



Today's



COVER STORY

Cover story 1 - Toll roads
The plan to toll Gauteng highways has opened up a political hornet's nest. Razina Munshi looks at the economic consequences



EDITOR'S NOTE

It'd seem frivolous, downright irresponsible, to get obsessed with trivial as sport when it looks as though about to keel over and die. The universe of an economic precipice; politicians



Jazz CD review - Mama Africa

African taste

Don Albert | Thursday, 11 Aug 2011

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Mama Africa from vocalist Tutu Puoane, with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, won this year's Sama for best "Traditional Jazz CD". Most of the repertoire is associated with Miriam Makeba, with some written by Caiphus Semenya. The arrangers have given these African songs a sparkling update in keeping with a swinging big band. For one: Semenya's "What More Can Be Right".

Puoane has a pure voice; her enunciation perfect and phrasing spot on. On certain arrangements, she sings in unison with the orchestra, adding yet another texture. When she sings a difficult semi-ballad like "Mountain Shade" her voice conjures up a clear water stream navigating its way over smooth pebbles.

The underlying feeling of the album seems to sum up Puoane's love of SA, and though she now lives overseas, you get the feeling she misses her home and says so through the music, from the Xhosa folk song "Thanayi" to the Cedric Samson and Marvin Moses song "Africa Is Where My Heart Lies". This is Puoane's way of telling her own story.

Of the nine tracks, there isn't a bad one: the solos by various musicians are of a high standard; the orchestra is exemplary; and the music is treated with taste and respect.

This is a worthy winner and a CD that deserves a place in the history of SA music.

Tutu Puoane, with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, can be heard live at the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz on August 26 and 27. Booking at Computicket.

For more information on the CD, tel: (021) 552-6207; or go to: www.jassics.co.za.

Don Albert