

# BENJAMIN JEPHTA

artist | musician | composer | producer | educator

## BAND EPK



Our mission is to tell authentic stories through music, reflecting the experiences and heritage of POC while pushing the boundaries of improvised #BAM music."



BENJAMIN JEPHTA BAND EPK





# ABOUT BENJAMIN

Benjamin Jephtha is a bassist, composer, and educator who has established himself as one of South Africa's premier double and electric bass players. With three albums as a bandleader, several soundtrack compositions, and numerous award nominations and wins, Jephtha was recognized in the **Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans** list and received the prestigious **Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz** award in 2017.

Jephtha's diverse career includes work as a film and TV composer, scoring for productions on platforms like **Netflix** and **Amazon Prime**. His compositions often fuse traditional jazz, funk, hip-hop, and African musical styles, creating soundtracks that are modern yet culturally resonant. After earning his Master's degree from The **Berklee Global Jazz Institute** in Boston, Jephtha moved to New York City, where he performed with acclaimed artists such as **Danilo Perez, Terri Lyne Carrington, Jason Palmer,** and **Dianne Reeves**. Currently based in Johannesburg, Jephtha balances his time between performing, scoring for film and TV, and lecturing in **Jazz Studies** and **Film Composition** at the **University of the Witwatersrand**, where he mentors the next generation of South African musicians.



“  
The South African bassist... is a key player on that country's scene, switching back and forth between upright and electric with equal adeptness, and combining multiple styles of acoustic jazz with funk, hip-hop, and African styles like gqom and kwaito.  
”  
- **Stereogum**





# BENJAMIN JEPHTA BAND

*quintet / sextet*

The Benjamin Jephtha Band is a dynamic jazz ensemble led by the acclaimed bassist and composer. Bringing together some of South Africa's most vibrant jazz voices, the sextet explores the rich tapestry of African music, blending traditional rhythms with contemporary jazz to create a sound that is both rooted and forward-looking.



“

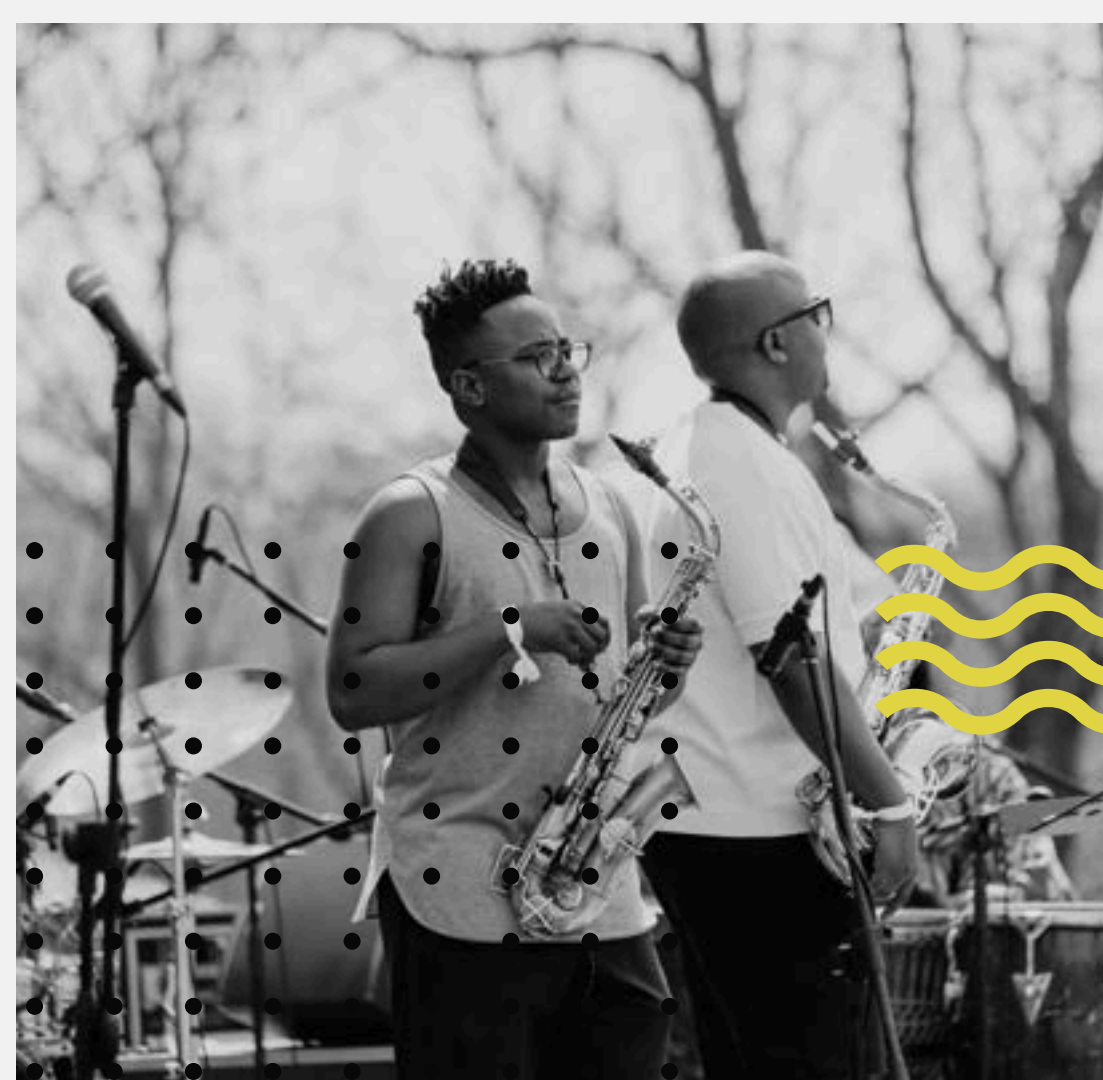
For straight ahead jazz with skating African rhythms, Benjamin Jephtha Quintet followed the tradition of jazz with their South African roots. ...these musicians were in an intuitive mode, never playing too many notes but allowing the audience to bask in the groove.

