Born Coloured : not ‘Born-free’

Culminating Experience project

By

Benjamin Jephta

My experience as a so-called ‘Coloured’ in post-Apartheid, democratic South Africa. My attempt to unite South Africa and inspire greater self-worth within Coloured communities

Born Coloured : not ‘Born-free’

- Dissecting my so- called ‘Coloured’ experience in post-Apartheid, democratic South Africa

- Create music centred around themes important to the Coloured Experience.
  - Transformation
  - The Coloured Identity
  - The Black and Coloured Relationship
  - The Coloured Mentality

- I aim to bring awareness, inspire and create a sense of hope and unity within the South African expierence

Compositional approach

Terence Blanchard “on the Verge’

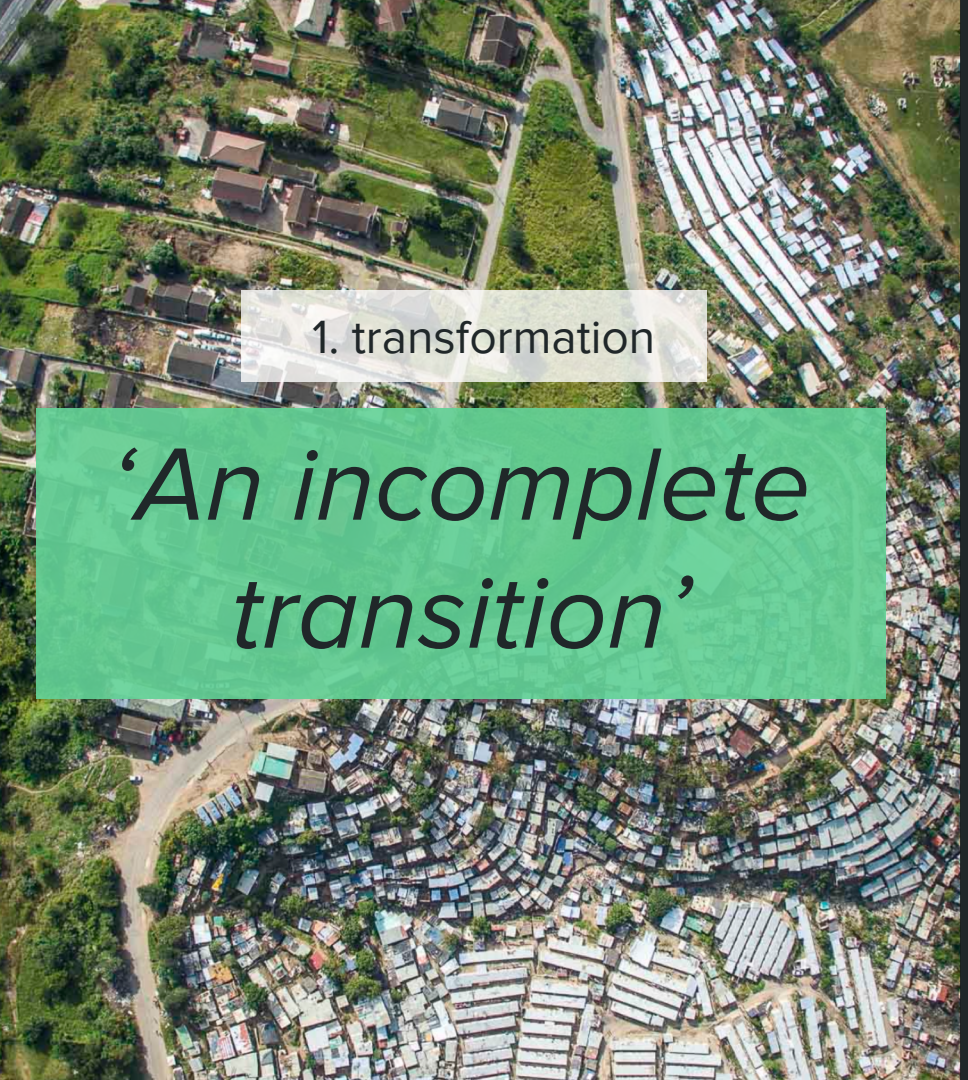
Christian Scott “emancipation procrastination”

Zim Ngqawana “Qula Kwedini”

Abdullah Ibrahim “the wedding”

Derrick Hodge, Moses Molelekwa, Afrika Mkhize, Keith Jarrett, Tribe, Mark Fransman, TkZee Kaytranada and many more…

