**THE FREEDOM CITY SONG**

A DEDICATION IN JAZZ TO

JOZI & BERLIN

The Freedom City Song is a collaborative project between Jazzy Berlin and Jozi Unsigned that will culminate in the midnight performance of the “The Freedom City Song” in honour of 20 years of freedom in South Africa and 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany.

**Jazzy Berlin (**[**www.jazzyberlin.de**](http://www.jazzyberlin.de)**)**

Jazz singer Avi Benson is the founder of Jazzy Berlin – the online meeting point for the Berlin Jazz Community. In an effort to share the spirit of jazz with a wide an audience as possible, Jazzy Berlin hosts the ever popular weekly Jazz Jam Session in Berlin’s craziest trance venue KaterHolzig.

**Jozi Unisgned (**[**www.facebook.com/JoziUnsigned**](http://www.facebook.com/JoziUnsigned)**)**

Founded by artist manager and booking agent Lindy Mtongana, Jozi Unsigned is a new online jazz web platform, launching in Sep 2013. It is aimed at promoting Jozi’s new crop of jazz talent and supporting the growth of the city’s live music scene.

**Why Jazz**

*“Jazz calls us to engage with our national identity. It gives expression to the beauty of democracy and of personal freedom and of choosing to embrace the humanity of all types of people”*

*Wynton Marsalis,*

More than any other music genre jazz is associated with freedom. The freedom to stand out, to be heard, to bend the rules and play outside the box. It is a music form that always has and will continue to speak to the freedom of identity and expression, be that in the context of a fractured and complex South Africa or a modernised Germany whose freedom is threatened by the increasingly pervasive nature of the internet.

The Freedom City Song aims to remind all to continue the fight for freedom where it is challenged, and to celebrate the joy of freedom where it has been won.

**The Process**

Founder of Jazzy Berlin, Avi Benson, will assemble a small group of jazz musicians (roughly 5) with whom he will travel to Johannesburg, South Africa in April 2014. The Jazzy Berlin musicians will meet a group of Jozi Unsigned musicians and over the course of a few days, the musicians will spend some time performing together in the context of jam sessions and rehearsals with the aim of composing “The Freedom City Song”.

**The event**

Finally, this will culminate in a performance to be held at Goethe on Main (preferably outdoors). The event will start at 8pm with DJs and live music. Shortly before midnight, Steve Kwena Mokoena (poet, artist and Station Master of the Afrikan Freedom Station) will deliver the Midnight Sermon – a poem in honour of the journey travelled by South Africa & Germany since their respective seminal moments in history. This will be followed by The Freedom City Song, to be performed at exactly midnight, as we usher in a new season of love, unity and freedom through jazz. The musicians will perform a short concert. A jam session will follow, during which other musicians are invited to join in. DJs will close the night (02:00am).

2014 marks exactly 20 years since South Africa became a democratic country and 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall.