

Bakithi Kumalo

(Bah-Gee-Tee Koo-Ma-Low)



LEGENDARY, AWARD-WINNING SOUTH AFRICAN BASSIST

Praise for his work...

South African fretless bassist, multi-instrumentalist, producer, and songwriter that has played on 4 Grammy-Award-winning albums, with credit on Paul Simon's Graceland album for iconic bass lines in songs "You Can Call Me Al," "Boy in the Bubble," and "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes."

Powerful collaborations...

Has played with: John Legend, Alicia Keys, Herbie Hancock, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan, Derek Trucks and The Susan Tedeschi Band, Chico Cesar, Laurie Anderson, Gerald Albright, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Randy Brecker, Grover Washington Jr., Bob James, Angelique Kidjo, Jon Cicada, Josh Groban, Mickey Hart, Chris Botti, etc.

Musical Longevity...

Has toured with Paul Simon's Graceland band for over 35 years



Voted one of the top 50 bassists of all time by Bass Player Magazine
- Full article [HERE](#) -





Over 35 years with Paul Simon's Graceland Band



How Kumalo and Simon met in studio, their first sessions, and the making of *Graceland*...



"Boy in the Bubble," "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes," and "Call Me Al."



BIOGRAPHY:



Found at the heart and soul of modern-day anthems that have shaped our sense of music and culture as we know it, award-winning, multi-instrumentalist Bakithi Kumalo (Bah-Gee-Tee Koo-Ma-Low) is ranked among the top 50 bass players in the world by Bass Player Magazine. With a career spent touring alongside artists including Hugh Masekela, the Grateful Dead, Sting, Stevie Wonder, John Legend, Gloria Estefan, Derek Trucks, Miriam Makeba, and many others, his abilities extend to his solo work as a singer, percussionist, pianist and songwriter—in addition to his bass playing—presenting a culmination of diverse influences from throughout his life.

Born in the Soweto township of Johannesburg, South Africa, and surrounded by relatives who loved music and actively performed, with traditional African rhythms and a cappella vocal groups all around him. Kumalo learned to follow the groove of the bass lines and developed licks based on the left-hand work of accordion players in the township bands. Landing his first job at the age of seven filling in for his uncle's bass player, he continued to work as a session musician in South Africa during the 1970s and early 1980s, and was soon recognized as a top session bassist, accompanying international performers during their South African tours.



Introduced to Paul Simon through producer Hendrick Lebone during recording sessions for the Graceland album in 1985, Kumalo traveled with Simon to New York to finish the record. Following accompaniment on the premier tour, he spent several years commuting between Soweto and New York City before permanently settling in the United States.

Touring regularly with Simon throughout his career, Kumalo has recorded with and performed alongside artists including Joan Baez, Cyndi Lauper, Hugh Masekela, Herbie Hancock, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Randy Brecker, Grover Washington Jr., Mickey Hart, and Disney's The Lion King.

Best known for his groundbreaking bass line in "You Can Call Me Al," pocket grooves from "Boy In The Bubble" and "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes," and his overall big bass sound, Kumalo has also released several solo albums. His most recent project had him working alongside producer Maxfeld Gast and Militia Hill to create What You Hear Is What You See.



"The drums might be the heart of African music, but the body and soul is the bass."

- Bakithi Kumalo

LATEST ALBUM *WHAT YOU HEAR IS WHAT YOU SEE*



"Kumalo creates a singular electric fretless bass sound teaming with double stops that sound like human voices, African drums, and the African grooves of his homeland."

[Broadway World Review [HERE](#)]

What You Hear is What You See	4: 05
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Zululand Nation	4: 06
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Desert Walk	6: 01
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Nomvula	4: 24
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Let's Be One	3: 22
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Happy Village	3:43
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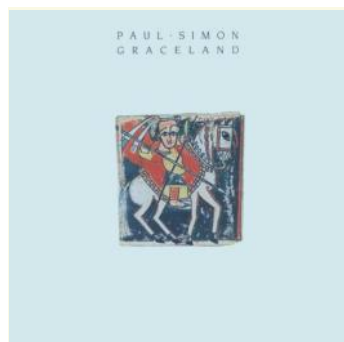
Electric Flow	3: 57
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Nice Day	4: 37
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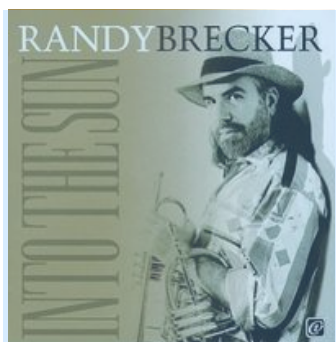
Long Story Short	8: 23
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Peaceful Water	4: 09
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Appearances on four Grammy-winning albums:



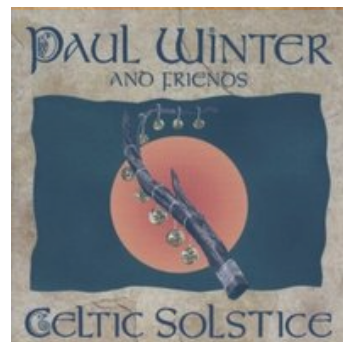
Grammy Awards for
Album of Year, Record
of the Year



