



Nduduzo Makhathini performs in Durban with guest musicians this evening.

# Mum's the word for jazz pianist Nduduzo

Billy Suter

**A** PROGRAMME of music titled *Mother Tongue*, dedicated to his mother, Nomajerusalema, will be presented on the Durban campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal this evening by ace pianist Nduduzo Makhathini and guest musicians.

Scheduled for the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music on the second level of the Shepstone Building on campus, the concert will feature Makhathini backed by Sakhile Simane on trumpet, Ayanda Sikade on drums, Mthunzi Mvubu on sax and Benjamin Jephtha on bass.

"When I was a kid, I would watch my mom play.

Thinking back, I assume I might have been hypnotised by the combination of black and white keys," says this acclaimed pianist, who toured Europe with Zim Ngqawana for three weeks in 2008.

Makhathini, who has also shared stages with Feya Faku, Carlo Mombelli, Simphiwe Dana, Zama Jobe and Thandiswa Mazwai, among others, is now based in Joburg but was born locally, in Umgungundlovu.

"My mom and dad introduced me to songs before birth, and I have never lived a moment without music," he says.

Noted as a trendsetter in the genres of jazz and soul, Makhathini completed his Diploma in Jazz Piano in 2005.

While pursuing his studies in Durban, he attracted a lot of attention from local musicians and music lovers, and was signed up for gigs with the late Andile Mseleku, Brian Thusi and Philani Ngidi.

He last performed in Durban in December, at the free Westridge Park stadium festival tribute to Nelson Mandela.

## Documentary

"That was truly an amazing experience for me, playing music by Bheki Mseleku and Allen Kwela. Also, the opportunity to work with Salif Keita and Hugh Masekela was humbling."

Having recently participated in a documentary and live concert DVD with Feya Faku, Makhathini plans to spend much of the rest of this year developing young artists in the Eastern Cape.

"We are in the process of implementing a unique project there and I am looking forward to it."

He has also agreed to be among a team of musicians who will spread their knowledge among youth at the Grahamstown Youth Jazz Festival in July.

For this evening's concert, doors will open at 5.30pm.

Admission is R40 (R20 for senior citizens, R15 for students).

Phone Thuli at 031 260 3385 or e-mail [Zamat1@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Zamat1@ukzn.ac.za) for more information.