

# song safari

A journey through  
light music  
in South Africa

BY RALPH TREWHELA

# “SONG SAFARI”

*An entertaining history of light music in South Africa - by Ralph Trewhela*

Written with pleasing informality, this book paints a colourful panoramic picture of South African popular music.

It tells of folk tunes from abroad that took root and blossomed anew with homegrown lyrics, ballads commemorating historic events in war and peace.

The author relates how some of our biggest hits came to be written. How Nico Carstens scribbled out the melody of “Hasie” while Anton de Waal was taking a ‘phone call . . . how a hunting chant heard by Solomon Linda as a young boy became “Wimoweh” and “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” . . . how Dave Marks jotted down “Master Jack” in his survey book while working underground in a Witbank mine.

He discloses fascinating facts about South Africa’s greatest musical stage successes - “Wait A Minim”, hurriedly put together when the leading lady rehearsing another show injured a leg and a substitute production had to be assembled; “Ipi-Tombi”, a disaster when initially presented in Australia, then almost withdrawn from Johannesburg’s Brooke Theatre because it was losing money.

Then there is a flashback to South Africa’s first screen musical, “Sarie Marais”, shot in a broadcast studio as there was then no film stage in the country wired for sound.

This is a volume of musical memories, unfolding the stories behind the songs we know and love.

**A WELCOME ADDITION TO ANY AFRICANA COLLECTION**

for only **R3,60** (incl. packing, postage & GST)

Return this completed form with your remittance to  
**SAMRO, P.O. Box 9292, JOHANNESBURG 2000**

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

.....

No. of copies at R3,60 ..... Remittance enclosed R .....