



# Creatives Magazine

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#Celebrating Maskandi Musicians

**ABAFANA  
BENEMANE**

**AMATHWASA**

**INTOMBI YABELUNGU**

**INTOMBI YOKUKHANYA**

**MADLAKSHISA**

**ZONDA MTHAKATHI**

**MGCOTSHWA**

**AMATSEWONDO AMAHLE (ZOMAA)**

**UMENZ' OMUHLE**

**NKOSAZANE**

**NKAZOLAZO**

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**IZINKANYAMBA**

**BANELE**

**2000**

**BONGY**

**MQAPHELISI NYATHI**







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Here is our last issue of the creatives magazine for the year 2023. On behalf of the magazine team I would like to express my utmost gratitude for sticking with us and believing in our brand. We are what we are because of you the creatives who many a times give us constructive feedback necessary for our brand to grow in a positive way. You always make us shine, your works are truly amazing and worth writing about.

We are thankful to you for the accolades we received in 2023 that are a clear testimony that without you, we are nothing. This issue celebrates maskandi musicians, it features local and international icons with a clear mindset of excelling in what they do. As a passionate team, united for a common goal in uplifting creatives we always thrive to do our best in delivering quality products and services even under very difficult situations

Enjoy the read and we wish you a productive year 2024.

## EDITOR'S NOTE







“When I look at these awards I always tell myself that it has surely been God from day 1”. These are the awards she has scooped so far, 2019 Destiny Global awards song of the Year award, 2022 Destiny Global awards best female artist of the year award as well as the 2022 Destiny Global awards song of the year award.

Sibonginkosi Sibanda is a Maskandi gospel artist and presenter, based in Bulawayo. She is popularly known as Bongy in the arts and entertainment sector. She has been in the music industry since childhood and says that she cannot specifically say when this breakthrough happened. “I have been doing music since I was in Grade 1, my whole entire life I have been practicing and learning music at the same time, it’s been music my whole life” She has managed to showcase her talent locally and internationally in both rural and urban areas. She has been to Zambia, Malawi and South Africa where she has marketed her music widely using platforms where she has been granted an opportunity to perform. In recognition of her works, Bongy has 3 awards and is optimistic that she will surely get more awards as long as she continues upgrading her works.

So far she has released 3 Maskandi singles which are, Kubuyiselwa, Vuleka and Nguwe. Bongy has done collaborations with several artists who include father Mahendere, Marve T and Ronald Stone. When asked about where she gets the motivation from in music, Bongy explains, “My number one motivation in music is my family background looking at the things that I see, the things that I go through and the way I was brought up. When we go through a lot of things the only way we can express ourselves, our great escape, is through music and this is exactly what I am doing”.

In her family she is the only person with so much passion for music, she is thankful for the support she receives from her brother as she says he is one family member who is musically minded and really understands her love for music. She has enjoyed sharing a stage and having moments with great artists in the music industry and she says that this is a dream for every artist to hang around with such people. She is highly excited to have met the Finance minister, Mthuli Ncube.





Bongy says that challenges will always be there in the music industry especially when you are a lady in a male dominated sector. She says that when men see them they do not see someone ready to work, ready to build, they see someone ready to fight them or a competitor, they see someone loose who can just give in to any temptation especially sexually to get what they want, be it awards or recording deals.

To overcome this challenge Bongy says she has managed to stand on her ground, set rules and goals clear enough that she will never stoop so low to the extent of sleeping with someone to do things for her because at the end of the day she will not be happy and the person who will benefit is the one she gave her body. "If I sleep with someone to record a song it means I also have to sleep around as well for someone to do a music video for me and all the other processes involved in the music production so I taught myself self-love, self-discipline and perseverance.

There are very few females in the Maskandi music because the perception by people is that it is a genre for males. Bongy is one of the few females in the industry, defying all odds and pursuing a path very close to her heart, Maskandi music.





