

Nina Mkhize and all that jazz

TNA REPORTER
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NINA Mkhize will perform at the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music on April 19.

Mkhize is a jazz-trained vocalist and composer and two-time winner of the Old Mutual Jazz Encounters Awards from Durban, KwaZulu Natal. Her repertoire includes original jazz and African music compositions and renditions of art songs standards.

Her contralto voice has been described as breathy and sultry and the style of her music ranges from swing to funk to boss nova. Many of the songs she performs are original compositions.

Mkhize counts the late Bheki Mseleku as one of her greatest influences. They met while she was a student at the defunct music school at the Durban Institute of Technology now housed at UKZN.

Performance work has seen her front as a singer for the Shuttle Band, a commission by the Nordic Council of Ministers, which saw a collaboration between an ensemble of South African and Scandinavian musicians. They included Ray Phiri, the late Gito Baloi, Concord Nkabinde (South Africa) and Stien Casternsen, Bendik Hofseth and Ricard Nettermalm (Norway).

Formerly, Mkhize led the Standard Bank Youth Jazz Band under the direction of saxophonist Barney Rachabane at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. She's a well-travelled performer who has played on an array of stages such as the North Sea Jazz Festival, SA



FROM SWING TO FUNK: Nina Mkhize will perform at the Centre for Jazz and Popular music later this month.

10th Democracy Celebrations in Brazil, the Indoni Cultural, Joy of Jazz and Unyazi Electrical Music Festivals.

Nina hopes to release her album of original music soon. It's inspired by a culmination of life experiences in the world – to which she attests have helped expand her world view, thus growing her writing talents as an artist, which chronicle her journey through life in the jazz and African music idioms.

Nina Mkhize (vocals) will be joined

by Mthobisi Mthalande (piano and keyboards), Mandla Zikalala (bass), Bucco Xaba (drum) and Sibongile Mthethwa (backing vocals) at The Centre for Jazz & Popular Music (CJPM), Level 2 Shepstone Building at UKZN Howard College Campus, Durban.

Doors open 5.30pm and the music starts at 6pm.

Tickets will be available at the door for R70, R45 for pensioners and R20 for students.– 701295