENSO LEMUS - JULIA MWITU  
 NOLISE MABALATE - WAZIMBO - ZIMMUNGANA - ZENA BACAR

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