Grammy Award for Best
Contemporary Jazz
Performance

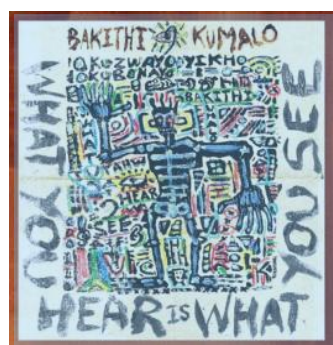


Grammy Award for Best
Jazz Instrum. Performance,
individual or Group

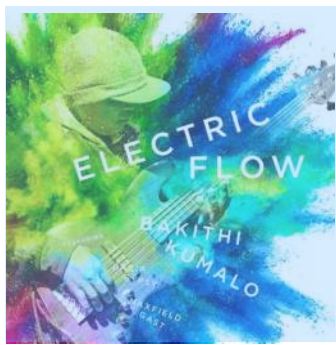


Grammy Award for Best
New Age Album

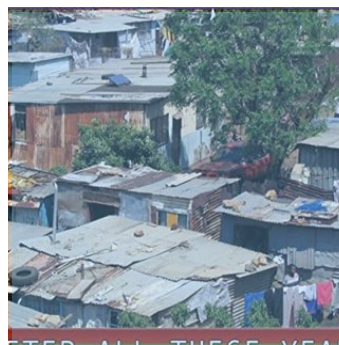
Nine personally-released albums:



*What You Hear Is What
You See* (2021)



Electric Flow
(2021)



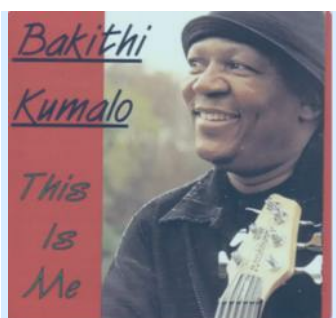
After All These Years
(2016)



Change
(2009)



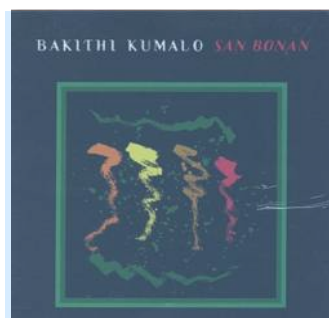
Transmigration
(2006)



This Is Me
(2005)



In Front of My Eyes
(2000)



San Bonan
(1998)



Step On The Bawss Line
(1988)

ALBUM REVIEWS:

"...a treat for those who love global music that also keeps its deep roots intact, anchored in traditional rhythms, tones and sounds."

[Rolling Stone India Review [HERE](#)]

"He exudes worldliness with his playing, seamlessly jumping from African rhythms to Latin feels, bossa nova grooves, odd time signatures, and American pop, jazz, and soul."

[No Treble Review [HERE](#)]

Kumalo debuted his first solo album by delivering a "spellbinding, energetic show of originals written around the stories along his musical journey to date."

[Music Connection Review [HERE](#)]

"The title-track opener establishes Kumalo's writing style on the record: less traditional forms like verse-chorus-bridge, and more thorough-composition and creating and developing in the moment."

[Bass Magazine Review [HERE](#)]

"Kumalo, who is known as a storyteller, is named as one of the top 50 greatest bass players of all time, having played with luminaries like Paul Simon, Herbie Hancock, Gloria Estefan and Josh Groban".

[Random Lengths News Review [HERE](#)]

"His playing was often using slap and thumb playing that became prominent in electric bass playing in the 70s. He alternated between a 6 and 4 string bass."

[Nippertown Review [HERE](#)]



PACKAGES FOR BOOKING:

Package Options [HERE](#)



Full Graceland Show



***The Bakithi Kumalo
Graceland Experience
(10 piece)***



***Music Masters Mentorship
(Master classes and clinics)***



***The South African
Allstars (3-5 piece)***



***The Bakithi Kumalo
Story (speaking
engagements)***



***What You Hear Is What You
See (5-7 piece)***

East Coast: Nina Moran

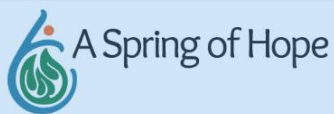
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West Coast: Drea Jo

email: drea@dreajo.com / ph: 661-333-5331

bakithikumalobass.com

CHARITABLE WORK:



BAKITHI KUMALO'S MUSIC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Bringing A Love Of Music To Rural South Africa

In partnership with five time Grammy Award-Winning South African Bassist-Bakithi Kumalo and Village Music Wellington, A Spring of Hope presents **Bakithi Kumalo's South African Music Mentorship Program**. This program is centered around the power of music in the development of children and will support young students in Acornhoek, South Africa. With the assistance of teachers from Beretta Primary School, Bakithi Kumalo, and Village Music, A Spring of Hope will host music classes twice a week for children from Acornhoek. The goal of these group classes is to support the development of the children by getting them excited about music and exposing them to different genres of music and musical instruments. These classes will be engaging and fun, and will focus on teaching the basics of music, encouraging children to have fun with instruments and inspiring them to develop a positive and productive hobby.

More about Music Mentors [HERE](#)

More about A Spring Of Hope
[HERE](#)



CORPORATE SPONSORS:



Bakithi Kumalo Signature Acoustic-Electric U-BASS®

<https://www.mattjaffemusic.com>





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