

Hot jazz sets square alive

By GARTH VERDAL
Staff Reporter

FROM above, the square was a patchwork of colour.

People of all races and all ages stood shoulder-to-shoulder. They had gathered in Greenmarket Square from all over the Peninsula to pay tribute to the city's jazz legends.

The occasion was the Carling/Argus jazz concert.

It was a magical Sunday afternoon of human fellowship on the historic, cobbled square.

By mid-afternoon, when the grey clouds drifted away and warm sunshine flooded the square from a blue sky, the square was packed by thousands. People even perched precariously on the balconies and in the windows of surrounding buildings for bird's eye views.

Jazz music had brought the people of the city together for this celebratory concert. For hours it bound them happily together, demonstrating once again the power of music to

transcend barriers and unite.

They clapped, whistled, yelled, swayed, danced and smiled.

The vibe was laid-back and mellow.

This was cosmopolitan Cape Town at its best.

Urban sophisticats in designer clothes rubbed shoulders with labourers in vests and shorts, township mamas in turbans and vibrantly coloured ethnic print kaftans with the T-shirts, jeans and takkies brigade, grandmothers in floral frocks with spiky-haired, patchwork punks.

Young mothers danced with babies in their arms, grizzled bergies cut capers on the cobbles.

The music was as cool as the south-wester, as sensuous as silk, as sweet as the scent of jasmine, as hot as red peppers, as brash as trumpets, as spicy as aromatic herbs, as sad as farewell, as happy as carnival.

The concert on the square was a memorably happy tribute to South Africa's jazz legends.

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