

CONTENTS

Preface	xv	War Song	17
		Song of the Divining Bones	17
Introduction	xxiv	Hawk	18
		Funeral Song	18
PART ONE		War Song	19
Beginnings, Endings		Lament for a Warrior	20
? – 1910	1	Crocodile	21
		Praises of Mcayi, the Daughter of Vuma	21
San/Bushman Tradition		Mcayi, the Daughter of Vuma (reworking)	22
Prayer to the Hunting Star, Canopus	3	Love Song	23
Prayer to the Hunting Star, Canopus (reworking)	3		
Prayer to the Young Moon	4	Dutch Piekniek liedjies	
Ho, Moon	4	(Picnic Songs)	
Sirius and Canopus	4	Malay Slave Ghoemaliedjies	
Ho, my hand is this	5	Four Songs	24
The Song of Nu-numma-kwiten	6		
The Withered-leaf Insect	6	Mfecane Wars, 1818-1826	
The Woman who was a Sister to the Vultures	7	Praises of King Shaka	26
The Star and the Hammerkop ...	9	Praises of Mzilikazi	29
The Death of the !Khau Lizard	10	Ngoni Laments	30
		Praises of King Dingana	31
Khoikhoi Tradition		Magolwana kaMkhathini	
Hymn to Tsui//Goab!	12	– Though people may die ...	32
Dance-song of the Lightning	12	Ntsikana kaGabha	
Elephant	13	Ntsikana's Bell	33
Ostrich	13	He who is our mantle of comfort	33
		Great Hymn	34
African Traditions		Thomas Pringle	
Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Pedi, Tswana		The Slave Dealer	35
Proverbs	15	Makanna's Gathering	36
Burial Song	16		
Lullaby	16		

**Cape Periodical Verse, 1820 –
Frederic Brooks**

– The Emigrant Shoemakers ... 38

Andrew Geddes Bain

– The British Settler 40

San/Bushman Voices, 1860s

Xaa-ttin – The Broken String 42

Where is Kaggen? 42

S.J. du Toit

Trekkers' Song 43

Song of the Black Man 44

Digger Ballads, 1870 –

Albert Brodrick

– Specs for Officials 45

C. & A.P. Wilson-Moore

– Changes 47

Olive Schreiner

Life's Gifts 48

Voices of the Xhosa, 1880 –

Praises of Matanzima, Son of Sandile 49

Isaac W. Wauchope

– Your cattle are plundered ... 50

Enoch Sontonga

– Nkosi, sikelel' iAfrika 51

Boer War, 1899 – 1902

We're marching to Pretoria 53

F.W. Reitz

– The Proclamation; or, Paper 54

Bomb

Anonymous

– The Young Burgher's Mother 56

– Lullaby 57

PART TWO

Home, Exile 1910 – 59

Isaiah Shembe

Three Hymns 61

S.E.K. Mqhayi

After the Battle 63

Today 65

The Prince of Britain 65

C.J. Langenhoven

Die Stem van Suid-Afrika 68

Pollie, ons gaan Pêrel toe 69

Eugène N. Marais

Winter's Night 70

Deep River 70

Jan F.E. Celliers

That's All 71

'Totius' (J.D. du Toit)

