



Ladysmith

Black

Mambazo



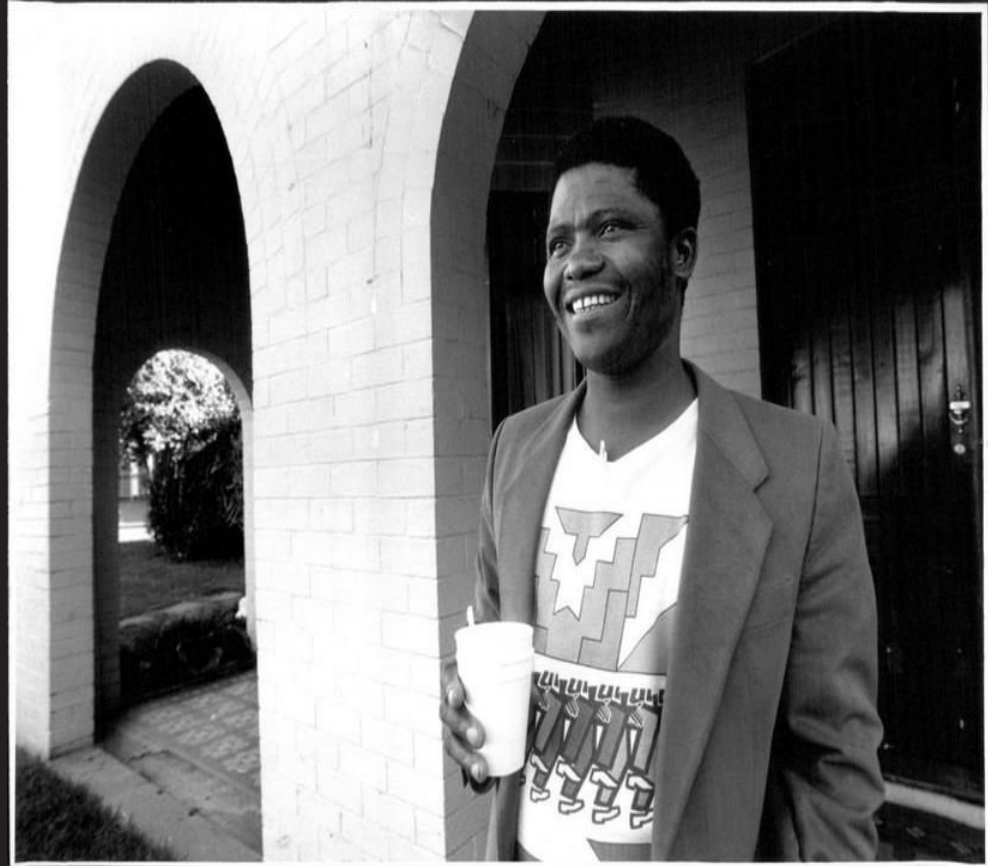
Ladysmith Black Mambazo

- Are a South African male choral group singing in the local vocal styles of isicathamiya and mbube.
- **Isicathamiya** - is a singing style that originated in South Africa by Zulu singers. It basically means to sing without musical accompaniment. This is also called a capella
- **Mbube** - Zulu word for "lion." In singing, it means to sing homophonically to create musical textures



Beginnings

- Formed by Joseph Shabalala in 1960
- Joseph Shabalala formed Ladysmith Black Mambazo because of a series of dreams he had in 1964, in which he heard certain isicathamiya harmonies
- Shambalala was a part time farmer and part time factory worker
- Formed the group with the intention “to bring the gospel of loving one another all over the world”



Members - A Family Affair



- Thulani Shabalala
- Thamsanqa Shabalala
- Sibongiseni Shabalala
- Msizi Shabalala
- Pius Shezi
- Albert Mazibuko
- Abednego Mazibuko
- Sabelo Mthembu
- Mfanafuthi Dlamini

● Early Success



- Shabalala entered the group into isicathamiya competitions, held on Saturday nights in the halls of hostels in Durban and Johannesburg
- The group originally named "Ezimnyama" ("The Black Ones") changed to Ladysmith Black Mambazo because they won every competition that they entered
- After a while, the group was not allowed to enter competitions, but were asked to perform as headliners at competitions
- In 1967, the group began to make recordings for the SABC station Radio Zulu, appearing in DJ Alexius Buthelezi's popular Cothoza Mfana programme, which spotlighted the music of several local choirs. One of these broadcasts led to their 1st record contract



What's in a Name?



