



GWIGWI MRWEBI Mbaqanga Songs

Label

HONEST JON'S RECORDS

Format

LP

Catalog Number

HJR 103LP

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\$17.99

Release Date

08/02/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - M - WORLD



DESCRIPTION

2024 repress. Beautiful, insurgent, fabulously danceable jazz music from South Africa, flowing out of the penny-whistle kwela bands of the 1950s. (Kwela means "get moving," in Xhosa.) **Bra Gwigwi** played alto and clarinet alongside **Hugh Masekela** and **Kippie Moeketsi** in **The Jazz Dazzlers**, **The Jazz Maniacs**, and **The Harlem Swingsters**. He came to the UK from Johannesburg as an actor and clarinetist in *King Kong* – a musical about a Zulu boxer – which opened in London in February 1961. Recorded in January 1967, at **Dennis Duerden's** Transcription Centre, he is joined here by **Dudu Pukwana**, **Chris McGregor**, **Laurie Allan**, and **Ronnie Beer**, all from **The Blue Notes**. Ladbroke Grove legend, and mainstay of the *London Is The Place For Me* series, **Coleridge Goode** plays double bass. No less than sixteen shots of jubilant, jump-up mbaqanga. Check the Ethiopian vibe of "Mra" (which became core repertoire of **The Brotherhood of Breath**). Listen to "Nyusamkhaya," and try to get it out of your head. Impossible. Lovely notes by **Steve Beresford**, too.

TRACKLISTING

01. Good News
02. Nyusamkhaya
03. Lily Express
04. Rough Deal
05. Kwazakhele
06. Mini Mthembo
07. Hayini Bo
08. Nick Thethe
09. Mra
10. Kweleentonga
11. Botyana
12. Ndaqmbayo
13. Zangomva
14. Zobongo
15. Kelekette
16. Ezindongeni

HIGHLIGHTS

- Beautiful, insurgent, fabulously danceable jazz music from South Africa, flowing out of the penny-whistle kwela bands of the 1950s.
- Recorded in January 1967, at **Dennis Duerden's** Transcription Centre, **Gwigwi Mrwebi** is joined here by **Dudu Pukwana**, **Chris McGregor**, **Laurie Allan**, **Ronnie Beer**, and **Coleridge Goode**.
- Featuring liner notes by **Steve Beresford**.

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