

The Royal Escape Experience 2016

Artist Biographies

Lalah Hathaway (US)



The daughter of the great Donny Hathaway, Lalah Hathaway made a good impression with her self-titled debut recording in 1990. She not only displayed poise, confidence, and good technique, but was also versatile enough to do more than just light urban contemporary ballads. Her stage shows included jazz, pre-rock pop, and even gospel, and Hathaway later appeared on BET doing jazz and fusion. After her second and final album for Virgin, 1994's *A Moment*, she went on a lengthy hiatus, returning in 1999 with Joe Sample for *The Song Lives On* (GRP). The following decade and into the 2010s she released *Outrun the Sky* (Sanctuary, 2004), *Self Portrait* (Stax, 2008), and

Where It All Begins (Stax, 2011) -- all fine albums involving collaborations with the likes of Mike City, Rahsaan Patterson, Rex Rideout, and Dre & Vidal. They established Hathaway as one of the finest adult contemporary R&B vocalists of the 2000s and 2010s. A 2013 collaboration with the band Snarky Puppy -- on a cover of Brenda Russell's "Something" -- won a 2014 Grammy Award in the category of Best R&B Performance. The following year, thanks to her role in Robert Glasper Experiment's update of Stevie Wonder's "Jesus Children of America," Hathaway picked up the Grammy for Best Traditional R&B Performance. She then recorded and released *Live. A document of back-to-back sets recorded at Los Angeles' Troubadour, the same venue her father played in 1971 -- as heard on the first side of his 1972-released album of the same title -- it was released in 2015.*

Mi Casa



With their signature soulful sound and unparalleled creativity, South African house music group Mi Casa has skyrocketed to success since 2010. Mi Casa challenges audiences around the globe to take an interest in their unique sound that is hailed truly Global soulful house genre. Mi Casa comprises of 3 highly talented musos:

Mo-T Mi Casa's trumpeter, was born in Alexander Township (South Africa) and adds a jazz influenced element to Mi Casa's music. Mo-T is a talented musician who comes from a musical rooted family and was taught how to play the trumpet by his Dad (Banza Kgasoane) who is the founder member and trumpeter for the legendary cosmopolitan group Mango Groove.

J' Something Mi Casa's lead vocalist and songwriter, born in Algarve (Portugal) and would later immigrate to Eastern Cape (South Africa). J' Something then moved to Johannesburg where he worked at Soul Candi as their studio manager, which would then afford him a chance to start working on his music. J' Something finds the success of the band as a humbling experience and a definition of what is meant to be, will always be.

Dr. Duda is Mi Casa's music producer, keyboardists, DJ who creates and shapes what has become to be known as Mi Casa music. Dr. Duda has been in the music industry for over 15 years and his vast experience has added immense value to help sustain Mi Casa's broad musical repertoire. His unique, versatile sound has seen him produce alongside DJ Fresh, Euphonik, DJ Mbuso and an array of other talented musicians.

Through their unique sound, Mi Casa released their debut album Mi Casa Music, which quickly saw the dance trio reach new heights and the album reaching platinum status within 6 months of release. This feat and many more would put Mi Casa on the music radar when they were invited to open for international acts such as Drake, John Legend and Kool& The Gang. Mi Casa would follow up with their sophomore album (Su Casa Mi Casa) which would go on to become a double platinum seller. Home Sweet Home is Mi Casa's forthcoming, highly anticipated studio album, set for release third quarter of 2015.

Swing City

A celebration of 3 musical superstars' love of Jazz, Swing and Blues, with a distinct modern day twist; Swing City brings three of SA's top male vocalists together in swing!



Swing City consists of Lonehill Estate's Nathan Ro, whose love for swing music has always engrossed the pop/ rock singer's iPod; Graeme Watkins, whose background in music and theatre started as a swing singer long before his success on Idols or in his indie rock band "The Graeme Watkins Project"; and Loyiso Bala, whose classically trained background in music saw the singer as part of the TZKee crew, the Bala Brothers in classical song and in the pop world in his own successful solo career.

Top notch entertainment with celebrity factor aplenty; Swing City provides live upbeat and mellow swing hits which can be enjoyed on the dance floor, or from the comfort of the guests' dinner tables.

MEMBERS

Graeme Watkins

Graeme has always been involved with theatre, drama and music. After completing a degree in Theatre and Performance at UCT, he followed a career in music where he formed a Swing trio called "It's a Swing Thing". Graeme took a chance by entering Idols, and ended up the runner up in the annual talent search. The Graeme Watkins Project" has since gone on to produce "Corridors of the mind" and have had several chart topping hits, 2 SAMA nominations, a YOU Spectacular and MKTV nomination and performed at the prestigious MuseXpo in Hollywood in 2012. Also a voiceover artist, actor, TV presenter and MC, Graeme was also a Fleur De Cap Nominee for Theatre.

Nathan Ro

Nathan started his musical journey as runner up on the reality TV show "Project Fame". He was subsequently offered a record deal with BMG with his band Lonehill Estate. Three albums & a SAMA nomination later, the band achieved three #1's on 5fm and two international performances in Los Angeles and Montreux. Nathan also played the part of 'Tim' in day-time drama, IsiDingo for two years. Nathan met Graeme while on tour, and met Loyiso on set at One Gospel.

