

Yes, 'Local' can be 'Lekker'

(Kim Clayton Miller, *The Saturday Star*, 4 June 1983)



The next time you listen to a song which is performed, arranged, produced and pressed locally, don't be too quick to say 'local is not lekker' because there may be a lot more to it than meets the eye.

There are hundreds of local musicians many of them very young slogging away at producing original music that they are determined to try and get their own sound across to the people and be recognized as individuals and not just a part of the hit making music machinery.

Many of them have to play it safe and continue churning out the more popular hit parade covers in club night after night to make a living.

In the meanwhile, they continue to write their own material at every opportunity. It's often a heartbreaking business with no joy insight for those who cannot face the commercial route and choose to play only their very own music. They very rarely receive much recognition.

However, musicians of all ages continue to create their own sounds despite the uncertainty of future work even though all these problems. There are always budding

musicians... those special people who are determined to make a particular sound the most popular one on the market.

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Gordon Jackson releases debut CD

Gordon Jackson's musical talent took root at the age of seven when he proved he was ahead of his time musically, by **drumming in a band.** It's been some time but now this one time prodigy has released his first CD. Gordon schooled at the then-Group 2 school, Alpha Primary and Lenz High (1969-1973). He has many fond memories of all his educators and schoolfriends, who today are scattered all over the world.

At the age of 14, during the 'struggle era', he was 'gigging' with the legendary jazz giant, the late Kippie Moeketsi, at Dorkay House in downtown Johannesburg. But he has advanced from being an extraordinary jazz fusion drummer with highly acclaimed groups such as D-Fusion and Round Midnight in the 80s and 90s, to his status today as contemporary jazz saxophonist and flautist.

As a jazz and classical musician, he has virtuosity and intuitiveness for most every genre of music, often crossing jazz with so-called 'Carmatic' (world) music...collaborating with some of the best musicians nationwide and from his hometown, Lenasia.

With the release of his CD, *Seeds for the Sower*, which has already received acclaim, the musician has come full circle - from a childhood fascination with sound to the confidence of a well-rounded and gifted artist.

The CD's anthology is testimony to the diverse range of a talented musician...evidence of why he has left his audiences breathless wherever he has performed.

Recently, he had the honour of performing at Freedom Park and at the 1860 Legacy Foundation celebrations. He also played at the recent 80th birthday celebrations of struggle veteran, Issu Laloo Chiba, as well as at Ahmed 'Kathy' Kathrada's own birthday function. He said he was thankful to his father, Gabriel, who pruned his musical talent, with added fertile mentoring from his mother, Mary, and other, older siblings.



Sowing his seed...Lenz muso, Gordon Jackson, has released his debut CD.

It is most encouraging to see that the 1983 National Original Music Competition was such a great success. The finals of the competition were held recently at the Sky-High Venue in the Alexander Hotel in Germiston. Twenty groups from all over the

country performed original music of all kinds over a period of several weeks and a panel of four judges decided the final choice of the most talented outfit.

The competition was won by an exciting new jazz fusion outfit called D-FUSION. They were judged the best band for their originality in Lyrics, Music Composition and Presentation and also for their recording potential in the Jazz Fusion market.

D-FUSION are an all-Indian group from Lenasia better known as Lenz, except for one member, Spiri Mashishi who hails from Diepkloof Soweto. The bands line up is as follows: Gavin Poonan (lead guitar), Spiri Mashishi (Saxophones & Flute), Gordon Jackson – (Drums and Vocals), Andrew Francis (Keyboards), Gregory Moonsammy (bass guitar) and Joey Aaron (Vocals).

So, all you budding musicians out there, as hard as it seems, don't give up hope. Keep practicing and writing your own songs and soon the next opportunity to show your talents will be at hand and who knows this time you could be the winners. Watch out for lots of stories about your favorite local and overseas musicians, their lives and work on these pages soon.

Article submitted by Gordon Jackson