

city of Natal.

THE IMIZWILILI QUARTET

Lara Allen - flute
Jessica Ramsdon - violin
Brenden Smit - viola
Fiona Paul - 'cello

Lara Allen, Brendan Smit and Fiona Paul have played together in the "Orpheus Quartet" for the past four years. The beginning of this year saw the addition of Jessica Ramsdon which meant that finally all the members were like-minded about the value of music and its potential role in society. As a result the quartet has enlarged its repertoire and aims to educate as well as entertain. They hope to make Western Classical music more accessible and available to a wider audience by taking it into schools and communities previously deprived. Also, through arrangements of traditional and contemporary compositions by black South Africans, they are introducing the concert-going public to the wealth of the country's musical heritage. The Quartet felt the need of a new name more appropriate to its changing function and their choice was "Imizwilili" the Zulu word for songbirds. It is also an idiomatic expression used to describe a person with a high voice who sings well. The members of the "Imizwilili Quartet" are all past or present music students at the University of Natal.

LARA ALLEN:

Lara Allen is presently writing a masters thesis on Kwela Music at the University of Natal. She lectures flute at the Universities of Natal and Durban Westville and is an experienced orchestral musician. As a solo flautist she has won several awards, and has given recitals in Natal and Zimbabwe.

JESSICA RAMSDON:

Jessica Ramsdon, a sign-writer by trade, devotes much time to her diverse musical interests. She plays the violin in orchestras and chamber ensembles and the guitar and bass guitar in a rock group. Jessica is also a skilled arranger and composer.

BRENDON SMIT:

Brendon Smit is a third year musicology student at the University of Natal. He is a member of several chamber ensembles and plays as an extra for the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra. He has arranged music and done backing keyboards and vocals for local Rock Bands, and has also performed in a medieval music ensemble.

FIONA PAUL:

Fiona Paul is doing a masters in Cultural Studies at the University of Natal and teaches music at Convent High. She is an experienced orchestral and chamber musician, has performed with folk groups and in albums made by local rock musicians. She also contributes to the cultural activities of the "Young Christian Student's" movement.