



Press Release

ICONIC AFRO-JAZZ MUSICIAN HUGH MASEKELA CONFIRMED FOR DUBAI OPERA

Dubai UAE, 12 July 2017 – Iconic South African trumpeter, flugelhornist, composer and human rights advocator Hugh Masekela is set to bring his signature Afro-jazz sound to Dubai Opera for one unforgettable performance on Monday, 11 December. Tickets will go on sale at midday on Wednesday, 13 July, with prices starting from AED 195.

Renowned across the world for his unique Afro-Jazz sound, Hugh Masekela was born in the town of Witbank, South Africa in 1939. He began to hone his unique skills in the 1950s during a period of intense creative collaboration, most notably performing in the 1959 musical King Kong, written by Todd Matshikiza, and, soon thereafter, as a member of the now legendary South African group, the Jazz Epistles.

In 1960, at the age of 21, he left South Africa for New York, where he enrolled at the Manhattan School of Music and immersed himself in the golden era of the New York jazz scene. Under the tutelage of Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Armstrong, he was encouraged to develop his own unique style, feeding off African influences.

Following a performance at Monterey Pop Festival in 1967, where he performed alongside Janis Joplin, Otis Redding, Ravi Shankar, The Who and Jimi Hendrix, Masekela went on to release his instrumental single 'Grazin' in the Grass' in 1968, which went to Number One on the American pop charts and was a worldwide smash, elevating him to international fame.

With a career spanning seven decades, Masekela has released over 40 albums and counts collaborations with some of the most respected artists of all time, from Harry Belafonte, Dizzy Gillespie, The Byrds, Fela Kuti and Marvin Gaye, to Herb Alpert, Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder and the late Miriam Makeba.

In 1990 Masekela returned to South Africa, following the unbanning of the ANC and the release of Nelson Mandela – an event anticipated in Hugh's anti-apartheid anthem 'Bring Home Nelson Mandela' (1986) which had been a rallying cry around the world. In 2010, he was honoured by President Zuma with the highest order in South Africa: The Order of Ikhamanga. In 2011, Masekela received a Lifetime Achievement award at the WOMEX World Music Expo in Copenhagen, with the US Virgin Islands also proclaiming 'Hugh Masekela Day' in March 2011.

Hugh Masekela is currently using his global reach to spread the word about heritage restoration in Africa – a topic that remains very close to his heart. He commented: "My biggest obsession is to show Africans and the world who the people of Africa really are."

Jasper Hope, Chief Executive at Dubai Opera, commented: "Trumpeter, composer, bandleader, legend - Hugh Masekela is one of the world's great musicians and humanitarians and it is an honour to be able to host him at Dubai Opera this December. His unique sound in our unique auditorium will be one of the highlights of the year."



For full details please visit: www.dubaiopera.com

Tickets will be available from AED 195 from midday on Thursday, 13 July at www.dubaiopera.com

For more information on Hugh Masekela, please visit: <https://hughmasekela.co.za>

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Note to Editors

About Dubai Opera:

Dubai Opera is a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. With an iconic dhow shaped design rooted in Emirati heritage, Dubai Opera offers the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2000m² flat floor event space, and is the definitive destination for quality entertainment productions and performances. Dubai Opera's stage hosts an incredible array of world-class talent, with opera, ballet and classical music concerts and productions at the core, Dubai Opera also stages musical theatre, fashion shows, jazz, comedy, family shows and a full range of live entertainment.

For more information, please contact:

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