Forgive and Forget 72

Guineafowl 73

C. Louis Leipoldt

Peace Night 74

A Handful of Grit 77

Baboon and Mongrel 77

Toon van den Heever

Kruger's Statue 79

On the Highveld 79

Francis Carey Slater

Xhosa Proverbs 80

Soar Again, Young Eagle 80

Roy Campbell

Hialmar 81

The Theology of Bongwi, the
Baboon 82

The Zulu Girl	83	B.W. Vilakazi	
Les Chercheuses de Poux	83	Higher Education	108
Klipspringer	84	Nightfall	109
		Old Man!	110
		Peace	111
William Plomer			
A Basuto Coming-of-Age	85		
Johannesburg	85	J.J.R. Jolobe	
New Leaves	86	The Making of a Servant	112
Snow	87		
		K.E. Ntsane	
Mary Morison Webster		Mmakgutsitse, Mother of Silence	115
To You, Passing the Gate	88	Darling	116
In a Cart, in the Sun	89	Lovesong	118
Nontsizi Mqgqwetho		St J. Page Yako	
Praises to Self	90	The Contraction and Enclosure of the	
A Red Blanket Addresses Christians	91	Land	120
N.P. van Wyk Louw		D.L.P. Yali-Manisi	
The Prophet	93	Chief Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela	
As a Child	95	– Hail, Earth Tremor!	121
Armed Vision	95	To the Pupils of Nathaniel Nyalusa	
What could I give you ...?	96	High School, Grahamstown,	
		13 June 1979	123
		America, Purchase the Truth	125
Uys Krige			
The Seagull	97		
Farm Gate	98	Alan Paton	
		Cry, the beloved country ...	127
		Could you not Write Otherwise?	127
W.E.G. Louw			
Kestrel	100	Voices, 1930s, 1940s	
Villa Scacciapensieri	100	Johanna Cornelius	
		– I come from the farm ...	129
Elisabeth Eybers		Solomon Linda	
Completion	102	– The Pass Office	130
Adaptation	102	Nja-Mlungu Majola	
Witwatersrand	102	– To the Land of the Mine	
Dilemma	103	Dumps	130
		Protest Song	131
Majingaza		Peter Abrahams	
My Story	104	– Me Coloured	132
D.C.T. Bereng			
The Birth of Moshweshwe	106		

D.J. Opperman		Sydney Clouts	
A Letter Home	134	Eliphaz Broom	161
Fable of the Speckled Cow	134	Stick Song	161
Frogs	135	Salute	162
Christmas Carol	136	Prescriptions	162
Prayer for the Bones	136		
		Ruth Miller	
Ernst van Heerden		Aspects of Love	163
Words	139	Two Cats	163
Bat	139	Penguin on the Beach	164
He-goat	140	Virginia Woolf	165
Farewell	140	Telescope	165
Guy Butler		Ingrid Jonker	
The Pleiades	142	Pregnant Woman	166
Groom: Giraffe: Emperor	143	Begin Summer	167
Ntsikana's Bell	144	The Child who was Shot Dead by	
A Bee	147	Soldiers at Nyanga	167
		Daisies in Namaqualand	168
R.N. Currey		I Drift in the Wind	169
South African	149		
On that June Day	149	Barend Toerien	
		Absent Daughter	170
Anthony Delius		Quatrain	170
Emerald Dove	151		
Distance	151	P.J. Philander	
Chameleon	151	Winter Evening	171
Footnote	152		
		Peter Blum	
David Wright		Counting-out Rhyme	172
Each time I return to		Talking of Monuments	173
Johannesburg ...	153		
My favourite myth ...	153	Dennis Brutus	
Black Poet	154	Letter to Martha, 4	174
		Names	174
San/Bushman Songs, 1950s		February, 1990	175
Song of the Rain	155		
Grass Song	155	Adam Small	
Mood Song	155	Highlights of de Year 1960	176
		Gesondheid!	177
Princess Constance Magogo			
kaDinuzulu		Cosmo Pieterse	
Nomagundwane, Woman of the Rats	156	Song (We Sing)	179
Hold Me	159		

Two Scenes: Boland and Cape Town	179	The Reluctant Goat Civilisation Aha	205 207
Arthur Nortje		Mafika Gwala	
Waiting	180	Jol'iinkomo	208
To John, Paul, George and Ringo	181	Kwela-ride	208
Jeremy Taylor		Night Party	208
Tsotsi Style	183	My Grandmother	209
		Versions of Progress	209
Voices, 1950s, 1960s –		More Black Voices, 1970s	
Now you have touched the women	185	M.T. Mazibuko	
Mayibuy' iAfrika	185	– Kodwa Nkosana ...	212
Albert Luthuli		Stanley Motjuwadi	
– The struggle must go on ...	187	– Taken for a Ride	214
– Farewell Albert Luthuli	187	Njabulo S. Ndebele	
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela		– Little Dudu	215
– No easy walk to freedom ...	190	Mothobi Mutloatse	
– Never, never and never again ...	190	– Wa'reng?	218
		– Sir	218
PART THREE		Praises of MaHlabisa	220
Interregnum 1970 –	191	Lionel Abrahams	
Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali		Place	221
Boy on a Swing	193	The Single Voice	223
A Voice from the Dead	193	To Halley's Comet	223
The Detribalised	194	To the Writer of 'For the Oral'	224
James Matthews		Shabbir Banoobhai	
Nina	197	this learning poem is for you	226
from the house of cripples	197	are you the river or am i	226
Mongane Wally Serote		they call you <i>mister</i> steve biko	
White people are white people	199	now you're dead	227
City Johannesburg	199	sarajevo	228
What's in this Black 'Shit'	200	Patrick Cullinan	
My Brothers in the Streets	201	The Walls of Naletale	231
Waking Up. The Sun. The Body.	202	Homage to David Livingstone	
Sipho Sepamla		Phakamile Yali-Manisi	232
To Whom It May Concern	203	Etruscan Girl	233
Statement: The Dodger	204	Peril Yellow	234
		My Predawn Owl	235