- New York Amsterdam News

”







# BENJAMIN JEPHTA BAND

*the line-up*

While the quintet/sextet line-up can vary, at its core, it consists of:

- Bass**
- Drums**
- percussion**
- piano**
- guitar**
- Horns (Trpt/alto sax/tenor sax/ trombone**
- voice**

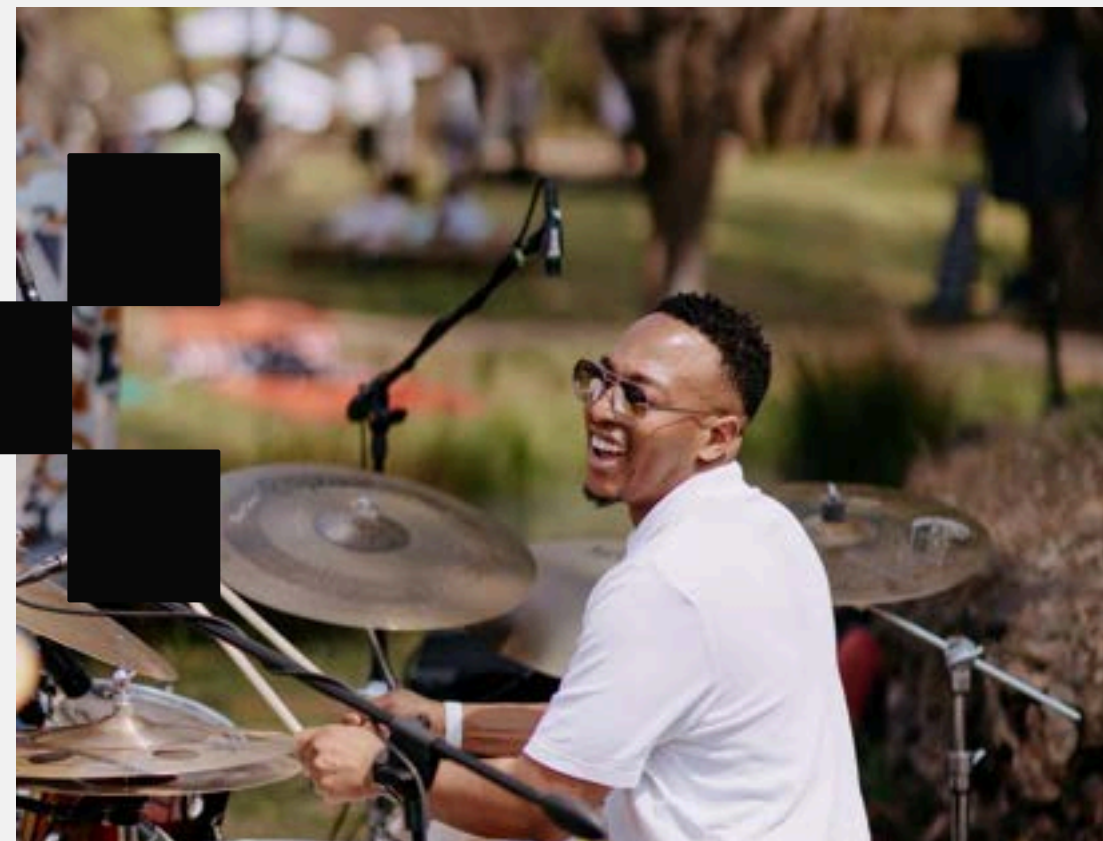
[click here for tech-rider](#) >

“

“Jephtha’s work is a fresh image of the jazz sounds from the Cape (South Africa), informed by contemporary and international music, but still richly evocative of home”

- revered South African jazz journalist Gwen Ansell

”





# ALBUMS & LATEST PROJECTS



As a band leader, Benjamin has released 3 solo albums with different variations of this ensemble. Benjamin is a **Platoon Artist**, although has released all the music was released and produced independently.

