

**The Sibikwa Arts African  
Indigenous Orchestra**  
***Re-Alignment 1***  
***Musical Director: Neo Leleka***

**AFRO  
VIBES**  
**uk arts**  
INTERNATIONAL



**See this link for a short film about the orchestra including interviews with the musicians and introductions on the instruments they play and artistic inspiration for the work.**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=eJ1o39p8Wpg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=eJ1o39p8Wpg)

A search for the new and original, a new sound for the 21st century – that is the mandate for the Sibikwa Arts African Indigenous Orchestra. The seven piece orchestra play traditional instruments such as the Uhadi (African bow instruments), Horns, Drums, Marimba, Mbira and Dinaka Pipes. They are joined on stage for this performance by jazz musicians exploring how the original African compositions receive the quirky infusion of jazz styling.



The Sibikwa Orchestra gives audiences a lively exchange of rhythms and beats and is a great example of crossover music.

This award-winning orchestra is a celebration of the traditional and the new and their work travels from the lulling, moving subtleties of sound and movement to township jazz and afrobeat.

Performances involve high levels of audience participation with everyone on their feet (often with an instrument in hand) as they take part in a feast for the senses, refreshing their musical tastebuds, and evoking the true spirit and ancestry of South Africa.

Sibikwa will bring their full production to Afrovibes but also play an important part in the Township Cafe offering wider access to the festival for audiences of all ages - including schools.



*Orchestra's Festival Ovation brings ongoing honour to Sibikwa*

**THE EVENT (National Arts Festival, Grahamstown daily newspaper)  
12 July 2011**

The Sibikwa Arts African Indigenous Orchestra, whose styles range from Afro Pop to Marabi to Contemporary Jazz, with traditional influences thrown in for good measure, took their latest show, *Re-Alignment 1*, on the road to this year's Grahamstown Arts Festival. Enthusiastic audience members, some of whom caught the show more than once, agreed that it was an experience not to be missed.

Apart from picking up scores of new fans, the super-talented outfit also picked up an Ovation Award for their show; a lively exchange of rhythms and beats between audience and musicians that set the festival-goers' tongues a-wagging.

The festival's Ovation Award is awarded for "excellence, the exploration of new performances and styles, and the courage to open new conversations through the arts". The Orchestra certainly fits that bill, by exploring new sounds on old instruments – for example, by counterpointing modern brass instruments such as saxophones and trombones with traditional instruments such as kudu horns.

Last year, the orchestra's sister outfit, the Sibikwa Arts Dance Company, walked away with an Ovation Award, which makes it a two-in-row crowning for this innovative Benoni-based arts organisation.

Artistic Director Phyllis Klotz was thrilled by this latest acknowledgement of excellence. "We're delighted that the orchestra was recognised for its innovation," she enthused. "Our musicians will not be sitting on their laurels, however, despite the acclaim that has greeted their efforts. They will, instead, return to their rehearsals, where they will continue to refine and develop what they have."



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