

3rd Ear Music

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Cc: "Nicky Birch" <nicky.birch@xynetwork.com>
Sent: 30 January, 2004 16:53
Subject: David Marks interview request

Hello,

I was wondering if somebody at 3rd ear could help me.

BBC Radio 2 have commissioned a major series called 'Freedom Sounds - The Musical Liberation of South Africa' to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela. Hugh Masekela has agreed to present the series which is on air from the end of March for 6 weeks.

It would be an honour to include an interview with David Marks as he could add a lot to the story of musicians from within South Africa who for many years were ignored internationally. The interview could be done either face to face or by ISDN, depending on Mr Mark's whereabouts. Timewise anytime in February would be ideal as colleagues of mine will be in Jo'burg and Capetown, but we can be flexible.

I've copied more detailed information on the series below, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,
Nicky Birch

'Freedom Sounds' traces the history of South African music, both before and after majority rule, in an inclusive and welcoming manner. The series will also chart how the arts, and music in particular, became the battlefield on which the white South African government and their opponents, the anti Apartheid movement fought some of the bitterest battles in the war to bring democracy to South Africa.

Transmitting around the tenth Freedom Day, 'Freedom Sounds' is a landmark series that will explore the development of South African music from the rise of the Marabi form in the 1920's, through to the international success of Ladysmith Black Mambazo in the present day, taking in Abdullah Ibrahim, Dusty Springfield, Paul Simon, Johnny Clegg, Manfred Mann, 'Tom Hark' and many others on the way. But it will also parallel these musical movements with the tumultuous politics of the country for the last 50 years, examining how cultural imperialism, apartheid, international pressure and finally newly found political freedom have impacted on musicians and their music. We'll be hearing from the major figures who've affected the South African political landscape, such as Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Bishop Trevor Huddleston. Alongside examining the musical and political changes in the country, 'Freedom Sounds' will showcase the vast array of South African music from jazz to pop and everything in between.

Freedom Sounds will also examine the world's reaction to South African music and politics. How far did Paul Simon's epoch defining 'Gracelands' LP bridge

Paul Clingman

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the way to putting the sound of South Africa into the mainstream? Why did Dusty Springfield pull out of a Sun City gig at least a decade before the cultural embargo became a cause celebre amongst Western musicians? What caused British and American artists to give musical support to the ANC with Artists Against Apartheid? And exactly how instrumental was the 'Free Nelson Mandela' concert in the campaign for his release? All of these questions and more will be explored through a range of contributors and archive, as well as tracks focusing around the struggle for majority freedom.

We'll also be examining the changes in South Africa since 1994, particular the explosion of the Kwaito style in black towns in contrast to the domination of rock in white ones. 'Freedom Sounds' will ask how far are these styles associated with the racialised groups of the past? What are the challenges, both musical, cultural and social, that South Africa faces as we come to the tenth anniversary of freedom?

Rejecting the chronological approach for a programme structure which will provide an overview of the different political factors involved in the freedom struggle, each programme in the series will stand on its own, summing up a different facet in 30 minutes. In this way central figures like Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Abdullah Ibrahim, Paul Simon and Nelson Mandela will not be confined to one or two shows. Instead their influence will be felt throughout the series, being cited wherever necessary to paint a complete picture of the topic of each individual programme.

Produced by the team who made the critically acclaimed *Oisland Rock*¹ series for BBC Radio 2 charting 40 years of Jamaican musical Independence in 2002.

Nicky Birch
Producer, The Selector and BBC Radio Documentaries.

For playlist details visit www.selector-radio.com

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January Highlights:

Radio 1: Judge Jules' Saturday Warm Up: Saturdays from 1700-1900
Commercial Radio: Hit 40 UK - Sunday at 1600
Galaxy Network and International: Roger Sanchez Release Yourself
International Radio: The Selector - weekly across the world
BBC4: London Jazz Festival 2003 - January 23rd at 2100

Latest production information:
<http://www.somethin-else.com/>

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