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## **Professor Plaatjies to reflect on his journey at upcoming inaugural lecture**

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Professor Dizu Zungula Mzikantu Plaatjies has been instrumental in the revival of the appreciation of the bow through his teachings at UCT and other institutions. As both a skilled bow maker and a talented player, his innovative musical style has created fascinating new instruments. On Wednesday, 28 August 2024, Professor Plaatjies will share his journey during his inaugural lecture titled "My Journey."

Despite growing up in "urban times", he credits his rural Mpondo mothers and aunts with teaching him the skill of the bow. He has travelled far from these early, influential encounters, but their artistic and intellectual influence on him has not diminished. His career as a performer, instrument maker, educator, and mentor has given him sustenance and solace.

"Although I grew up in 'urban times', my journey into the art of the bow started at the knee of my rural Mpondo mothers and aunts. This journey has taken me far away from these early formative interactions. However, the impact of their artistry and wisdom has provided sustenance and solace throughout my career as a performer and educator. Perhaps now is the time for me to reflect on aspects of the past and to contemplate what the future holds," said Professor Plaatjies.

Professor Plaatjies heads African Music Performance at the [South African College of Music \(SACM\)](#) at UCT. He is one of the top traditional musicians and cultural historians of African music in South Africa. In the 1980s and 1990s, he recorded and toured both locally and internationally with South Africa's internationally acclaimed traditional group, *Amampondo*. He is also the creator and leader of the music group *Ibuyambo*.

Plaatjies was raised in *Lusikisiki*, a rural area of *Mpondoland* in the Eastern Cape, where he was exposed to Mpondo culture and customs. His father was a traditional healer. Numerous locally and internationally teaching and performance have resulted from his abilities to revitalise, rebuild, and disseminate antiquated cultural traditions and curriculum. The year 2024 marks Plaatjies 32nd year of service at UCT and the year of his retirement from the university.

As a tribute to his time at UCT, Professor Plaatjies will deliver an inaugural lecture as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Time: 17:30

Venue: Baxter Concert Hall

- [Please RSVP to attend the lecture in-person or online.](#)

***ENDS***

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