# ZONDA MTHAKATHI AMATSEWONDO AMAHLE (ZOMAA)



The ZOMAA is a maskanda music group formed in 2012 and is made up of the following artists Brian Ncube, Mbekezeli Ncube, Comfort Ndlou, Valentine Dube, Ignitious Ncube, Tediya Khoza, Antony Ndlovu. Before they formed this Maskandi music group, they have been widely involved in Imbube music since 1996 and in 2012 when ZOMAA was established they added Maskandi music and they now specialize in these 2 genres, that is Maskandi and Imbube. This is a group based in Maphisa, Kezi in an area called Tshewondo under Matobo district. This is a group that specializes in Maskandi music production as well as educating those who wish to learn about Maskandi music, they train pupils in schools in preparation for their traditional dance competitions. Just like many other artists in this Maskandi music genre, the members of ZOMAA also draw their source of inspiration from the late Bhekumuzi

Luthuli, an iconic and prolific Maskandi artist, an inspiration to many. Speaking to Brian Ncube, the leader and founder of ZOMAA, he mentions that in his family he is not the only one who loves this music as he talks about his young brother, Mbekezeli Ncube who plays drums, he is also a bass guitarist, a keyboard player and a backing vocalist. He passionately says that he enjoys travelling the most for shows and winning awards as well as seeing places and beautiful ladies even though he says he never said any courtship word to them. "Emculweni ngijabuliswe yikubona izindawo lokubona izintombi ezinhle lobangingazange ngitsho lutho kuzo (laughs) lokuwina kumincintiswano. The ZOMAA group has showcased their works in many platforms that include school events, weddings, traditional ceremonies, national events locally and in South Africa. They have won in competitions that include, Chibuku road to fame. At the moment the group has

the following song titles that are ready to be recorded, Usulungisile, Iskhathesi, Sekwathini, Umuntu, Umbuso wezulu, Ngiyamazi Ubaba, Nkulunkulu somandla, Ukukhala kweqhude, Awusangithandi and Ngeke ngivume. He mentions that they have not yet released any album as their focus for now is on perfecting their works making sure that they are ready to release a fully baked album. "Besingaka khiphi i album kumculo lo okamaskandi sisalolonga ngokupheleleyo izingoma zethu lokuzama ukuhlanganisa imali yokuya cinezela idlalade lakuqala lomculo wemaskandi". Ncube cites transport challenges to take them to shows, lack of sponsorship as well as losing some group members in search of greener pastures. "Ubunzima esihlangana labo bunengi njalo bukhulu, ukuswela imota yokuhamba kumashows, ukuphuma kwamalunga eqembu esiyadinga amadlelo aluhlaza kwamanye amazwe lokuswela amasponsors. Brian explains how Maskandi music started, "iMaskandi ngumculo owaqalwa nguJohn Bhengu owayezibiza ngokuthi ngu Phuzutshukela ngama early 60s kwelase South Africa ebuya le style okuthiwa yikupika meaning pick up the guitar strings when he was playing it. imaskandi music imehluko kweminye imusic ngoba yona it's a traditional music that you can dance indlamu that is zulu dance and isitshikitshi that is a Ndebele dance".





# INKOSAZANE YO MASKANDI

Inkosazane YoMaskandi is how this lady, a vibrant Maskandi musician is well known in the arts industry. Her birth name is Charity Zanele Dube. She is currently based in South Africa where she is making waves in the music industry, she is a singer and a songwriter who has been doing music since 2017. She mentions the late Mgqumeni as one of the creatives who shaped her to be what she is today as she says that he motivated her to get into the music industry as she used to listen to his works a lot.

"Bengithanda ukulalela ingoma zikaMgqumeni kakhulu, nguye umuntu owangi motivator ukuze ngingene kule industry", says Inkosazane. Currently her music is not available on online stores, this is something that she is working on in order to market her brand to an international audience as well. She is currently selling her music on CD's. She says that currently her music is being played on various radio stations that include Khulumani FM, Skyz Metro Fm and Amaqhawanentaba FM.

In 2022 she was nominated in the Best Maskandi Female category at the Amaqhawanentaba FM 2nd Annual Awards. She has so far released an album called Ubhle beBhinca.

Inkosazane YoMaskandi takes us through her journey into the Maskandi music. She mentions that her brother used to play uMgqumeni music a lot when he visited home in Zimbabwe and this made her fall in love with his music and when she got so South Africa her passion grew. It was in South Africa where she used to buy a lot of CDs for Mgqumeni music.

