

# ELEMOTHO

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## BAND MEMBERS CV's



*“The Rhythms of the Kalahari, melodies of meditation,  
The freedom of jazz, the winds of Siberia and African beats.....  
All combined with messages for a new age....”*

## ELEMOTHO`S BAND MEMBERS

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### *Elemotho Gaalelekwe Richardo Mosimane.* Vocalist and Guitarist

For someone who would rather have been a priest, farmer or lawyer, Elemotho Gaalelekwe is one young man whose life is still a dream in the making. Because according to him life has changed a lot since he started showing interest in music in 1997, as a second year student at UNAM. The idea was to study something that would provide a living later in life, and as he was one of the lucky ones to reach tertiary education, music should have been something to avoid, but fate had a stronger hand, and music had a more convincing aura. Not being able to resist, Elemotho started hanging around with the campus musicians, a group then known as the “*The Legends*”, later to be called “UNAM Band” and finally “*Tcoqma*”. While studying African philosophy and psychology at university, this artist from the Kalahari moved from doing cover versions in the period of a year to lead vocals and performing his own songs. He has performed extensively both in the capital city of Namibia (Windhoek) and around the country. In 1999 won two Music Makers prizes with his former band “*Tcoqma*”. After the band members moved on into different ways he decided to focus on his own musical career. With support of the Franco Namibian Cultural Center (FNCC), Elemotho recorded his solo album “*The system is a joke*”. A mixture between social commentary, a celebration of local Namibian and African reality and a certain degree of spirituality. As Elemotho also comes from a both a theatrical and visual art background, the artist has taken time to also perform solo, both locally and internationally, as well as exploring music using the influences of these other artistic disciplines. It is in this regard that the artist has also written sound tracks for both theater and film, of which some of his credits include “*Mogomotsimang*” musical theatre piece performed in Hannover, Germany for the Expo 2000. He also composed, music for local films such as *Big mouth*, *Open minds* and the popular Namibia series, *Savannah Stories*. Other than that, the artist also plays with a seven piece band of which there is a bass and electric guitars, Mbira (African thumb piano), flute, drum kit and African percussions and backing vocalist for harmonies, although sometimes other instruments are also used. Elemotho’s most memorable moment came at the end of 2006 when he was invited to participate in the IV th African Movie Festival in Tarifa, Spain, which lead to a one



month Spanish Tour where he played in international festivals such as TERRITORIOS, Sevilla and FESTIZAJE, Jaen.

**Jackson “Mbwayakalola” Wahengo. Lead Guitarist.**



This excellent multitalented guitarist started in 1995, playing a self-made traditional guitar, influenced by traditional music. When his brother came from Cuba he listen to him playing cover radio reggae popular songs (Bob Marley, Alfa Blondie)...He decided to play like him, and started to learn the instrument. In 1998, he went to live to the capital, Windhoek, and started to join his brothers band “The Mighty Dreads” and at the same time got

registered at the College of the Arts (Namibian Conservatoire) for 4 years and jazz sounds started to come across. He then decided to go to South Africa to join the University of Cape Town, in order to increase his music knowledge. Jazz guitar was the main subject of his studies. After 3 years he got his diploma in music performa, specialized in Jazz. He came back to Namibia and continued learning how to play guitar with out being defined with a specific style. This musician has played with many different band styles, from Reggae, Jazz to African Music. He joined Elemotho during the recording of his album, *The System is a Joke* in 2003 and since then they have been playing in many different events. Is during 2006 that he came to form a fixed member of Elemotho’s band and played in international festivals such as Awesome Africa Music Festival in South Africa, Durban.