- **Jazz**
- **Ghoema/Cape Jazz**
- **Marabi music**
- **Kwaito, Gqom**
- **Hip Hop, Electronic music**
- **Afro Brazilian music**



1. transformation

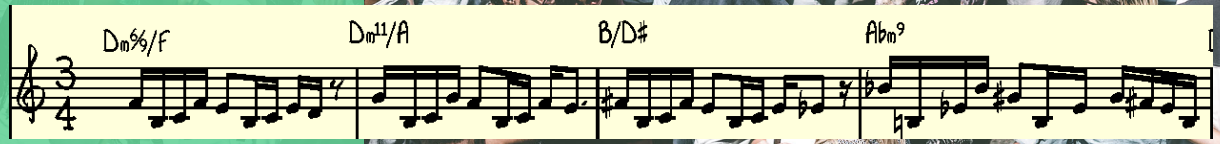
‘An incomplete transition’

"South Africa was rated the most economically unequal country in world. Researchers found that racial inequality is one of the most prominent factors behind this."

(World Bank Group, 2018))

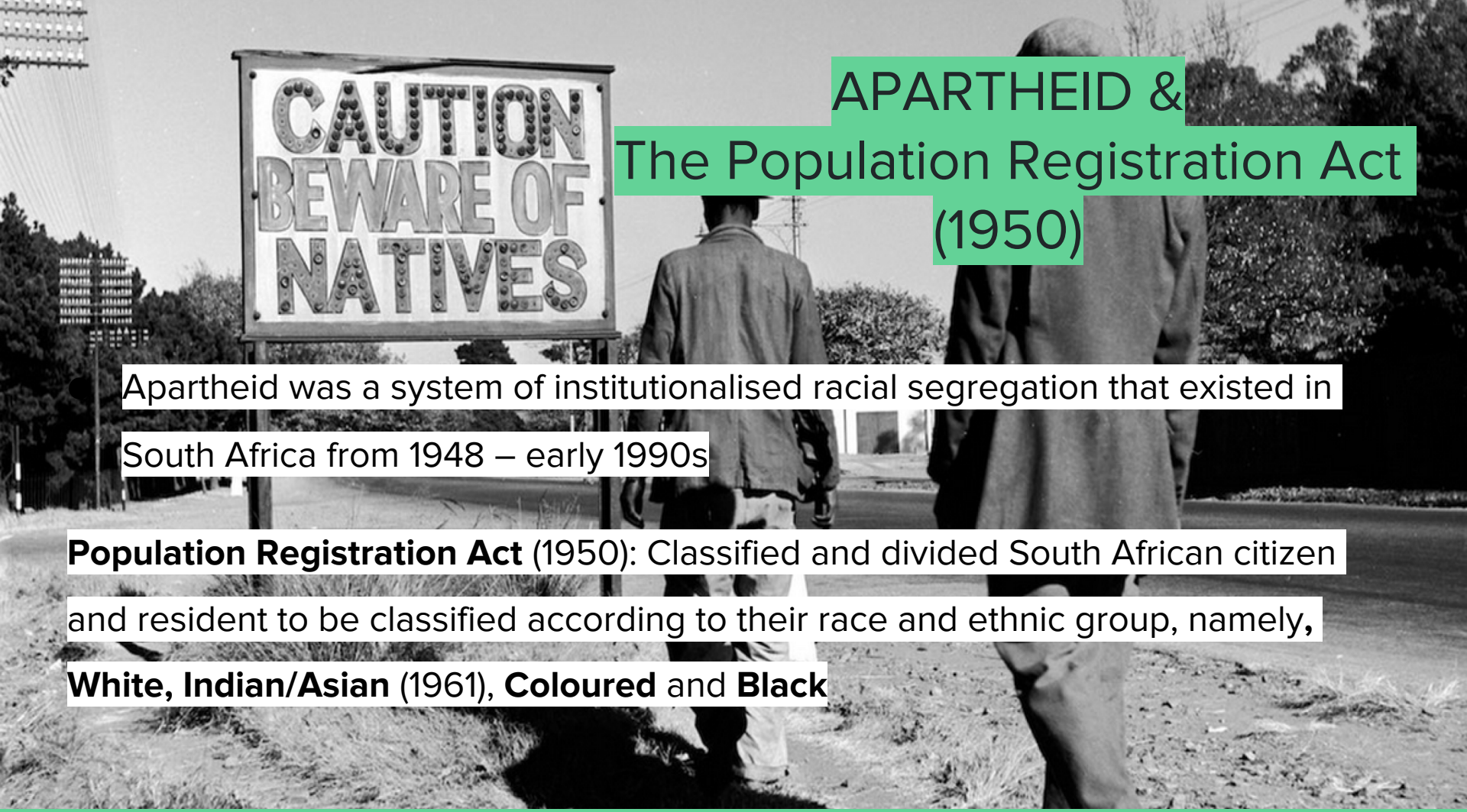
1. ‘An Incomplete Transition’

