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**SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC LEGEND TRUMPETER HUGH MASEKELA BRINGS HIS
CHISSA ALL-STARS TO ZELLERBACH HALL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, January 4, 2008—World music pioneer and South Africa’s cultural ambassador, trumpeter and singer **Hugh Masekela** comes to town with his **Chissa All-Stars Wednesday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Best known for his “earthy and vigorous” (*The New York Times*) voice and his 1968 worldwide hit, “Grazing in the Grass,” Masekela packs his 10-piece band with South Africa’s most talented vocalists and instrumentalists. With a combination of jazz, Afro-pop and urban *Kwaito* (a slow and melodic music genre from Johannesburg), the performance celebrates the rich cultural, political and musical journey of South Africa. The ensemble includes Masekela’s longtime collaborators **Francis M. E. Fuster** (percussion), **Sello Montwedi** (drums), **John Blackie Selolwane** (guitar), **Arthur Tshabalala** (keyboards, vocals), **Abednigo “Fana” Zulu** (bass, vocals) and **Ngenekhaya “Khaya” Mahlangu** (saxophone, vocals). To this mix, Masekela adds celebrated South African diva **Sibongile Khumalo**, **Nakosinathi “Nathi” Gcabashe** (vocals), **Tshepo Mngoma** (violin) and **Themba Elliot Mokoena** (guitar) to round out his pulsing Chissa All-Stars. The program will be announced from the stage.

HUGH MASEKELA

Hugh Ramopolo Masekela began playing trumpet at age 14, when family friend and political activist Archbishop Trevor Huddleston gave him his very first trumpet. Growing up in Witbank, South Africa, Masekela was heavily influenced by street songs, church choirs, political protests and the surrounding sounds of South Africa ethnic cultures. He was inspired by the music of Ladysmith Black Mamazo, Miriam Makeba, Lemmy Mabaso, Manhattan Brothers and Dorothy Masuka, who painted a vivid portrait of the struggles, joys and passions of South Africa.

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After playing in dance bands led by such African illuminaries as Zakes Nkosi, Ntemi Piliso, Elijah Nkwanyana and Kippie Moeketsi, Masekela joined the powerhouse African Jazz Revenue in 1956. With the growing political instability and increasing brutality of the apartheid state in the early 1960s, Masekela left the country with the help of Huddleston and friends Yehudi Menuhim and Johnny Dankworth. Masekela subsequently studied music at London's Guildhall School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. While there, he met trumpet legend Louis Armstrong, a lifelong idol and mentor of Masekela's.

In the early 1960s, Masekela began to record. He had his first breakthrough album titled *The Americanization of Ooga-Booga* produced by Tom Wilson, producer of Bob Dylan's and Simon & Garfunkel's debut albums. Masekela and his business partner, Stewart Levin, went on to produce hit records beginning with *Alive and Well at the Whisky* (1967) and *Promise of a Future* (1968) which contained the mega hit song "Grazing in the Grass". In 1970, Levin and Masekela founded Chissa Records, South Africa's first black-owned record label. Masekela has been instrumental in launching the careers of many of South Africa's musical new garde. By the beginning of the 1970's, he had attained international fame.

Missing Africa, Masekela moved to Guinea, then Liberia and Ghana. Along with Levin, he continued to produce a string of groundbreaking records which included international favorites such as "The Marketplace," "Ashiko," "The Boy's Doin It," "Vasco Da Gama," "African Secret Society" and the evergreen, "Stimela." In 1981, Masekela moved to Botswana where he started the Botswana International School of Music with Dr. Khabi Mngoma. Several years later, he recorded the album *Techno-Bush*, which featured his first dance hit, "Don't Go Lose It Baby."

In 1991, Masekela launched his first tour of South Africa, titled *Sekunjalo—This Is It!*, with the bands Sankomota and Bayete. His most recent release, the 2005 *Revival*, was well received and met with critical praise. Now, happily living in his South African home, he continues to maintain an active tour schedule, spreading his musical message throughout the world.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Hugh Masekela's Chissa All-Stars** on **Wednesday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$28.00, \$40.00** and **\$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community Rush Tickets. Rush Tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush Ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush Ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the Rush Ticket hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Hugh Masekela's Chissa All-Stars

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featuring **Hugh Masekela**, trumpet and vocals
Francis M. E. Fuster, percussion
Sello Montwedi, drums
John Blackie Selolwane, guitar
Arthur Tshabalala, keyboards
Abednigo “Fana” Zulu, bass
Ngenekhaya “Khaya” Mahlangu, saxophone
Sibongile Khumalo, vocal
Nakosinathi “Nathi” Gcabashe, vocal
Tshepo Mngoma, violin
Themba Elliot Mokoena, guitar

Program: Trumpeter Hugh Masekela, South Africa’s legendary musical ambassador, leads his band in a mix of jazz, blues, AFro-pop and R&B at Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets: \$28.00, \$40.00 and \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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