**Ermelinda Thataone, Backing Vocalist and Shakers.** Started to sing when she was 9 years old, joining a traditional group “ *The Sunshine Kids*” from the East of Namibia. Traditional Setswana songs were interpreted. With this group they went touring internationally to Europe (Norway, Germany) and South Africa causing an incredible success there where they preformed. In 1997 she left to Norway where she exchanged cultures and enriched her singing qualities with northern european traditions. On her return to Namibia, she started to take singing classes at the Namibian Music Conservatoire, willing to improve her singing skills. Is then when she began to play with Elemotho, as the band backing vocalist. She also sang for the recording of “*the system is a joke*” album. They have been playing



together since 2002. She did not only join him but also formed part of SIDADI , an experimental project that linked the San rhythms to contemporary sounds....This artist voice, coming from the Kalahari, replicates the calm of its landscape, the sounds of its birds and the colours of its sand....providing you with a unique Southern African voice. She not only joined Elemotho in the Spanish Tour, but also in his performances in Viena, Austria and Durban, South Africa.



**Polina Loubnina, flute.** This Siberian flutist brings northern magic melodies to Elemotho's sound. She has been joining Elemotho since the beginning of this artist in 1998. Coming from a family of artists, she started music classes when she was 8 years old. When she turned 15 years she joined the *Novosibirsk* Music College to study flute professionally. She learnt the instrument, its theory and history as well as studied harmonies, arrangements and compositions. After successfully completed her studies, she

participated in the *Poteshiy* show theatre in Saint Petersburg as a music director and performer. In 1996 she came to Namibia, getting very active in the music scene and helping to develop Namibian music, by joining a highly number of productions and Namibian plays such as "*The course of the black Fish*". In 2000 she joined the College of the Arts as a teacher. Since 1998 this excellent flutist joined "*Tcoqma*" together with Elemotho. Since then they have been actively performing together, recording her beautiful Siberian sounds in "*The system is a Joke*", giving a contemporary touch to the traditional African rythms. Polina still continues playing with Elemotho.

### **Salex Haraseb, Drum Kit**

Salex Haraseb is not only a versatile but energetic stage performer when it comes to what he can do on the drumkit. This young man who is from the western coastal of Swakopmund, Namibia, is a church-gospel musically influenced but has come a long way since then. In 1995, he started playing the drumkit as opposed to just experimenting on home-made drums. He on drumkit, Erwin Amakhoe Haraseb, his blood cousin on bass guitar and a keyboardist, Steven formed a band called M.O.J. that started playing around the coast and later went to play in the capital, Windhoek. Messengers of Jah, as Salex's band was called were a hard working group that backed many solo artists. In 1999 participated in the Namibian Music Awards and were quite a force to be reckoned



with. It was time to move on, and that's when Salex went to the capital for further studies at the College of the Arts to learn more about drumkit where after 3 year achieved grade sixth in music. He has backed many popular Namibian musicians and solo artist and jammed with the likes of Vivid Afrika (South African band). Salex was one of the six musicians who joined Elemotho in his Spanish Tour. He is currently teaching at Katutura Arts Centre in Windhoek, where he is hoping to broaden his musical horizon. As the man himself said: *I am an all round player, eager to learn at any time.*

### **Erwin Amakhoe Gaweseb, Bass Guitar.**

This bass player who also hails from Swakopmund is not only the blood cousin of the drummer, Salex Haraseb, but he also is a gifted and dedicated musician in his own right.



He started singing in 1994 and then moved on to the acoustic guitar, which he still holds dear until today. The bass guitar however is what caught his attention on 1997, above all instruments. He rates Richard Bona, Cameroonian bass guitarist and composer as one of his musical hero. Amakhoe also played in MOJ's as a bass guitarist where he played with many musicians. He later went to study Bass and Music Theory at the College of the Arts for three years. He played extensively around the capital, Windhoek where he had moved from his home town to further pursue his dream. This dream became even more of a reality when he went to Cape Town, South Africa to study Jazz Performance and major in Bass at the University of Cape Town. Erwin has played with many artist and thus improving and broadening his bass repertoire. He does not believe in playing one music style. This musician went on a one month tour to Spain with Elemotho where they participated in well

known international festivals such as Territorios in Sevilla. The future looks bright for this talented bassist.