Loyiso Bala

Loyiso is no stranger to the South African music and television industry. After completing his education at Drakensburg Boys High, and being very involved in the Drakensburg Boys Choir, Loyiso

began his professional career as an extension of the TKZee crew. He since went on to grow his personal career and secured several chart topping hits including the most played song of 2009 – I Want You. Loyiso is also part of the family group, The Bala Brothers, and is an all-round entertainer, MC and presenter.

Bokani Dyer



The multi-talented and award winner Bokani Dyer is a pianist, composer and music producer whose dynamic compositions and mesmerising performances, have given African jazz a new home on the world stage. Graduating with an Honours degree in Performance and Composition from the University of Cape Town in 2008, Dyer went on to further his studies, working with Jason Moran in New York City in 2009. Winning several awards since then, he has released two critically acclaimed albums to date, and is currently in the recording studio producing two further works, which will be released in 2015. Having performed to sold-out concert halls across Europe, Bokani Dyer will once again perform before a home crowd at the 2016 Cape Town International Jazz Festival, where his rich, Afrocentric yet contemporary jazz sound will thrill all ears privileged to hear.

Shoowop Shop

Three of the most gorgeous and ridiculously talented female popstars come together for the love of doo-wop, motown and shoop shoop to form The Shoowop Shop.

Tamara Dey, Mariechan (Jamali) and Melissa Allison (Idols)



With musical director Andre Scheepers charting each carefully selected track, audiences can look forward to songs performed in three part harmonies of familiar favourites from the 50s, 60s and 70s incorporating swing, jazz, motown and old school rhythm and blues.

The trio is backed by a 5 piece band including a foot stomping horn section and soul-driven drum and bass rhythm section.

TopDog



Consisting of four accomplished musicians in and around CT, this band has backed many local and international artists. Camillo Lombard (keyboards), Donveno Prins (saxophone), Charlton Daniels (bass) and Mornay Hoffmeester (drums) have become the backbone of many international music events, backing artists such as Jonathan Butler, Peaches and Herb, Tevin Campbell, Robin S, Cece Penistan, Sybil, Lloyd Cele, Loyiso Bala and many more.

The group is also focused on Youth and Community Development, thus sharing their time and talent teaching youth in impoverished communities and investing in charity performances. TopDog after years of performing across Africa (as well as Lombard and Prins playing to packed audience at Carnegie Hall. TopDog released their long awaited first album in March 2016, which has garnered them a whole lot of interest, both in South Africa and from abroad.

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The Muses



If there is a party worth starting, the best ignition mechanism is this funky four-piece out of Gauteng, South Africa that will take any sensible situation and turn it into a sensational night to remember, two violins, one viola and a single cello at a time.

Meet four drop-dead gorgeous, classically-trained virtuosos, all keen to get as many people on their feet and dancing the night away each time they unpack the contents of their carefully

considered repertoire.

Founded by Olivia Kotze, The Muses' journey began in 2011, and in that time the four-piece have played the length and breadth of the country, invited by prestigious brands the likes of BMW, Mercedes-Benz, The Spring Summer Guess Fashion Show and the 2013 UEFA Champions League Heineken Mansion series. The Muses' are one of the most active performers, entertaining audiences up to 6 times a week.

Known for their quality productions, qualification as classically trained, pop prepped and able to deliver musicians, the music The Muses make generates enough energy to contribute to the national power grid and light a dance floor indefinitely. Whether it's "Party Rock", "Pata, Pata" or "Don't You Worry Child", their biggest floor fillers are soon to be topped by their new inclusions from the likes of "Love Me Again" and "The Buzz". Their third instalment in the Pop on Strings series saw the quartet dive into the rock genre as well by including Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" and Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit". Not forgetting their classical roots, versions of the theme to popular TV show "Game Of Thrones" has been scored for this album, as well as Karl Jenkins' "Palladio".

3 Tons of Fun



3 Tons of Fun have emerged over the last 8 years as one of Cape Town's and South Africa's most loved all female groups. The larger than life trio wows their audience with a mix of showstoppers from the disco era, as well as well-known and -loved pop, African and dance music. This fun-filled musical spectacular keeps attracting full houses to their popular cabaret show runs, which have included "Paradise Road", "An

African Dream", and "Single Ladies".

They are in great demand on the corporate and special events circuit throughout South Africa and have performed at functions for top companies including, amongst others, Standard Bank, Ernst & Young, BOE, Sanlam, Transnet, Bidvest, Pick n Pay, Rabie Properties, IBM and Ericsson.

En Fuego



This fabulous new South African based salsa band performs authentic New York-Style Salsa and Latin Jazz, with a strong element of Afro Cuban Son which of course also serves as the strongest musical root of Salsa music in general.

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Combine that with West and Central African influenced songs rearranged as hard-core dance salsa; in line with acts such as the Latin Grammy nominated band “Africano,” etc.

Furthermore, “En Fuego” is looking forward to musically mix-in many Southern African music styles too... And, hopefully collaborate with many of the local stars and talents in the process.

The shows are hot, tropical, & intoxicating yet highly musical and expressive. Ideal for a dancing audience but can equally be great for a seated crowd and the repertoire can easily be adapted to almost any occasion.

Professional Latin and Afro Cuban style dancers can soon be provided additionally to the performance for the optimum entertainment experience.