"Ngisakhula umnewethu wayethi evela egoli efika lamaCD kaMgqumeni afike awadlale ngezwa zingitshayela kamnandi ngawuthanda umculo wakhe kwathi sekufike iskhathi sokuthi ngibesegoli hayike, kwabalula kimi, Ngathenga amaculo wakhe ngahlala ngiwadlala". Wathi esedlulile emhlabeni Ngase ngicabanga nje ukuthi njengoba lento ngiyithanda kunganjani nxa ngingayicula ngokwam, aah kusenjalo kwaqhamuka enyintombazana yaseLupane ngatholukuthi layo iyawuthanda lomculo sase sisungula iqembu lethu esasilibiza Intombi zesbane and in 2017 sakhapha i album isihloko sasithi Sanibonani. Ngokuya kweskhathi sahlukana omunye wacula yedwa ngabona ukuthi lento ngingakwazi ukuyenza ngedwa kwathi 2022 ngasengikhipha iAlbum ethi Ubhle beBhinca yiyo indlela engakhetha ngayo umaskandi", explains Inkosazane YoMaskandi.





# IZINKANYAMBA



**I**zinkanyamba is a Bulawayo based Maskandi group made up of Ngwabiso Neube and Msizi F Sibindi. The group was formed in 2021. Ngwabiso explains their journey so far, “Thina njengeqembu Izinkanyamba sicula umculo wesintu (uMaskandi) thinake kule indima asikabi zinkakha kangako ngoba singene ngomnyaka ka 2021 ngo Nhlangua. Okwasenza

sangena kule indima yikubana sahlangua sathola ukuthi nje sonke silekhono elifanayo ngoba sathi sibheka imbali yethu sonke besingabantu abakade becula imbube ngaseskolweni kususeka kubanga eliphansi. sasesisithi akesizame sikhuphe iculo elilodwa esalihlabela singakabumbi ingoma elithi Sengiqonyelw’ imali salitshaya sezwa ukuthi iyaphuma lento emva kwalokho

sasesibumba iqembu lethu, Izinkanyamba.

Ngwabiso reveals that they have enjoyed a lot since the establishment of their group as he narrates here “Kunengi esesikhulisile kusonesi sikhathi esifitshane, thina ukujabulisa



abantu yikhonje okusithokozisa kakhulu. In 2022 the group performed at an event organized by the African Union Trust, an organization that focuses on the disadvantaged members of the community. They also took part in the Maskandi festival conducted in Pumula in 2022. "Si-hambile ukuyajabulisa abantu", he says. Ngwabisa also mentions that every year they are invited to perform at the Humanitarian Hope International graduation ceremonies. He refers to the school as "isikolo esisebenza laso kakhulu ngoba sesize sabakhuphela ingoma ethi isikolo ngaphansi kweqembu

elitsha esilisungulileyo elibizwa, Onogwaja. They have also performed at the Ubuntu cultural festival at Hillside dams in December 2021

Izinkanyamba have released the following songs, Sengqonyelw' imali, UJes' uyeza, Iqhikiza lami, Uzizw' unjani, Africa Day and of Bulawayo, presented by Celebrity Breeze.

Ngwabisa talks about how people seem to be less appreciative when it comes to Maskandi music and says that for people to realise the importance of Maskandi they have a role to play as musicians to ensure that they receive considerable recognition of their works. "Inkinga esihlangana lazo kakhulu zisekuthini abantu ngani

abakunakile okwakithi kodwa sasesithi kutsho lathi kumele sikhuphule izinga njalo yikho esikwenzayo njengamanje".





**U**2000 iNdidazwe is a Maskandi musician based in Gwalabanda, Bulawayo. He has been in the industry for one year as a Maskandi artist. He mentions Amageza Amahle as one Maskandi group that inspired him to get into the music industry, focusing on the Maskandi genre. He has so far received commendable support from people who like his works and they wish to see him excel. "Maskandi is my favourite type of music and I do not wish to be anywhere else, this is my home", says 2000.

He explains how Maskandi music is different from other genres in their focus on tradition and culture, "Maskandi ngu mculo wesiko, wesintu njalo ngu mculo ohlukileyo kweminye imiculo ngoba indlela okuculwa ngayo kuyafakwa izibongo zomuntu ongye oculayo njalo futhi kube khona ukubonga kwabantu okukhona uma ucula ingoma lokugida kwalo mculo kuhlukile kweminye, loku gqoka komuntu ocula umaskandi kuhlukile khatshana kulabantu beminye imiculo".

