

## Accomplished artists for North Sea

**T**HE African Harvest North Sea Jazz Festival will feature 16 African artists, eight of whom have been nominated for SAMA awards.

They are: Miriam Makeba,

Paul Hanmer, Sipho Gumede, Sibongile Khumalo, Don Laka, Vusi Mahlasela, Sylvia Mdunyelwa and Musa Manzini, all of whom you can see at the festival on March 30 and 31.

Tickets are available at Computicket at R235 for one day and R360 for both days.

The African Harvest North Sea Jazz Festival Hotline is (021) 418-6924.

# Jazzy weekend

*Daily Dispatch*



BackBeat  
with Cornelius Thomas

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**STILL JAZZING:** Bass guitarist Lulama Gawulana, drummer and winner of one of last year's SAMRO scholarships Kesivan Naidoo, saxophonist and director Alan Webster, and pianist Janet Webster seen in this file picture are all still playing jazz.

**B**UFFALO City will be able to feast on a variety jazz this weekend.

First, the world-class Soweto String Quartet will be taking you to the heights of jazz and classical eclecticism at the Guild Theatre in East London tonight. Then Lulama Gawulana Quintet's gig over at the Shukushukuma Tavern in Ilitha near Berlin will feature African jazz with Latin touches.

And finally, to unwind the weekend, Alan Webster and Matthew Boon, who regularly perform in big bands and orchestras around the Eastern Cape and nationally, will be playing mellow jazz at the international restaurant, Smokey Swallows, in Vincent on Sunday.

This triple act comes after more than a quarter long drought in jazz around here.

To help out, local entrepreneur Charles Poole has entered the jazz track.

He opened Smokey Swallows on Devereux Avenue in December.

His adjunct to Smokey Swallows, Rhythm House, initially sold jazz CDs and paraphernalia.

Poole tells me that, given the dearth that had set into jazz circles recently, he has now decided to offer mellow jazz on Sunday nights for an experimental period.

"I decided to make my service and products multi-functional to serve my clients and visitors to the city better," he says.

"The concept is international, but East London deserves it," Poole reckons. Having been to jazz joints in the United States, and knowing the scene in Europe,

I know it is."

So Smokey Swallows exudes a cosmopolitan air, allowing for international cuisine, compact discs, space for jazz prints, jazz photo art, and original jazz paintings, and now live mellow jazz also.

Virtuoso sax player and big band leader Alan Webster is excited about Poole's concept as well as playing in duo format at Smokey Swallows.

According to Webster, this format in jazz affords opportunity for a lot of inspiration for the players — in this case himself on saxophones and Matthew Boon on piano.

"The two players don't have extra help," says Webster, "so sound might not come out as full."

"So you have to put in more; and more communication is needed between the two players."

But that is not a problem; call and response comes with jazz territory. Also, there's always room for improvisation, and with only two playing, an audience can pick creative tangents up more easily and therefore appreciate them even more.

Quartet, quintet or duo — this weekend, take your pick and just jazz.

Tickets for the Soweto String Quartet concert are R100 and available at the theatre box office, or you can reserve seats at (043)743 7267. Webster-Boon at Smokey Swallows will cost R50, which includes a full meal. A cover charge is applicable to the Shukushukuma gig also.