



## HAL SINGER JAZZ QUARTET Soweto To Harlem

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60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476  
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321  
fe@forcedexposure.com

### DESCRIPTION

When the U.S. State Department announced in the mid-1970s that they were sponsoring a South African tour for the Oklahoma-born, Paris-based saxophonist **Hal Singer**, producer **Rashid Vally** took note. Even though his nascent record label As-Shams/The Sun (established in 1974) was making waves on the local scene, the idea of commissioning a recording from an international artist was a ballsy idea. With a discography that stretched back to the 1950s, Hal Singer was already somewhat of a legacy artist by 1976. Vally was well-versed on Singer's accomplishments and specifically enamored by his composition "Blue Stompin'," which appeared on a Prestige album from 1959 that had struck a chord in South Africa. With his irresistible charm, Vally managed to coax Singer into a studio in Johannesburg, South Africa, to record a new version of "Blue Stompin'" with South African sax star **Kippie Moeketsi**, which became the title track of a 1977 album by Moeketsi. The recording session also yielded an album's worth of new material by Hal Singer and his quartet that took its name from a track inspired by Singer's trip to South Africa entitled "Soweto to Harlem." Released in 1976 and only available in South Africa, *Soweto to Harlem* captures a laid-back, cheeky and nostalgic rhythm and blues set from the **Hal Singer Quartet** that is unlikely to have emerged for a different target market.

### TRACKLISTING

- A1. Soweto To Harlem (8:30)
- A2. Blues After Six (9:10)
- B1. The Gospel (5:45)
- B2. Always Blues (7:12)
- B3. Deacon Johnson (8:10)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Released in 1976 and only available in South Africa, *Soweto to Harlem* captures a laid-back, cheeky and nostalgic rhythm and blues set from the **Hal Singer Quartet** that is unlikely to have emerged for a different target market.
- Originated from a recording session of a new version of "Blue Stompin'" with South African sax star **Kippie Moeketsi**, which yielded an album's worth of new material by Hal Singer and his quartet that took its name from a track inspired by Singer's trip to South Africa entitled "Soweto to Harlem."

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**Press Contact:** [publicity@forcedexposure.com](mailto:publicity@forcedexposure.com)