

Guitar legend Cameron Ward releases new album

 By [Martin Myers](#)

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Cape Town's only legendary legacy festival, Jazzathon, celebrates 25 years this June with an all-new celebratory experience. Affectionately known as 'The People's Festival', Cape Town's Jazzathon is back with an exceptional weekend line-up of festivities on 17, 18, and 19 June 2022 at the Grand Arena, GrandWest.



Image supplied: Cameron Ward

Fans can expect to be spoilt for choice with three days of local jazz, including acts like the Jazzathon All-Stars, featuring Cameron Ward, Don Vino, Jonathan Rubain and Kyle Shepherd.

I caught up with Cameron Ward who was the guitarist in the late great Hugh Masekela's band for over a decade and is now the music director for Yvonne Chaka Chaka's band. Only last week, he released his latest album called *Gospel Meets Jazz*.

Ward is arguably one of the most versatile guitarists of his generation. He has a beautiful tone, great improvisational ideas, superb speed and knows how to make you dance to the African beat that's equal to none.

🎱 **What is your job description?**

My job description is to let people know that they are loved and important.

🎱 **What does music mean to you?**

Music means the world to me, without music there's no Cameron.

🎱 **My music is about...**

My journey in life and the experiences, I was born in Lotus River so lots to tell via my music

🎪 ***What is your motto?***

Do good and be good.

🎪 ***Fame is about...***

What you make of it - and that applies to life itself.

🎪 ***Retirement will happen when...***

Retirement happens when I am longer alive, until then we continue to keep pushing.

🎪 ***I don't do...***

Drugs, alcohol and gossiping.

🎪 ***I would love to co-write with...***

The legendary bra Siphon Mabuse

🎪 ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

I like nature, that is where I draw all my inspiration from.

🎪 ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

To travel and make people feel great when they watch us work and perform.

🎪 ***The song you must do during every show?***

I must play *Cheleshe* by the late Hugh Masekela.

🎪 ***Any funny moments on stage?***

Whilst I was doing my dance moves my trousers broke badly - crown jewels and all - but hey, the show had to go on.

🎪 ***My heroes are...***

The late bra Hugh Masekela, Bra Sipho “Hotstix” Mabuse and Jimmy Dludlu.

🎵 ***My style icon is...***

The legendary George Benson.

🎵 ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

My mom, she's been through everything yet she stands tall and that I admire.

🎵 ***What is your most treasured possession?***

Being called Daddy.

🎵 ***It's your round; what are you drinking?***

Definitely Stoney!!

🎵 ***Dream gig to do?***

Guitar summit with George Benson and Carlos Santana.

🎵 ***What makes you stand out?***

My sound and dress sense definitely.

🎵 ***Any nicknames?***

Cammy or Cams.

🎵 ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

Medical doctor.

🎵 ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Loving, caring, honest, humble and respectful.



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🎵 ***What are you streaming?***

Jimmy Dludlu live at Emperors Palace

🎵 ***Greatest movie ever made?***

Fast and Furious.

🎵 ***What book are you reading?***

Authentic Fathering by Jose Van Rensburg.

🎵 **What song changed your life?**

Look What The Lord Has Done by Nathaniel Bassey.

🎵 **Who do you love?**

My family, family first always.

🎵 **What is your favourite word?**

Absolutely

🎵 **Top of your bucket list?**

To host the biggest guitar summits, let's start at Madison Square Gardens

🎵 **Your greatest achievement?**

Working with the late bra Hugh Masekela.

🎵 **What do you complain about most often?**

Not enough work for our creatives.

🎵 **What is your biggest fear?**

Losing my family.

🎵 **Happiness is...**

A choice



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🎵 **On stage, I tend to...**

Talk a lot

🎵 **The best life lesson you have learned?**

Always be thankful for what you have.

🎵 **What has been your favourite journey so far?**

Being back in Cape Town and giving back. I toured all over the world with bra Hugh and relocated to Johannesburg.

🎵 **Do you do charity work, and if you do – what do you do?**

Yes, I have the CW Music Foundation where I teach kids for free who come from the Cape Flats.

🎵 **Wishes and dreams?**

To have my own building, recording, rehearsal studio and music school.

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ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

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