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JAZZ

Richard Cook

DUDU PUKWANA In The Townships/Earthworks EWV 5 £6.25

DISTRICT SIX To Be Free/ Editions EG EGED 53 £6.25

IN The Townships sounds as rowdy, ragged and uplifting as it did when first issued in 1973. To some extent, Pukwana's bands have given South African jazz a happy-go-lucky reputation. District Six, organised principally by the expatriate drummer Brian Abrahams, aim for greater finesse. To Be Free is certainly their strongest set to date, the rhythm section bolstered by the iron piano of Chris McGregor and Abrahams' writing lending distinction to a group that struggles between sorrow and joy.