U2000 is also the founder of AmaGwandamahle, a Maskandi band formed this year, July 2023 where he is with his uncle, Meluleki Nyathi.

He is thankful for the opportunity that he has received so far as he has managed to perform at Sigodini under king Mambo and at Pumula eSilwane Hall. He has also released an album called Isiyaya neQuantum made up of the following songs, Uyanguqobela, Isiyaya ne quantum, Omalayisha, Uhlobo luka tsotsi, IBosso, Kilebohile and Sanibona.

U2000 expresses a huge concern on the available studios in Zimbabwe that he describes as not having the capacity to accommodate them as Maskandi musicians. "We have poor studios mancane for umaskandi", he

says. In order to produce quality works he takes his records to South Africa for the mastering process.

He wishes to collaborate with Amageza Amahle and Khuzani in the near future for he believes that by so doing he will grow and develop his Maskandi music passion.

U2000 is appealing to the public for support of Maskandi music, a unique genre he describes as looked down upon, Sifisa kube losekelo kubacula bakaMaskandi

lokuthi abaculi bengabukelwa phansi befanekiswe labanye abaculi beminye imiculo", says 2000.



**2000**





**M**qaphelisi Nyathi is a Maskandi artist, born and bred in Kezi, at Tswayini, Gohole area. He says that he grew up singing imbube music and this is where he gained knowledge on how to make people happy as well as to educate them about life. He moved from Imbube music to a fusion of other music genres and he describes this a stage when he grew in the music industry, acquired more skills. “

“Ngikhule ngicula Imbube music kulapho engancela khona ulwazi lokujabulisa abantu ngomculo, ngathi ngokukhula ngamila amaphiko ngazimela ngedwa,

umculo wami yistayila esitsha engibuya laso ngihlanganise Imbube Maskandi lo Mbaqanga then igama lomculo ngiwubiza Uluju Musiq,lapha uthola ama flavours wonke ku Luju Musiq”. He ventured into the music industry 20 years ago while he was in primary school. He describes the music that he does as one that serves to encourage people to preserve traditional and cultural practices as they play a key role in the wellbeing of a black person.

He says” Ngalo umculo ngizama ukuthi singalahlekelwa ngamasiko ethu esikufunde kubo baba labo mkhulu bethu sifisa labantwabethu bekuthole”. Mqaphelisi says he has a very strong family support structure and this is

where he gets all the confidence and courage to always aim higher.

He has mainly showcased his music at wedding ceremonies, parties and at churches where he gets invited to perform. In March 2023 he released an album called Soon and very Soon which is made up of 10 tracks. He expresses his utmost appreciation to his fans who have received the album with high excitement and he describes it as, “lamanje lisadla amahabula”, showing how much it is still being enjoyed by people even now. He also released a single track called Ungazibulali (Don’t kill yourself) on 11 September 2023.





In conclusion, Nyathi talks about the challenges that they face as musicians where they do not have music promoters and sponsorship opportunities. Despite these challenges he says that he is making efforts to ensure that his family is taken care of and this he does through selling his music on USBs and CDs.

“Manengi amachallenges kudingeka ama promoters lama sponsors asondele asikhulise ngoba kunzima kuyadura njalo ukuya estudio, ngiyadayisa ama cd’s and usb’s yiwo angipha ithemba ma bethe bathenga ama-bili amathathu lami ngifika endlini ngiphethe okuya ngasethunjini for abantwana





# ABAFANA BENEMANE

**A**bafana Benemane is a Maskandi music group whose founder is Mayenziwe Nyathi who is a lead guitar player and a vocalist who has been in the industry for 4 years. His love and passion for who he is, his culture and where he comes from led him to get to this type of music. “Ngiyayithanda imvelaphi yakithu amaNdebele yikho ngikulo umculo”, says Nyathi who is also popularly known as Skhulu in the creative and cultural industry.

He is thankful for the support he receives from his uncle, Mqabuko Neube whose role in his music career shows how much he cares about him as he is his sponsor who makes sure that he meets the financial needs in as far as his music is concerned. He has showcased his creativity at the Joshua Nkomo Polytechnic college graduation ceremony and at the Chibuku Road to Fame, show in Gwanda.

