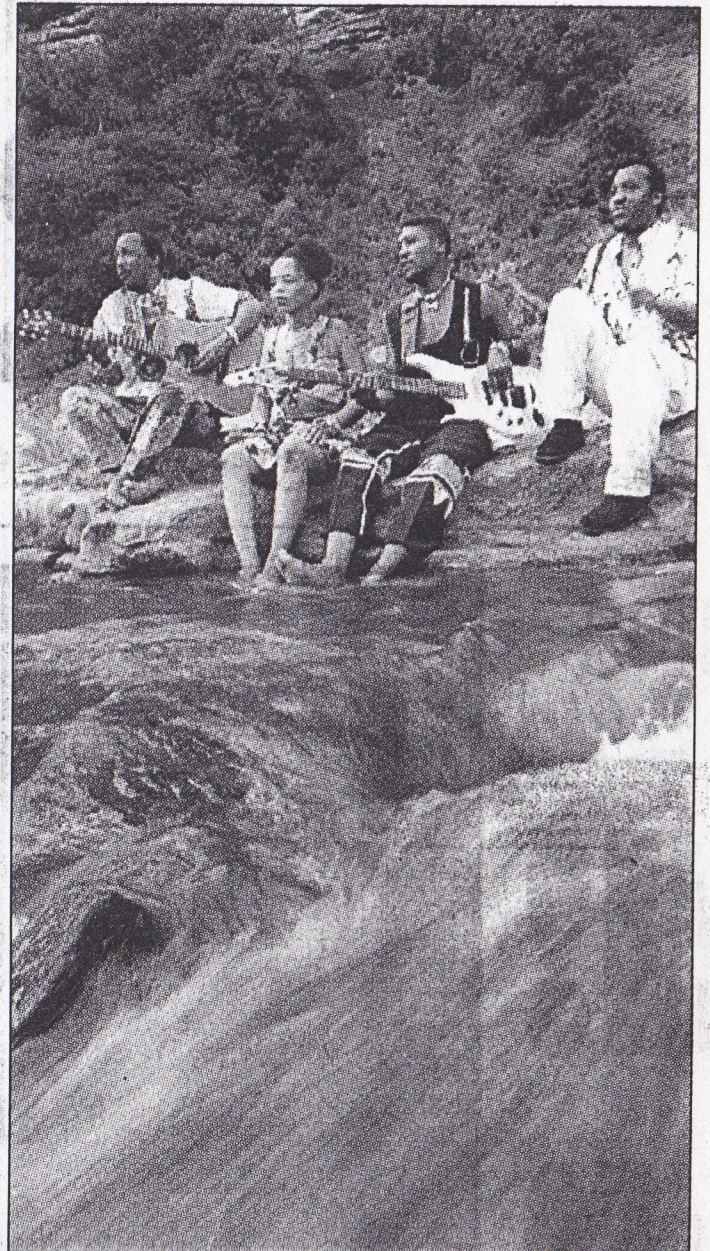


# Africa's greatest music celebration



**TRANQUILLITY:** Wendy Oldfield (above) will be among the South African line-up at The Festival of Living Treasures. Right, from left; Madala Kunene, with band members Sibongiseni Mdimma, Sibusiso Mndaweni and Sthembile Jali, who will be performing at the Shongweni festival

*Pictures: GRANT ERSKINE*

## FESTIVAL KICKS OFF MILLENNIUM PROGRAMME

**A**frica's Greatest Music Celebration" trumpeted the press releases for next month's Festival of Living Treasures in KwaZulu-Natal.

Yeah, I thought. The kind of music my children listen to. Thump, thump, thump. As tuneful as grating chalk.

Along with the press pack came two promotional CDs. That night I listened to them. And listened to them.

That was a week ago. And in between work, I'd better say, I've listened to noth-

ing else. Awesome. Haunting. A celebration of life, love and our natural treasures. And this is just a taste of what's to come.

The festival is to be held on December 15 and 16 on the beach next to the mouth of Lake St Lucia and in the Shongweni Resources Reserve from December 16 to 19.

It's intended to kick off the province's millennium celebrations and to celebrate World Heritage Site status for the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, a hoped-for decision we will hear about within the next two weeks.

Combined festivities will present some 80 performances in more than 60 hours of music and dance. The line-up includes some of South Africa's stars as well as top musicians from more than 20 countries like Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tibet, Brazil, France and Spain.

There will also be performances of the *uShaka Oratorio* by the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra and a massed African choir.

The festival was conceived by the Wildlife and Environment Society of Southern Africa and is being presented

in association with the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative, the communities neighbouring the two reserves, as well as Msinsi Holdings and Umgeni Water.

□ Booking can be done on the Internet through TicketWeb. There are day passes and full season tickets for both events. For further information please phone 086 140 0500. Website [www.livingtreasures.net](http://www.livingtreasures.net).

Other outlets include selected Engen Quick Shops, Edgars and Musica. Prices range from R65 for a day pass to R180 for the four days at Shongweni.