

February 15, 2017
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FOUR-TIME GRAMMY AWARD-WINNERS LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO COME TO PARKER PLAYHOUSE

South African musical ensemble also will perform a special matinee for students

FORT LAUDERDALE – Winner of a total of four Grammy Awards in the world music, traditional world music and traditional folk categories, **Ladysmith Black Mombazo** comes to Parker Playhouse on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

The group was most recently honored with its 17th Grammy Award nomination for its release *Walking in the Footsteps of Our Fathers*, which was a finalist for Best World Music Album of 2016.

Marrying the intricate rhythms and harmonies of its native South African musical traditions with the sounds and sentiments of gospel music, Ladysmith Black Mombazo creates a musical and spiritual alchemy. It has reached a widespread audience through collaborations with Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton the Wynans and many more.

Assembled in the early 1960s in South Africa, the group took the name Ladysmith Black Mombazo: “Ladysmith” is the name of its founder’s hometown; “Black” being a reference to oxen, the strongest of all farm animals; and “Mombazo,” the Zulu word for ax, to symbolize its ability to “chop down” any singing rival. The group’s collective voices were so tight and their harmonies so polished that by the end of the 1960’s they were banned from competitions, although they were welcome to participate as entertainers.

Tickets to the concert at are \$27.50–\$47.50.

Ladysmith Black Mombazo will also perform a JM Family Enterprises Smart Stage Matinee on Thursday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m. This special one-hour performance is specifically designed for students during which the artists will discuss the origin of the style of singing, the style of dancing and how both are an expression of South African culture. The artists will answer questions from the students throughout the show and encourage active engagement. Tickets to the student performance are \$7.20 with \$3 lap seats for infants 12 months and under.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at www.BrowardCenter.org, www.ParkerPlayhouse.com, www.Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center’s AutoNation Box Office. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Parker Playhouse box office Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 N.E. Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which provides programming and

management of the facility. All dates, times, programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

The Parker Playhouse 2016-2017 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation with generous support from the Salah Foundation.

Sun Sentinel is a proud sponsor of the Parker Playhouse.

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ABOUT PARKER PLAYHOUSE

Celebrating its 50th anniversary season, the neo-classical Playhouse Parker is one of Fort Lauderdale's first venues. Built by Dr. Louis Parker, the playhouse opened its doors on February 6, 1967 and is managed now by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This 1,168-seat, fully equipped theater plays an important role in the community by fueling economic development, while also bringing the community together with performances, activities and educational programming.

CALENDAR BRIEF: – Winner of a total of four Grammy Awards in the world music, traditional world music and traditional folk categories, **Ladysmith Black Mombazo** comes to Parker Playhouse on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.** Marrying the intricate rhythms and harmonies of its native South African musical traditions with the sounds and sentiments of gospel music, Ladysmith Black Mombazo creates a musical and spiritual alchemy. Tickets to the concert are \$27.50–\$47.50.

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