Nyathi says that as a group they have released the following 4 tracks, Lisebancani, Imali, Samukeleni and Uthando.

He cites financial challenges as hindrances in their journey for excellence in the music industry, however, despite all these constraints they can make use of the available resources in order to push their dreams to higher levels. “We also make efforts by asking for help from well-wishers whom most of the times are very helpful”.

“Maskandi is my favourite kind of music, since birth I have always been fascinated by it and this is why I chose to be a Maskandi artist”, says Nyathi. He also adds that this is the music that explains more to him and the people around about Ndebele traditions and culture that they express through music. I feel more inclined to Maskandi, Maskandi music is a culture base, this is where we address so many issues, especially the socio, economic life as a society and it highly gives us an identity as Ndebele people”, says Nyathi.



# INTOMBI YOKUKHANYA

Intombi yokukhanya was born Sandra Ncube, she is a Maskandi musician currently based in South Africa, she has been in the music industry since 2020 and says that since she was a child, she used to love music. She has largely been inspired by other Maskandi musicians. Intombi yokukhanya has released an album called Inhliziyo yami. She cites that the music industry is very hard especially if you do not have the right people to help in the marketing and promotion departments, "You will forever perform for free, currently I do not have a music manager and its quite hard to get paying shows this is why most of my shows where I am invited to perform are for free". She also adds that there are also people full of discouragement who do not know how to communicate especially when criticizing their music, their words are full of the pull her down mentality as she says. Despite all these challenges she is sure that it is what God called her to do and she will not stop doing music no matter the problems she faces.





# AMATHWASA

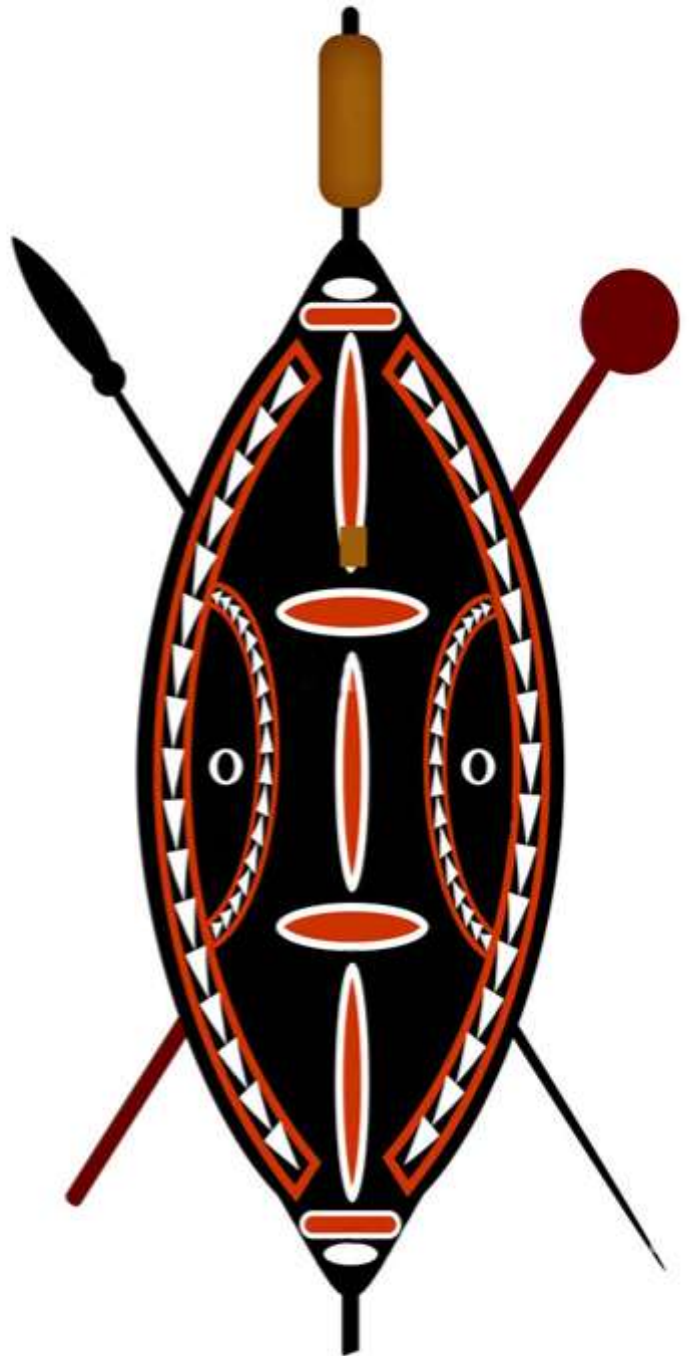
**A**mathwasa is a maskanda group that was started in 2016 and is made up of two artists, Mhleli Imvenduna Ndlovu and Sibusiso Maqhuzu Sibanda. Amathwasa have had several performances especially in South Africa, Johannesburg where they have participated in countless number of occasions. In Zimbabwe they have mainly showcased their music in a place called koSkuta located in Filabusi.