## **Latest Album: "Born Coloured, Not Born-Free" (2023)**

This is a deeply personal album that explores the complexities of identity in post-apartheid South Africa.

*For a look into all the bands previous releases including synopsis, streaming links and EPK videos, click the link below*



<https://www.benjaminjephtamusic.com/music>

## **Latest Project: "Benjamin Jephta X Kujenga: Homecoming Re-visited"**

Celebrates the 10th anniversary of Benjamin debut album, with re-imagined arrangements performed by him and the dynamic seven-piece band **Kujenga**.

Named as **"South Africa's New Generation of Jazz"** by Okay Africa,  
The music is set to release throught 2025





# HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Benjamin Jephtha Band has steadily grown its influence within the South African and select international jazz scenes, receiving recognition for both artistic excellence and audience appeal. Our work continues to gain attention across the jazz community and beyond for its creativity, authenticity, and cultural depth.

## Achievements and Recognitions

Benjamin has been honored as the **Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz** and recognised as a creative trailblazer in the **Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans** list acknowledging his contributions to the evolution of South African jazz and an innovative approach to music and cultural influence. As a band our projects have received several award nominations, including the **South African Music Awards (SAMA)** and **Metro FM Jazz Awards**, which celebrated the cultural impact of our work. In addition, our compositions won the prestigious **SAMRO Wawela Award for Best Song** and Benjamin the award for the **Best Male Artist**, highlighting our dedication to crafting original and emotionally impactful music.



## Streaming Milestones and Playlists

Among a decent monthly listenership, Our latest release, "Born Coloured, Not Born-Free," surpassed **1 million streams** across platforms within just a few months of its release.

**Spotify:** Featured in "State of Jazz", "Fresh Jazz Find", and our track "**Ben-Dhlamini Stomp**" was listed among the **Best Jazz Songs of 2023** and "**Fresh Finds Jazz: Best of 2023**".

**Apple Music:** The title track, "**Born-Coloured, Not Born-Free (Resurgence)**," was highlighted on playlists such as "Jazz in Spatial Audio", "Jazz Currents", "Jazz Chill", and "Piano Bar"

# MORE PRESS QUOTES & RECOMMENDATIONS



"Benjamin Jephtha's third outing continues the identity theme that has underscored his previous efforts. This one is the boldest statement yet: a proclamation of un-belonging, a search for belonging, a quest to quench the thirst for recognition."

— **Pan-African Music**

"Jephtha is part of the dynamic South African jazz scene of young musicians... he has carved out a space for himself as an important bass player. The album explores transformation in the country, identity, and the challenges of stereotypes, drawing on South African jazz, ghoema, maskandi, hip-hop, and kwaito."

— **Africa Is a Country**

"Jephtha's compositions are influenced by his experiences growing up through the church, on the Cape Flats, and coming through a university institution. He incorporates these influences into his work to constantly evolve his musical identity."

— **DownBeat**

## Quotes from Fellow Artists and Mentors

"I loved the way you presented the tradition but in a contemporary fashion. You're great!"

— **Terri Lyne Carrington**

*(Grammy award winning drummer & producer)*

"This (music) is so inspiring... this is UNESCO material. This could become something very special for you, for your people, for the voice that can come out really strong."

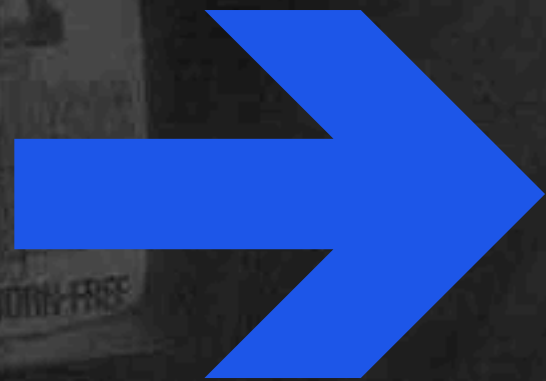
— **Danilo Pérez**

*(Grammy award winning pianist & composer),*





**LINKS**  
*& things*




<https://www.benjaminjephtamusic.com>



**Social**  
*media*



**EPK Documents**   
*hi-res pics, tech-rider etc.*



**Streaming**  
*platforms*





# CONTACTUS



*Feel free to reach out via the contact form on our website or details below for bookings, collaborations or inquiries*

Let's Connect



<https://www.benjaminjephtamusic.com/contact>

Johannesburg, South Africa



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*Thank you for visiting the Benjamin Jephtha Band EPK portfolio . We appreciate your time and interest in the band. If you have a project in mind, let's create something amazing together!*