“Racialism is a deep decease in our social political fabric; and for the next generations, the responsibility of our leaders in this generation is to clear the ground in order for a healthy humanity to take place. To redesign, reconfigure our social space in order for that equality and also human self-respect to begin to grow again”



- Dr Leonard Martin,

SABC Newsroom (2016, September 13) “*Coloured debate*” [video file] retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSEc2-fEFKE&t=820s



APARTHEID & The Population Registration Act (1950)

Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racial segregation that existed in South Africa from 1948 – early 1990s

Population Registration Act (1950): Classified and divided South African citizen and resident to be classified according to their race and ethnic group, namely**,** **White, Indian/Asian** (1961), **Coloured** and **Black**

Black

79% of population

Descendants of **Nguni people.**

They are: **Xhosa, Zulu, Shangaan**, **Ndebele** and **Swati** people.

Coloured

9% of population

Coloureds are a multiethnic group native to Southern Africa

Their ancestry include **Khoisan**, **Bantu**, **European** and **East Asian** or **South Asian**.

Population registration act

(x) "native" means a person who in fact is or is generally accepted as a member of any aboriginal race or tribe of Africa; (vii)

section *eleven*; (x)

(iii) "coloured person" means a person who is not a white person or a native; (iv)

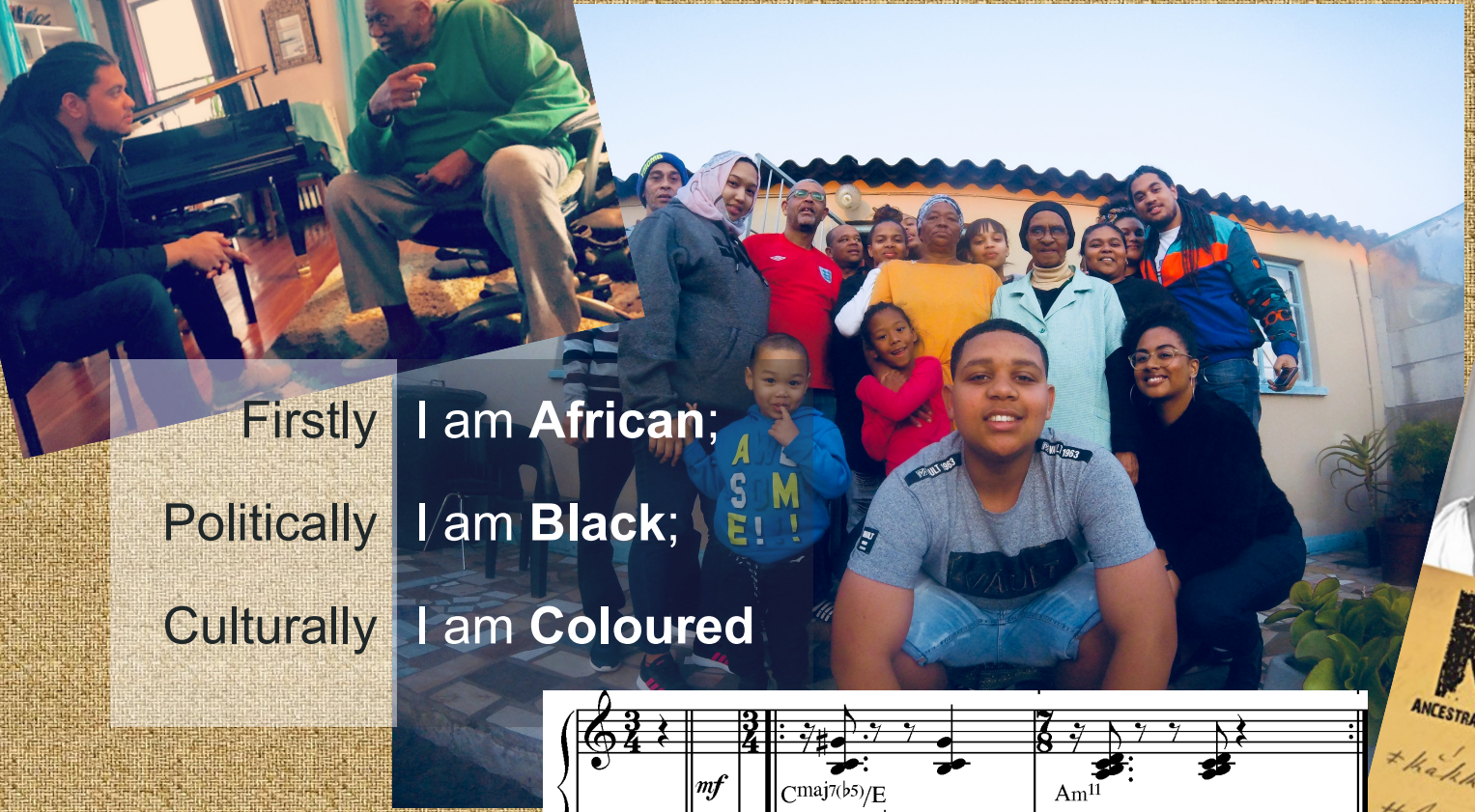
2. Coloured Identity

‘The Ben-Dhlamini Stomp’

Reclaiming my **African** Identity.

#GautengShutdown protest by First Nation Movement

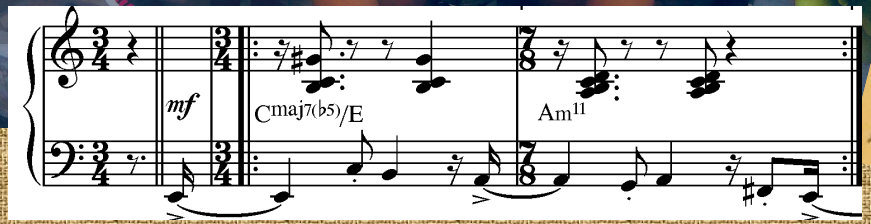
‘the Ben-Dhlamini stomp’

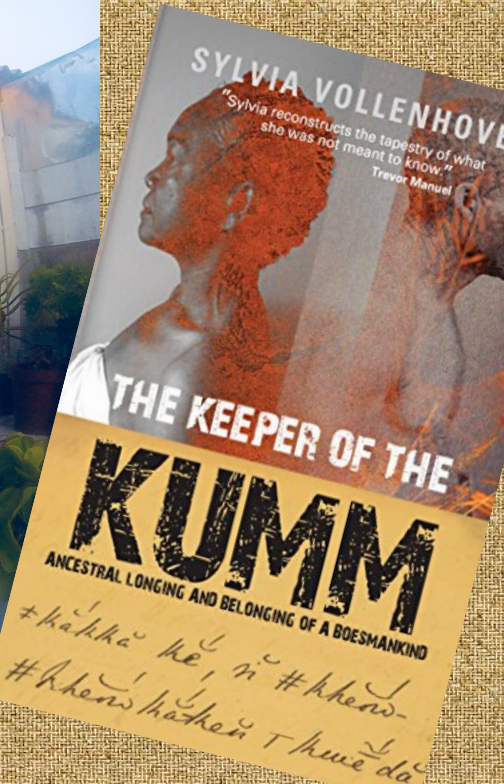


Firstly I am **African**;

Politically I am **Black**;

Culturally I am **Coloured**





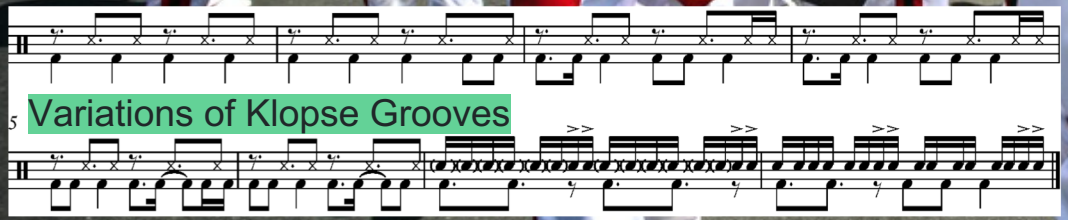
3. Black and Coloured relations in South Africa

‘Kwaito Klopse’

“… relations between the two groups are frequently based on a perceived lack of similarity and a heightened awareness of difference. “