The following songs have been released, "Ngikhiphe Amavika Mkhonto ethi ambleser, Kwazoba Lamavika Mkhonto ethi Kumnyama sikhona then umfowethu wakhipha UMaqhuzu ethi stimela," says Mhleli.

Imvenduna mentions that one of the challenges they face is that of lack of support from family members and friends whom he says they discourage them from pursuing their chosen career path. Despite this challenge Mhleli says he continues to work hard to prove them wrong so that they might one day understand and appreciate what they do as this is a passion and a gift from God, as he says.

He also mentions that he is a cultural man and the maskandi music describes who he is and this way he is able to embrace it wholeheartedly without caring about what those around him think.

Mhleli says that Maskandi music teaches people to be proud of who they are and that the messages in their songs are mostly about teaching black people about their culture.





# INTOMBI YABELUNGU

Intombi yabelungu, born Ester Sibanda is one of the female Maskandi artists enjoying in the music industry. She is a songwriter and singer specializing in Maskandi music. She got into the arts industry in 2016. When asked what inspired her to get into the music industry and why she chose Maskandi music, Intombi yabelungu explains, "umculo yinto engikhule ngiyithanda kusukela ngiseskolo then ngithe sengiseSouth Africa ngahlangana labanye saqala iqembu elibizwa kuthiwa uBuhle bamaNguni. I grew up listening to Maskandi music that I love so dearly". In 2018 Intombi Yabelungu released an album called Khona kunzima with these tracks, Vulani Amasango, Khona kunzima, Mantombazane, Umoya weNkosi, Mnewethu, Bambanani, Myeni wami, Inhlonipho, Abazali bam, Umdali and Umoya weNkosi (remix).

She also has singles, these are ..... as well as an Extended Play (EP) called Ngazilaya with the following 3 tracks Abathwakazi, Ngazilaya and Umakoti. She has performed in South Africa and in Zimbabwe, eSigidini. The following are the awards that she has received, Vaal Music Awards 2018 - Outstanding Newcomer, Sadma 2019 - Best Female Artist, Skyz Metro Fm Music Awards 2019 Outstanding Maskandi/Umbhaqanga Artist, Amaqhawanentaba Fm Music Awards 2021 - Best Maskandi and the Matebeleland Cultural Awards 2023 - Outstanding Maskandi Artist.



One of the biggest challenges she faces is that of lack of recognition of her works in the form of monetary value, she says that she does release her music, people say that they play her songs even online but she does not get any money from her efforts and that she does not get opportunities that can give her money. "ichallenge engiyitholayo yikuthi ngiyahamba ngiyerecorder estúdio maqede ngingayitholi inzuzo lokuqhatshwa ngingaqhatshwa ingoma zikhona online bathi bayazidlala but lakhona akubuyi lutho".







## MADLAKSHISA

Dumisani Ndlovu is a Maskandi musician currently based in Kezi where he also works while at the same time largely engaged in the music side. He is known as Madlakshisa in the arts and entertainment sector. He is a lead singer and a song writer. He says that he started writing songs in 2013 and had his first album called Baganga nezulu was recorded this year, 2023.

