

Music of Africa - Playlists



May 2021 is African Unity Month. To mark this event, we have prepared lists of a selection of recordings of music from the African continent (including the islands of Madagascar and Cape Verde) that are available in Cape Town libraries. We would like to introduce you to these amazing musicians and their music.

Africa is a huge continent with many cultures and nationalities. This is reflected in the music, because there are a vast array of different genres and styles of music on the African continent. In order to guide you around the music of Africa, we have broken up the lists into four main regions – Central & East Africa, North Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa. We have also included a list of South African jazz which lists several well-known Cape Town jazz musicians.

Some of the better-known genres of music from Africa include: Afrobeat, Juju music, Palm Wine music, Kora music and the Desert Blues from West Africa / Makossa, Kwassa-Kwassa and Ethiojazz from Central and East Africa / Rai, Gnawa and Oud music from North Africa / and, Chimurenga, Mbaqanga, Maskanda and Safrojazz from Southern Africa.

The Cape Town Library Service holds thousands of compact discs and the lists below are just a very small representation of the CDs that are available in our libraries. To celebrate the incredible variety of music that exists on the African continent we would like you to explore our music collections.

The LIS holds multiple titles by many of the artists listed below. For instance, performers such as Manu Dibango from Cameroon, Fela Kuti from Nigeria, Anouar Brahem from Tunisia, South African guitarist Phillip Tabane and many others are all very well represented in our collections of CDs. Please use the OPAC to search for the availability of specific items, or, enquire at your library about the artists who interest you.

Music from Central & East Africa		
Performer	Album	Country / Genre
Ayub Ogada	En mana kuoyo	Kenya / Folk
Bi Kidude	Zanzibari 4	Tanzania / Taarab
Bonga	Bonga Live!	Angola / Afro-Latin
Brice Wassy	Balengu Village	Cameroon / Afro-Jazz
D'Gary	Mbo Loza	Madagascar / Folk

Drummers of Burundi	The Drummers of Burundi	Burundi / Drumming
Eyuphuro	Mama Mosambiki	Mozambique / Marrabenta
Franco	African Classics	DRC / Soukous
Geoffrey Oryema	Beat the border	Uganda / World music
Ghorwane	Majuugenta	Mozambique / Marrabenta
Gigi	Gigi	Ethiopia / World Music
Hukwe Zawose	Assembly	Tanzania / Folk
Khadja Nin	Khadja Nin	Burundi / World music
Koffi Olomide	African Classics	DRC / Kwassa-Kwassa
Manu Dibango	Waka Juju	Cameroon / Afro-Jazz
Mulatu Astatke	The very best of Ethiopiques	Ethiopia / Ethiojazz
Papa Wemba	Emotion	DRC / Rumba
Richard Bona	Scenes from my life	Cameroon / Afro-Jazz
Tabu Ley Rochereau	African Classics	DRC / Soukous
Tarika (Group)	Soul Makassar	Madagascar / World music
Wambali	Zani Muwone	Malawi / World music

Music from North Africa

Performer	Album	Country / Genre
Altaf Gnawa Group	Gnawa music from Morocco	Morocco / Gnawa
Anouar Brahem	Le voyage de Sahar	Tunisia / Oud music
Cesaria Evora	Ragomar	Cape Verde / Morna
Chalf Hassan	Rhythms of Morocco	Morocco / Gnawa
Cheb Mami	Dellali	Algeria / Rai
Dhafer Yusuf	Electric Sufi	Tunisia / Oud music
Hasan Hakmoun	Gift of the Gnawa	Morocco / Gnawa
Hossam Ramzy	Sabla tolo 2	Egypt / Belly Dance
Khaled	Khaled	Algeria / Rai
Mohammed Naiem	Master of the Arabian flute	Egypt / Flute music
Mostafa Sax	Egyptian belly dance	Egypt / Belly Dance