Sheila Cussons		Mazisi Kunene	
'Christ of the Burnt Men'	237	Stages of Existence	269
The Flies	237	Two Wise Men	269
Blue	238	Encounter with the Ancestors	270
Yellow Gramophone	239	On Leaving Norway, from a Mission, without a Penny	270
Piet Draghoender		Vision of Peace	271
Lament	240	Makeka Likhojane	
Stephen Gray		Migrant's Song, 1	272
Crossing the Desert	244	Migrant's Song, 2	272
The Venice Connection	245	Douglas Livingstone	
Fireflies	246	The Almighty and the Hammerheads	275
Géricault's Shipwreck	247	Steel Giraffes	278
Peter Horn		The Christmas Chefs of Station 1A	278
Good Morning South Africa	249	Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Snake	279
Sweet Poesie	250	Scourings	280
From the Underground	251	Descent from the Tower	281
Wopko Jensma		Roger Lucey	
Lo Lull	252	Cape of Storms	285
Sometime Next Time	253	Don MacLennan	
Rhino	253	For Guy in the Monument	287
My Hands	254	A Friend whose Work –	288
Juluka		Iconoclast	291
African Sky Blue	255	Thakane 'Tholi' Mahlasi	
Babanango	256	Woman Prevented from Migrating	292
David Kramer		Bakhothutsi	292
Dry Wine	257	Majara Majara	
Tommy Dippenaar	258	Migrant's Song, 1	294
Antjie Krog		Migrant's Song, 2	295
my beautiful land	260	Lucas Malan	
latin-american love song	260	Sentinel	297
for my daughter	261	Rock Art	297
refused march at Kroonstad, Monday 23 Oct 1989	262	Gcina Mhlophe	
a one-dimensional song for the northern free state ...	263	Sometimes when it rains	298
Lullaby for Ntombizana Atoo	264		
For All Voices, For All Victims	268		

Credo Mutwa		Mzwakhe Mbuli	
Praise Song to the Elephant	300	– Kudala/It's Too Long	325
		– I am no longer the same now	325
Ari Sitas		Alfred Temba Qabula	
Our Little Tropical Scars	302	– Migrant's Lament: A Song	327
The 1970s Years	304	Political Songs	329
		PART FOUR	
Wilma Stockenström		Endings, Beginnings	
The Rock	306	1990 –	331
Old Building	307		
The Eland	308	Tatamkhulu Afrika	
Nagapie (Bushbaby)	308	Sudden Yellow Sign	333
The Skull Laughs though the Face		Ummi	334
Cries	309	The Accident	336
Installation of Writing	310	Midnight Owl	338
		Shaman	339
Peter Strauss		P.R. Anderson	
Children Imitating Owls	311	Churchhaven	341
The Owl and the Moon: Night		Map Reading	342
outside Durban	312	Oysters	343
		Robert Berold	
Thami Vilakazi		the return	344
Maskanda's Song of the City	314	angel	345
		Lynn Bryer	
States of Emergency, 1985-1990		Our One	346
Clinton du Plessis		Mother	347
– animal farm	316	Balancing on Air	348
Marius Titus		Chickenman (Johan Fanozi Mkhize)	
– Seblief/Please	317	6 Signs of the Times	350
– Van Riebeeck	318		
André Letoit		Lisa Combrinck	
– Tipp-ex Sonate	319	Missing You	351
Keith Gottschalk		The Journey	351
– After	320		
– Pratt & Whitney's JT8 D15 Jet		Lueen Conning Ndlovu	
Engine	320	Wrapped Up	353
Nise Malange		Confirmation in Crimson	354
– I, the Unemployed	321	Woman Being	354
– This Poem is Dedicated to Brother			
Andries Raditsela	322		
dikobe wa mogale			
– a conversation with my son	324		
– robben island	324		