Dumisani says he was motivated to get into Maskandi music by people around him who used to cheer him up whenever he would sing. "Into eyangikhuthaza kakhulu ngabantu ngoba babengizwa ngicula kamnandi, labaculi bakithi, lani selingenza ngiqine ngomculi", says Madlakshisa. He acknowledges the support he receives from his dancers whom he refers to as amagidangoma, these are Stearing, King Maqhoba, Gun shooter, Star esincane, T.O.B, The Ghost, Vimbile and Velakancane. Together they are called Amashisa Amahle. Madlakshisa mentions some of the challenges that he faces and is appealing to anyone who can help him overcome them. "I currently do not have a manager, I do everything by myself and I do not have an form of sponsorship. I will be grateful if someone comes in to help me push my brand to the next level". He believes that with a manager and a sponsor all his dreams in as far as his music is concerned will be realized.

He explains why he is so passionate about Maskandi music, "I love Maskandi too much because it is that kind of music that soothes and comforts me, very educative, ngumculo olemfundiso emnandi, okunye yikuthi ngakithi sikhuliswe ngamasiko yingakho ngabona kubalulekile ukuthi ngicule umculo wesintu umculo wama ndebele".

Madlakshisa says that Maskandi is a very respected music genre from the lyrics to the outfits and it gives people high esteem and respect, "Umaskandi ngumculo ohlukene kakhulu ngitsho ngoba umuntu uba lesithunzi esihle kakhulu emphakathini, indlela esigqoka ngayo ilesizotha ayila ngitsho ihlazo ubuye futhi ukuthi siyagqoka amabhethshu okwenza abantu abanengi behlale bekhumbula ngembali yakudala".



umaskandi ocwensa ngoshun ongaziwa ushuni we shisa





# MGCOTSHWA



**M**gcotshwa is a South Africa based Maskandi artist, born Wilson Ndlovu. He is a lead guitarist, bass guitarist, keyboard player, song writer, lead vocalist, backing vocalist, producer, graphics designer and a sound engineer.

He talks about his passion for maskandi music and reveals the late Bhukumuzi Luthuli and Mgqumeni as some of the artists who inspired him to take music to a professional level. He also explains that where he grew up, he was worried that there were no artists and they had to go to very far away places if they needed entertainment in the form of music, he says this was one of the reasons why they formed the group.

“Okokuqala ngiyawuthanda umculo okutshukuthi ngothando lomculo sazesakha iqembu elalithandwa kakhulu esontweni engangisonta kulo ekukhuleni kwami, kunabaculi nje esasibuke la kubo, ohlangothini lukamaskandi ngangikhonze uBhekumuzi Luthuli kakhulu kwavela oMgqumeni okwesibili ngangikhathazeka kakhulu ma ngibuka indawo yakithi ingelabaculi zingekho imbongi konke lokhu besikubuka kwezinye indawo ezikude lathi, ngamafis hane nje kwaba liphupho lami ukuveza indawo yakithi”.

Mgcotshwa is thankful for the support he receives from his followers. He says that he enjoys being on stage, playing the guitar, dancing and everything else involved in the music production process. His music is available on digital stores and people can listen to it on Skyz Metro Fm and Khulumani FM radio stations where it is widely played. He mentions that marketing their brand is difficult especially considering that they do not have a company working for them in this area and they must do this task by themselves, which is not enough.

“Marketing yale genre inzima yiyo ichallenge esibhekene nayo kakhulu singabaculi bakamaskandi kwaMthwakazi it's like bayayinina ungaze wenze kahle kangakanani njalo kulokukhethana ngezigodi, explains Mgcotshwa. Mgcotshwa gives us a brief background on the formation of Maskandi music, “There are those who believe that we adopted this genre from Kwazulu Natal, they do not know that this type of music started koMthwakazi and spread to koMthaniya wafika wadlondlobala khona noma ngithi wanakeka masinyane”.

Maskandi music isondelene lesintu njalo iqukethe usiko lwabantu abamnyama especially amaNdebele lamaZulu”.



# BANELE



Banele as he is well known in the arts sector is a musician, a lead vocalist and a song composer, born Goodman Ndlovu. He is one of the fast-emerging Maskandi artists who are shining in the industry, based in Bulawayo. He has been in the music sector since 2020. Banele explains how he was motivated by the need to empower and enlighten people through music as a vehicle to inform, educate as well as to entertain people. He reveals that he was greatly inspired by the late South African Maskandi iconic musician, Bhekumuzi Luthuli to be a Maskandi artist. Banele also proudly states that he cannot imagine how his life will be like without music as he says it will be very meaningless for him to live without doing music and this is why he is very proud to be where he is today, a Maskandi artist.