Musicians of the Nile	Luxor to Isna	Egypt / Folk
Natacha Atlas	The best of Natacha Atlas	Egypt / World music
Oum Kalsoum	The legend	Egypt / Traditional
Rabih Abou-Kahlil	Nafas	Lebanon / Oud music
Rachid Taha	Tekitoui	Algeria / Rai
Rasha	Sudaniyat	Sudan / World music
Tinariwen	Radio Tisdas Sessions	Northern Mali / Desert Blues
Music from West Africa		
Performer	Album	Country / Genre
Afel Bocoum	Niger	Mali / Kora music
Ali Farka Toure	Talking Timbuktu	Mali / Desert Blues
Amadou & Mariam	Dimanche a Bamako	Mali / Afro Pop
Baaba Maal	Firin' in Fouta	Senegal / World Beat
Babatunde Olatunji	Drums of passion: the invocation	Nigeria / Drumming
Bassekou Kouyate	Segu blue	Mali / Desert Blues
Dobet Gnahore	Na Afriki	Ivory Coast / World music
Farafina	Faso Denou	Burkina Faso / World Beat
Fatala	Gongoma Times	Guinea-Bissau / World Beat
Fela Kuti	Teacher don't teach me nonsense	Nigeria / Afrobeat
Femi Kuti	Day by day	Nigeria / Afrobeat
Habib Koite & Bamada	Baro	Mali / World Beat
Ismael Lo	Senegal	Senegal / World music
King Sunny Ade	King of Juju	Nigeria / Juju music
Orchestra Baobab	Specialists in all styles	Senegal / Afro-Jazz
Oumou Sangare	Oumou	Mali / Folk
Pan African Orchestra	Opus 1	Ghana / World music
S.E. Rogie	Dead men don't smoke Marijuana	Sierra Leone / Palm Wine
Salif Keita	Soro	Mali / World music
Toumani Diabate	Mande Variations	Mali / Kora music

Toure Kunda	Natalia	Senegal / Afro Pop
Youssou N'Dour	Eyes open	Senegal / World music
Music from Southern Africa		
Performer	Album	Country / Genre
Amampondo (Group)	Feel the pulse of Africa	South Africa / Traditional
Busi Mhlongo	Babhemu	South Africa / Afro Pop
Freshlyground (Group)	Ma'Cheri	South Africa / Afro Pop
Jabu Khanyile	Umbele	South Africa / Afro Pop
James Phillips	The Cherry Faced Lurchers live at Jameson's	South Africa / Rock music
Johannes Kerkorrel & die Gereformeerde Blues Band	Eet Kreef!	South Africa / Afrikaans alt.
Johnny Clegg	The best of Juluka/Savuka	South Africa / Afro Pop
Ladysmith Black Mambazo	In harmony	South Africa / Isicathemiya
Leonard Dembo	Shiri yakangwara	Zimbabwe / Shona
Louis Mhlanga	Song for Nomsa	Zimbabwe / Afro Jazz
Mafikizolo (Group)	Kwela	South Africa / Afro Pop
Mahlathini & the Mahotella Queens	Umuntu	South Africa / Mbaqanga
Miriam Makeba	Homeland	South Africa / SA Jazz
Oliver Mtukudzi	Mahube music from Southern Africa	Zimbabwe / Afro-Jazz
Phuzekemisi	We baba	South Africa / Maskanda
Spokes Mashiyane	King Kwela	South Africa / Kwela
Stella Chiweshe	Double deck	Zimbabwe / Mbira music
The Soul Brothers	Amaphutha	South Africa / Mbaqanga
Thomas Mapfumo	Choice Chimurenga	Zimbabwe / Chimurenga
Vusi Mahlasela	Wisdom of forgiveness	South Africa / Folk
South African Jazz		
Performer	Album	Genre
Abdullah Ibrahim	Water from an ancient well	Cape Town Jazz
Andile Yenana	We used to dance	SA Jazz
Chris McGregor's Brotherhood of Breath	Brotherhood	SA Jazz

Elite Swingsters	Now or never	SA Jazz
Errol Dyers	The best of Errol Dyers and friends	Cape Town Jazz
Feya Faku	The colours they bring	SA Jazz
Gideon Nxumalo	Jazz Fantasia	SA Jazz
Hotep Idris Galeta	Malay tone poem	Cape Town Jazz
Hugh Masekela	Phola	SA Jazz
Johnny Dyani	Afrika	SA Jazz
McCoy Mrubata	Face the music	SA Jazz
Moses Molelekwa	Wa mpona	SA Jazz
Paul Hanmer	Trains to Taung	SA Jazz
Phillip Tabane	Muvhango	SA Jazz
Robbie Jansen	Nomad Jez	Cape Town Jazz
Tananas	Seed	SA Jazz
Tete Mbambisa	Black Heroes	Cape Town Jazz
The Genuines	Night with the Cape Gypsies	Cape Town Jazz
Winston Mankunku	Dudula	Cape Town Jazz
Zim Ngqawana	Zimphonic Suites	SA Jazz