Ladysmith - Township where Joseph Shambalala and most of the original members were from

Black - A reference to the black oxen, the strongest animal on a farm in South Africa

Mambazo - The Zulu word for "axe." This is a reference to the group's ability to "cut" down the competition

Apartheid

- Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racial segregation that existed in South Africa and South West Africa from 1948 to the early 1990s



World Wide Exposure



- During Apartheid, they were allowed to travel to Germany to perform
- Music was seen and heard by Westerners for the first time
- In 1985 Paul Simon travelled to South Africa to try to find musicians from S.A. to work with on his new album

Graceland

- Sold more than 16 million albums
- 1987 Grammy for Album of the Year
- Exposed the Western world to African music for the first time
- LBM on several songs
- Asked to perform on Saturday Night Live, Sesame Street, etc...

P A U L · S I M O N
G R A C E L A N D





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Dancing Style

Isishameni - A harmonising performance with boys and girls together but dancing separately



Subsequent Years and Members Change



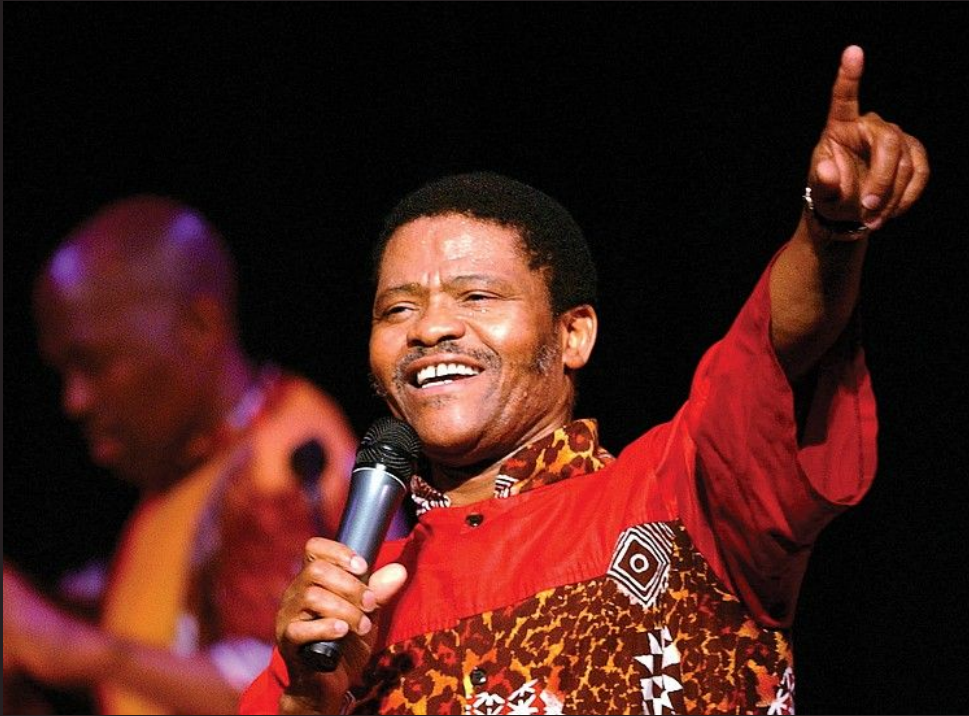
- Apartheid abolished in 1991
- Group allowed to travel all over the world to spread African culture, dance, and music
- Profound influence on opening doors for other African artists to experience fame and financial success

Subsequent Years and Members Change

- Many members have come and gone
- Several deaths
- Sons have joined the group including Joseph's son Tommy who is now the lead singer of the group



Death of a Founder & What Comes Next?



- Joseph Shambalala toured and performed with the group up until 2014. He retired and his son Tommy took over as lead singer
- Shambalala and his wife started a music school in South Africa
- He reunited with the group on several occasions
- He passed away at the age of 79 in February 2020
- The group still tours today with 4 of Shambalala's sons.

Shambalala on the Group Moving Forward

Ladysmith Black Mambazo is a family. Within the group I have had brothers and cousins singing together. Over the past fifteen years, because of retirements and death, I have been joined by four of my sons. They are the future of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, our next generation. The mission and message will continue. When the time comes for me to finish touring and to stay home they will carry on my dream. As well, my son Thamsanqa (Tommy) will become the new leader of the group. Thus, the dream I had over forty five years ago will continue well into the 21st century. Ladysmith Black Mambazo must continue as the message of Peace, Love and Harmony never must be silenced. We never will be silenced and we hope our fans and friends around the world will keep wanting to hear this message.

Ngiyabonga! Thank you!

Significance

- No other musical group or performer has done more to expose the Western world to the music of Africa.
- They opened doors for so many other African artists to enjoy success outside of Africa
- Message of love and unity became a rallying cry for anti-Apartheid groups








● Zulu language

This is Sakile Dube who lives in South Africa and interprets zulu and english





ACTIVITY

- You will take the lyrics from a LBM song and translate them from Zulu into English, and then interpret the message of the song
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