“Ngangifisa ukudlulisa umlayezo ngengoma, Ngoba injongo yomculo wami yikwakha abantu lapho engibona kusenzeka khona amaphutha ngiyabhala ingoma ngaleyonto engiyibonayo, Kanti lothando lomculo ngikhule ngilalela u Bhekumuzi Luthuli kakhulu umculo wacina ungingena ngaphakathi sengingaphila nzima ngaphandle komculo”.

Banele believes that Maskandi music is not getting enough recognition and exposure and this is why it is not as popular in Zimbabwe. He says that currently he is using his Facebook Page to market his music. He is thankful for the support he received when performed twice at Pumula North hall in 2020 and 2021 and his music is receiving airplay mostly on Khulumani Fm.

He has so far released a single track called Nizomland'emathuneni in 2020, followed by an Extended Play titled Imali Yegazi.

He faces quite a lot of challenges in his music journey that include marketing and recording expenses and he says, “I have been trying to find ways to overcome them but at the moment all my efforts are in vain”.

As a Nguni person, Banele says, “Maskandi music represents who we are as Nguni people and it is not seasonal, it does not get outdated, the message is always relevant”. He also adds that this type of music does not have a specific place where it can be played, anywhere is fine.



# MAQHUZU

Sibusiso Maqhuza Sibanda is a South Africa based artist who ventured into the music industry in 2015, he is a music producer and a composer who proudly reveals that he is doing what his heart wants and he believes that this is a huge calling from God. He is continuously encouraged to continue in his music path by the reception he receives from people that he describe as incredible, with a high passion to see him reach higher levels in his music career. He has performed at Turfontein, South Africa.

Maqhuza has released an album called Amanxeba Othando with the following 12 tracks, Unghlekkelani, Abathandazi, Amanxeba othando, Nyanga yam, featuring Gazelimnyama, Enqamulezweni featuring Ntech, Amalobolo, Ithuna lendoda, Sabela featuring Gazelimnyama, Stimela, Amasiko, Makoya featuring Mhlambiwezinja and Nginenkinga.

He cites lack of finances as one of the challenges that he faces and this means that he is unable to work the way he wishes to due to financial constraints that hinder him from producing more music. He is however optimistic that one day things will improve and he will be able to shine in the music industry.

“I love Maskandi music because it brings me back to my roots”, concludes Maqhuza.





**T**habani Chipalo Khumalo whose stage name is Menz'Omuhle is a Maskandi musician based in Zimbabwe, Tsholotsho and has been in the music industry for the past 5 years. He says that his origins motivated him to be a Maskandi musician. He grew up listening to Imbube music and later developed high passion for Maskandi music genre.

Menz'Omuhle has showcased his talent on various platforms that include the following arts festivals such as the Tsholotsho Arts Festival and the Redhorse Arts Festival. His music is being played on radio stations that include Amaghwantaba Fm and Skyz Metro Fm.

He says that currently he is working on an EP that he looks forward to releasing soon. He mentions some of the challenges that he faces as a musician, "Transport challenges where at times I have difficulties in raising money to travel to venues where I will be invited to perform and sometimes I do not have money for recording my songs", says

Menz'Omuhle. He says that despite all these challenges, he never disappoints his fans as he always try by all means to deliver quality works



# UMenz' Omuhle

*Menz'Omuhle*

**SINGLE  
NOW OUT**







Nkanyiso Mpofu a.k.a Nkazolazo inkunzi yebhubesi is a young man born and bred in Filabusi, Silalatsani area. He is a Maskandi artist, a singer and a composer with 2 years of experience in the industry. He has so far enjoyed people cheering him up, enjoying his music as he says, "Ngijabulela ukubona abantu bethokozela umsebenzi wami lapho engisuke ngithole khona ithuba lokuveza ikhono lami".

He grew up listening to Maskandi music and this inspired him to be a Maskandi artist that he is today. He has released an album called..... and the following 3 singles..... He loves this kind of music because he says it brings him closer to his roots "Umaskandi ngumculo wesintu uhlukeni leminyane imculo ngoba uhlala ukhumbuza abantu imvelaphi yabo".

# NKAZOLAZO



