

AFROFEST 2007 - July 5th, 7th & 8th. FULL LINE-UP ANNOUNCED!

Music Africa presents Toronto's 19th annual Afrofest, a celebration of African music and culture, free on Saturday July 7 and Sunday July 8 at Queen's Park from noon to 10:30pm. Afrofest is a multi-disciplinary event with concerts, dance, theatre, food, a marketplace, and activities for youth and kids, but it's the music that is the heart of the festival. Traditional and contemporary styles of music by top international touring acts and dozens of African performing groups from across Canada will be seen and heard. The festival has grown every year, and in 2007, 3 different outdoor stages will come to life with music and dance. Come to Queen's Park and discover Africa in the heart of Toronto!

Music Africa and Harbourfront Centre will present two concerts leading up to the big Afrofest weekend at Queen's Park. An Afrofest pre-launch on Friday June 29th will feature the new Afrobeat superstar Seun Kuti, playing with his father Fela's famous Egypt 80 Band. Opening is Eritrean krar virtuoso Daniel Nebiat. The Official Launch of Afrofest is the Afrofest Launch Party on Thursday July 5th with a concert by Malian kora virtuoso Toumani Diabate's Symmetric Orchestra. Katenen Dioubaté opens. Both concerts take place at Harbourfront Centre. Tickets are available at www.harbourfrontcentre.com or 416-973-4000.

This year's Queen's Park main stage concerts include veteran Congolese/Kenyan superstar Samba Mapangala and Orchestra Virunga, South Africa's legendary and sensational Mahotella Queens (their Park!), Nawal "The Voice of the Comoros", from Madagascar HAJA Madagascar & The Groovy People, Nya Soleil from Cameroon, Sudan's Ruth Mathiang, **Source with Abdoulaye Diabate from Mali**, Guinea's Katenen Dioubaté, Senegalese Zale Seck, DR Congo's Pekocé, Maroc'N Real with Hassan el Hadi from Morocco, Habeeba Hobeika Egyptian Dance Ensemble, and the very popular local Samba Squad. Links to artists' web sites are below.

A specially-commissioned presentation by the African Dance Ensemble will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Ghana's Independence at the 2007 festival. Modesto Amegago will lead opening and closing ceremonies in the Ghanaian tradition.

Afrofest at Queen's Park is a showcase of the richness and diversity of African culture. Enjoy free music workshops at the Baobab Tree Stage along with African Theatre and the Youth Zone, which has an expanded program oriented to youth. For the younger ones there is a Children's Village area, with activities designed to teach and inform about African culture through art and crafts, drumming, and storytelling. The popular Babatunde Olatunji drum stage will again host many different drumming ensembles and teachers including performance, drum circles and instruction. There is also a dazzling display of authentic African arts, crafts and delicious foods in the bustling African marketplace. Afrofest is the African culture event of the summer!

Afrofest 2007 will be broadcast live from Queen's Park on CIUT 89.5 FM (Saturday 3pm till midnight, Sunday 1pm till midnight), and CBC Radio will be on site on Saturday recording for future broadcast.

For more info call (416) 469-5336 www.musicafrika.org or e-mail afrofest@hotmail.com

For artist info visit www.myspace.com/musicafrica, also do check out www.myspace.com/afrofestyouthzone

Music Africa gratefully acknowledges the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Laidlaw Foundation and Western Union.

LINKS TO AFROFEST 2007 HEADLINE PERFORMERS:

Mahotella Queens - www.afropop.org/explore/show_band/ID/176/Mahotella%20Queens, see also www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahotella_Queens , www.abc.net.au/ballarat/stories/s1866104.htm

Samba Mapangala and Orchestra Virunga - see info at www.myspace.com/sambamapangala , check the slide show!

Nawal - www.nawali.com/

Nya Soleil - <http://nyasoleil.free.fr/>

HAJA Madagascar - www.hajamadagascar.com

Source w/Abdoulaye Diabate - www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.asp?epk_id=94142

Maroc'N Real with Hassan el Hadi - www.hassanelhadi.net

Ruth Mathiang & Friends - www.myspace.com/ruthenfriends

Zale Seck - www.zaleseck.com

Samba Squad - www.sambasquad.com

Katenen Dioubaté - www.myspace.com/katenen

Isaac Akrong & African Dance Ensemble - www.afridance.com

Habeeba Hobeika Egyptian Dance - www.habeeba.com

Toumani Diabate Symmetric Orchestra - Toumani Diabate's Symmetric Orchestra - www.worldcircuit.co.uk/#Toumani_Diabate

Seun Kuti - www.myspace.com/seunkuti , www.planete-aurora.com/en-seun/a.htm

Daniel Nebiat - www.myspace.com/danielnebiatmusic

See Youth Zone info and video of Afrofest 2006 at www.myspace.com/afrofestyouthzone

See more artist info at www.myspace.com/musicafrica