

Johnny Clegg: The Final Journey

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 8:00pm

This is the ### concert in Koerner Hall

Jesse Clegg, guitar & vocals

Johnny Clegg, guitar, vocals & concertina

Andy Innes, Musical Director, guitar & vocals

Brendan Ross, keyboard, saxophone & vocals

Barry Van Zyl, drums

Trevor Donjeany, bass & vocals

Mandisa Dlanga, vocals

Johnny Clegg

Nearly 40 years after he began one of music's most remarkable careers, Johnny Clegg is embarking on his final world tour, titled The Final Journey.

Johnny Clegg was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and underwent chemotherapy treatment. Throughout the treatment, he continued to tour locally and internationally undertaking a nine-week tour of USA and Canada in 2016. Johnny is currently finishing a new album and his autobiography. As he is in remission, Johnny has decided to use this opportunity to perform a final set of concerts in South Africa and overseas to thank his fans for their support over the 35-year-long journey that spans his career.

Through his bands Juluka and Savuka, Clegg pioneered a uniquely South African hybrid music during a time of cultural and racial segregation. His music always offered a vision of how South Africans could find each other and the possibilities of a non-racial future. For this reason, the South African leg of the tour has tremendous import for him as it was South Africa and all South Africans that shaped him as an artist.

Johnny Clegg said: "This will be my final set of public performances for my fans in SA and around the world. I am immensely excited to be able to bring to them an autobiographical, audiovisual, and intimate account of my life through my music and The Dance."

"Johnny Clegg is more than just one of this country's finest musicians and entertainers. He is a national treasure who has brought together all South Africans and reminded us of what makes us great as a country," says Cyril Ramaphosa.

Johnny Clegg: The Final Journey World Tour represents the peak of a career that has combined near matchless music success with sustained – and significant – social, political, and cultural impact.

Clegg's recorded output as part of Juluka, Savuka, and solo has earned him millions of record sales, countless awards and nominations (including a Grammy nomination), and multiple international releases, all eagerly consumed by a truly global audience. He was the forerunner of combining western musical styles with African ones, sparking a revolution in South African music that can be still heard in the work of artists today.

Most potently, Clegg's ability to illuminate the connectedness of all human beings through his music meant he was a pioneer of social cohesion in South Africa. He also provided a portal for international audiences to gain a deeper understanding of the anti-apartheid movement and the journey towards, and ultimately into, freedom. For this, Clegg has received many different honours, including an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), the South African Order of Ikhamanga, and the French Chevalier des Arts et Lettres (Knight of Arts and Letters), as well as several honorary doctorates.

Jesse Clegg is a South African alternative rock artist whose three studio albums, *When I Wake Up* (2008), *Life On Mars* (2011), and his latest, *Things Unseen* (2015), have made the 28-year-old a platinum-selling success in his home country. This is a considerable feat in a place where the rock genre makes up only a small minority of the market. Jesse has achieved much in the relatively short time he has been active. He has released six Top-10 singles, toured extensively throughout South Africa, playing the biggest festivals in the country, and has performed abroad in both North America and Europe. As an official ambassador for the Nelson Mandela 46664 foundation, Jesse was invited to play at Radio City Music Hall in New York alongside the likes of Stevie Wonder, Black Eyed Peas, Alicia Keys, and many others. To date, he has earned three South African Music Awards nominations.

The Royal Conservatory has been fortunate to host Johnny Clegg in 2011, 2014, and 2016, and is honoured that he has chosen to include Koerner Hall on his final concert tour.