Jeremy Cronin		Dorian Haarhoff	
My grandma had been getting old, of course	356	Namib Artist	388
Motho ke Motho ka Batho Babang	357	Aids Trail	388
Walking on Air	358	Sun's Eclipse	389
A Love Poem	365	Death Drum	390
Kwikkie	365	Joan Hambidge	
Ingrid de Kok		State of Emergency	392
Al Wat Kind Is	367	The Man whose Pharynx was Bad	392
What Everyone Should Know about Grief	368	Malaise	393
The Talking Cure	369	Modern Love	394
Johann de Lange		Buzz Aldrin was the Second Man on the Moon	394
Koos Prinsloo (1957-1994)	370	God is (Like) the Internet	395
Labyrinth	372	Kiba Songs	396
Initiation	372	Syd Kitchen and Amakool	
Sandile Dikeni		Amakoologik	397
Guava Juice	374	Mzi Mahola	
In Love with a Critic	375	A Hen Crowed	399
See my Heart	375	The Question	400
Simple!!!!!! Visions	376	Being Human	401
Francis Faller		Chris Mann	
My Son Buries a Bird	379	Two Words of Wisdom	402
Nightguard	379	Overseas Visitor	403
Mozart on Walkman by the Motorway	380	Bedtime Story	404
Poetry: Poverty	380	Piet Velile Jek	405
Gus Ferguson		Seymour	407
Cosmick Carp	382	Testimony	409
Only One Life He Croaked	383	John Mateer	
Classified	383	My Mother's Memory	411
Otis Finck		The Elephant Graveyard	412
Robbers Them Cops	384	An African City	414
Pavement Mothers	384	A Love-letter	415
Michael Cawood Green		Joan Metelerkamp	
The Big Picture	386	Birth Poem	416
Ethics	387	Heron Poems	418
		For Franek	419

Zolani Mkiva		Lesego Rampolokeng	
Son of the Soil	424	Letter	454
		For the Oral	455
Isabella Motadinyane		The Word or the Head	456
Nonhlanhla	425		
One leg in	426	Heather Robertson	
		Under the Sun	457
Seithamo Motsapi		Mr Mandela	457
shak-shak	427	Black Things	458
enia	428	Gone are those spicy words ...	458
missa Joe	429		
samaki	429	Arja Salafranca	
djeni	430	The Road Back from Zeerust	460
		Bonfire on a Winter Night	461
Ike Mboneni Muila		Baby Oil on the Diary	462
After the Myth	433		
		Adam Schwartzman	
Sally-Ann Murray		Westpark	464
Dad	434	Liberal	464
Apolitical Cafe	435	Three African Animals	465
Pregnancy	436	In some places the earth is flat ...	465
Beyond the Beach	437		
		Bongani Sithole	
Mxolisi Nyezwa		Praises of Nelson Rolihlahla	
conversations	439	Mandela	467
i believe	440		
stray child	440	Kelwyn Sole	
happiness	441	Whales	469
love poem	441	Invention of Tradition	469
		Barney	471
Kgafela oa Magogodi		In Praise of a Nobody	472
ndofaya	442		
love's greenery	444	Loit Sôls	
shela	445	Ai, dai TV-mense	474
		Hié is wit ma' nog altyd baas man	475
Karen Press			
Glimpses of Women in Overalls	446	Gert Vlok Nel	
Original Dark	447	Last Memories of Magdalene	477
Guess Who	447		
Seaworthy	448	Stephen Watson	
		North-West Cape, 1985	479
Prophets of da City		Stone Clouds	479
Understand where I'm Coming from	450	The Other City	480
Kickin' Non-stop	451		

Dan Wylie		South Africa, 2000 (3)	487
Termites	483	South Africa, 2000 (4)	487
Tuesday	483		
		Notes on the Poems	489
Found Voices			
San/Bushman Lament	485	Acknowledgements	505
Praises of the Infamous Mthethwa ...	485		
South Africa, 2000 (1)	485	Index of Poems	507
South Africa, 2000 (2)	485		
Praises to Rhawatiti's Ntwana Nje ...	486	Index of Poets	512