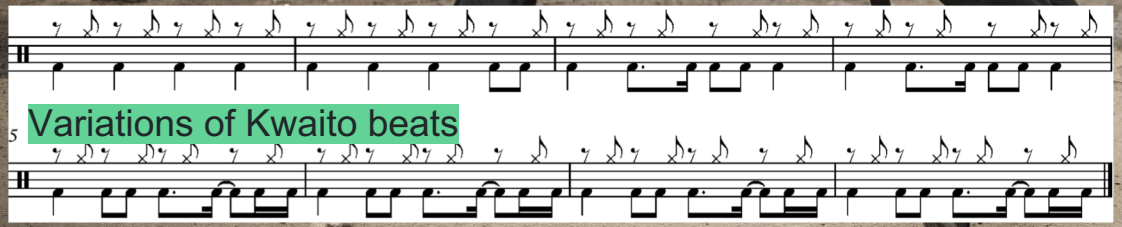
(Brown, 2000)

Klopse is a minstrel tradition born out of the Abolishment of the Cape Slave trade in 1834.



Variations of Klopse Grooves

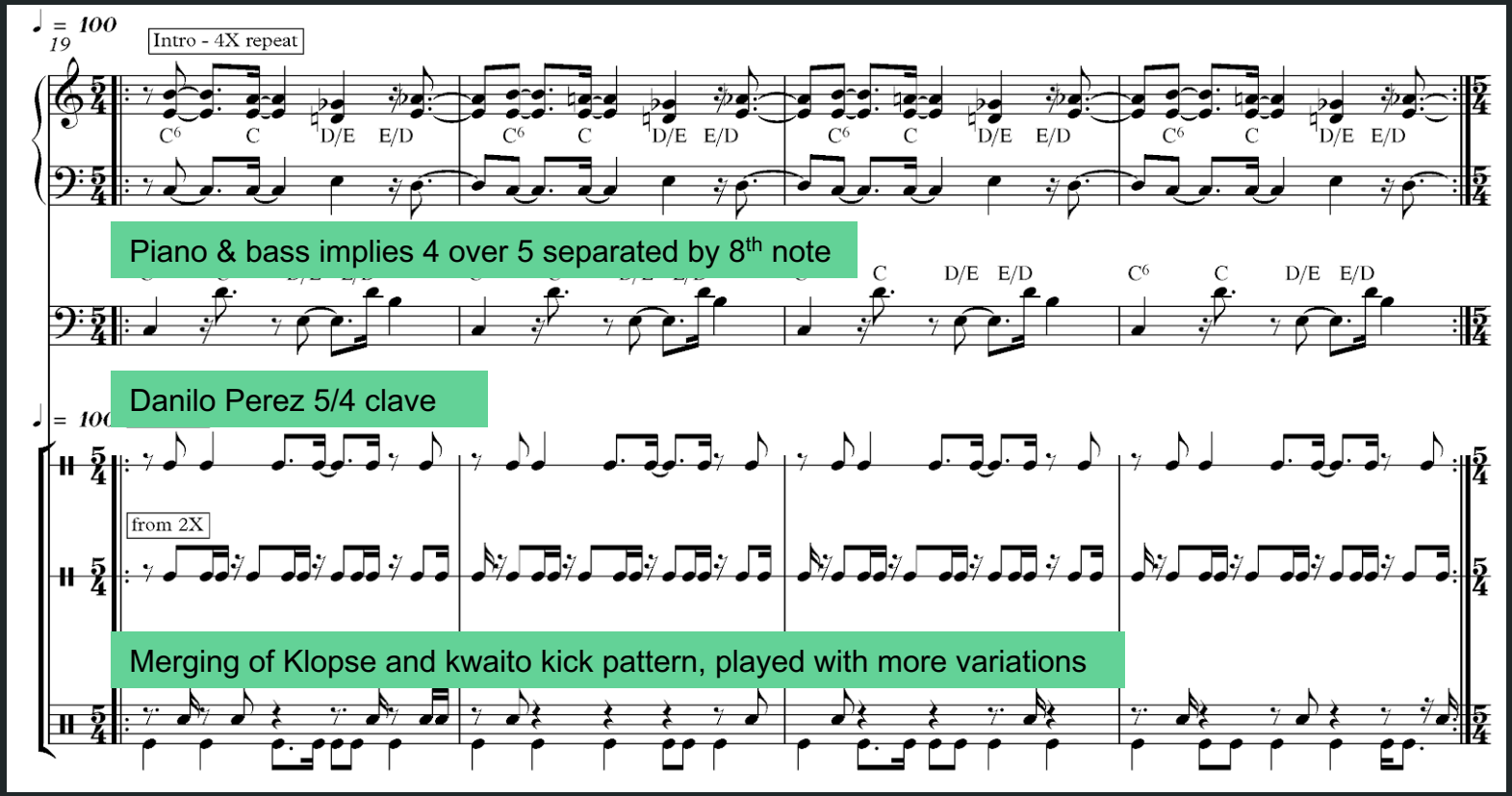
Kwaito music is a variant of house music featuring the use of African styles like **marabi**, **kwela**, **mbaqanga/maskandi** with electronic samples.



