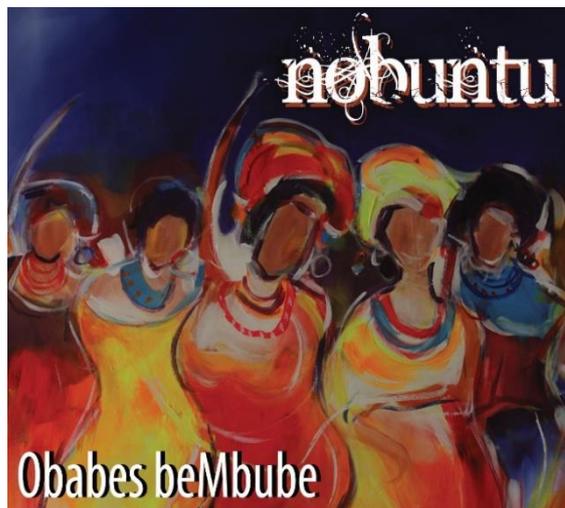


Music News Release: for immediate use

## **'Women of Mbube: We are peace, we are strength' - New Album from Nobuntu**

"... joy seems central to Nobuntu's existence: it's present in their glorious singing, their expressive dancing, even in their dress - plaids, stripes, florals in colours as exuberant as their vocals." [cltampa.com](http://cltampa.com)



**Album:** Obabes beMbube ('Women of Mbube')  
**Artists:** Nobuntu  
**Genre:** African Mbube  
**Speciality:** Female a cappella group  
**Language:** Ndebele  
**Label:** 10<sup>th</sup> District Music/Zimbabwe  
**Release:** 24 November, 2018

It takes courage, persistence and a great deal of talent to create new songs in a genre of already impeccable standards. Zimbabwean five-piece, Nobuntu are blessed with all three.

'Obabes beMbube' is Nobuntu's new 13-song album of mbube music sung in Ndebele celebrating life, nature, divine inspiration and the power of music as a healing force. Five strong female voices beautifully blended singing a cappella harmonies.

'Obabes beMbube' builds on the success of 'Thina' and 'Ekhaya' which were released in 2013 and 2015 respectively. The music represents a bold shift from the previous bodies of work which featured a fusion of afro jazz, a cappella, gospel and traditional folk tracks.

The album name 'Obabes beMbube' is Ndebele for 'women of mbube', an assertion of Nobuntu's position as a musical force in a genre that is traditionally a male domain. Mbube (Zulu for 'lion', pronounced 'eem-boo-bay') was released as the song ('The Lion Sleeps Tonight') 'Mbube' written by Solomon Linda in Johannesburg and released through Gallo Record Company in 1939. 'Mbube' became a UK and USA #1 hit single in 1969 by the Tokens – and is now the name widely used for the South African a cappella genre, mbube.

'Obabes beMbube' was produced by Dumisani Ramadu Moyo, one of the founding members of the internationally acclaimed male mbube trio, Insingizi. Dumisani's vision for the album encompassed Nobuntu creating their own signature mbube songs from a female perspective. Nobuntu hail from Zimbabwe's second largest city, Bulawayo, home to mbube stars Black Umfolosi and Insingizi. Nobuntu are proud to be the only all-female mbube group in Bulawayo. The album's title track 'Obabes beMbube' is about female mbube singers imploring a radio DJ, who usually airs a lot of male mbube, to include female mbube on their playlist.

Nobuntu all share a common goal to promote and preserve 'ubuntu', a Nguni word meaning compassion and humanity, in fact the name 'Nobuntu' means 'mother of ubuntu'. This is echoed in the song 'Umusa' ('Kindness') which recognises the importance of community values, a reminder that when shared values are broken, kindness and care can heal the rifts. The opening track 'Cula' (Ndebele for 'sing') celebrates the power of music to heal, inspire and lift the spirits. 'Asambeni' (Let's go) celebrates life, love and the beauty of nature.

'Silele' is a traditional song that pays respect to traditional Zulu healers known as sangomas. Sangomas are revered as communicators between the living and ancestral spirits with the power to heal, to appease social disharmony and also bring the rain.

'Amazing Grace' features on "Obabes beMbube" complete with vocal clicks, sweet layered harmonies and Nobuntu's unique rendition of lyrics and melody. The 'Nobuntu Click Song' relays the folktale of a frog while

focusing on the vocal clicks in the Ndebele language. The original click song, 'Qongqothwane' was performed by Miriam Makeba was sung in Xhosa about a clicking beetle.

The album's bonus track 'Town Hall' was composed by Hilda Buthelezi and originally performed by South Africa's legendary Mahotella Queens and honours women who, through their strength, and great musical talent, can move mountains and even bring down an entire town hall.

Nobuntu are festival favourites both in Zimbabwe and Europe and were nominated for the Zimbabwe International Women Awards in Musician of the Year 2015 Category. They recently completed a USA tour in 2018 and will be returning to USA in 2019. Nobuntu's city of Bulawayo is a cultural melting pot and home to some of Zimbabwe's finest artists. 'Obabes beMbube' is a courageous album bursting with Bulawayo spark and song. As vocalist and percussionist Heather Dube says,

"It pays homage to the Mbube tradition. That's why it's special to me... We are love, we are peace, we are strength, we are children of the motherland.... and yes, we are one."

'Obabes beMbube' will be released internationally on 24 November 2018 through the Zimbabwean record label, 10th District Music.

### **Nobuntu singers are:**

Thandeka Moyo - Soprano/1st Tenor

Zanele Manhenga aka Uzah - Soprano/Alto

Joyline Sibanda - Alto/tenor

Heather Dube - Alto/tenor/bass

Dudzile Sibanda - Tenor/baritone/bass

Artist Bios: <http://www.nobuntu-music.com/index.php#s9>

### **Track Listing 'Obabes beMbube' by Nobuntu with track information**

1. Cula (Sing) Celebrates the power of music to heal, inspires and gladden the heart.
2. Ilanga (The sun) The sun rises and sets, self-reflection on what one accomplishes in the day.
3. Umusa (Kindness) A reminder to show love and kindness in everyday interactions.
4. Uyangiphoxa (You inconvenience me) A song about the obstacles that life on the path of faith.
5. Hossana (We pray) A song of praise.
6. Nobuntu (Click Song) Word play on Ndebele clicks while telling a folktale, the protagonist is a frog.
7. Amazing Grace Nobuntu's mbube version.
8. Asambeni – (Let's go) A celebration of life, feeling good and the beauty of nature.
9. Obabes beMbube – (Women of Mbube music)  
Nobuntu are imploring a radio DJ to play female mbube as singers in a largely male genre of music.
10. Umalusi – (Shepherd) A song of praise.
11. Avumile – (The heavens have said yes) Celebrates a major breakthrough, a success.
12. Silele (The healer is sleeping) A song of respect for the traditional sangoma healers and diviners.

Bonus track: #13: Town Hall (originally sung by the Mahotella Queens). Celebrates the strength of womens' music, strong enough to bring down a town hall.

### **Nobuntu Artist Links:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NobuntuMusic/>

Twitter: @nobuntumusic

Website: <http://www.nobuntu-music.com/>

Press photos: <http://www.nobuntu-music.com/index.php#s4>

Video: Nobuntu/The making of 'Obabes beMbube': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sffn-cBv-EY>

Video: Nobuntu singing 'Narini (prior release): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_CCHkuWYzA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_CCHkuWYzA)

**Press release written by Angie Lemon. For more information please e-mail: [angie@angielemonpr.com](mailto:angie@angielemonpr.com)**