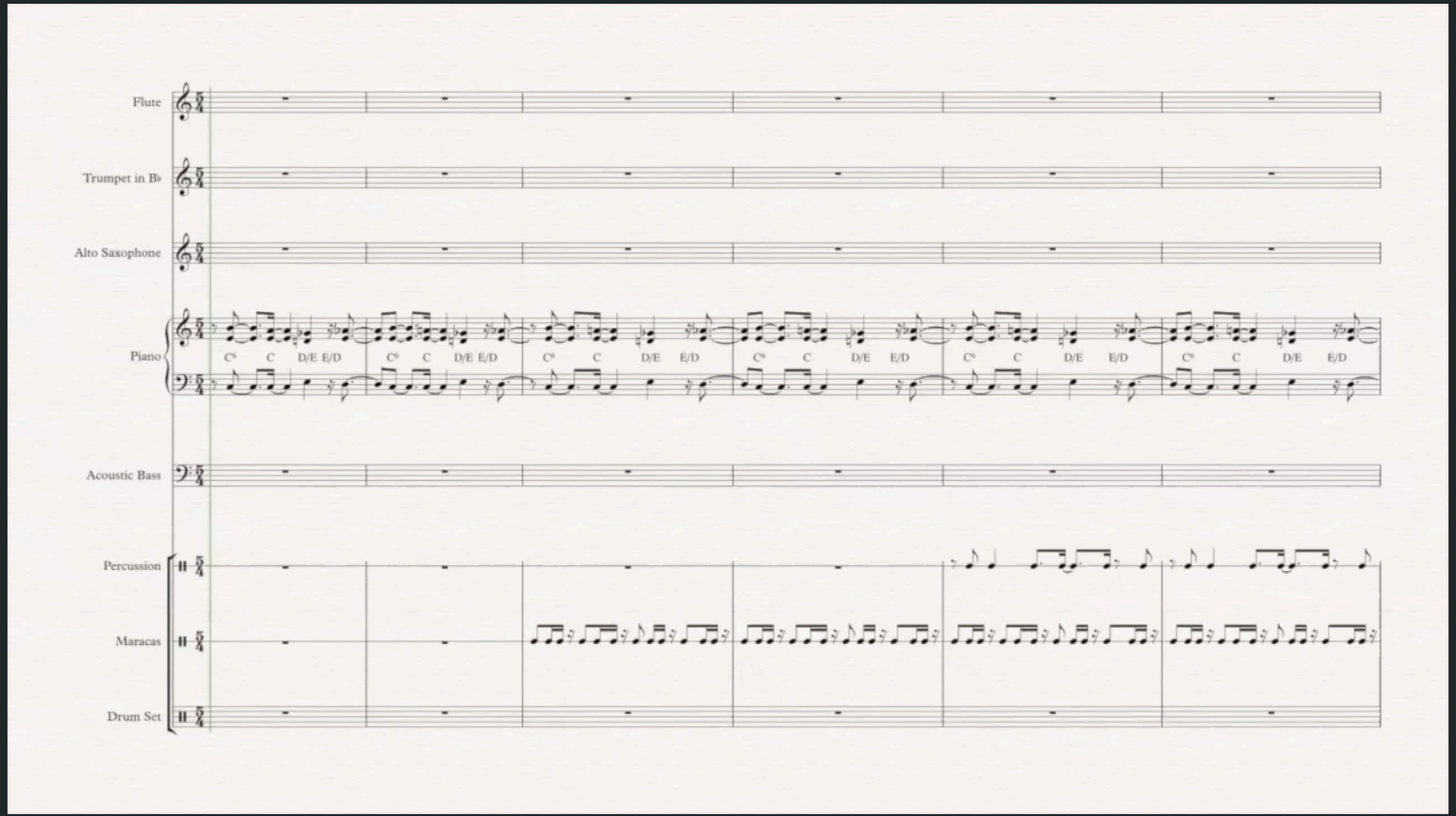
Variations of Kwaito beats

Pantsula dancing culture is a derivative of this music style

Kwaito Klopse groove



“Kwaito Klopse” feat. Sakhile Moleshe [video]

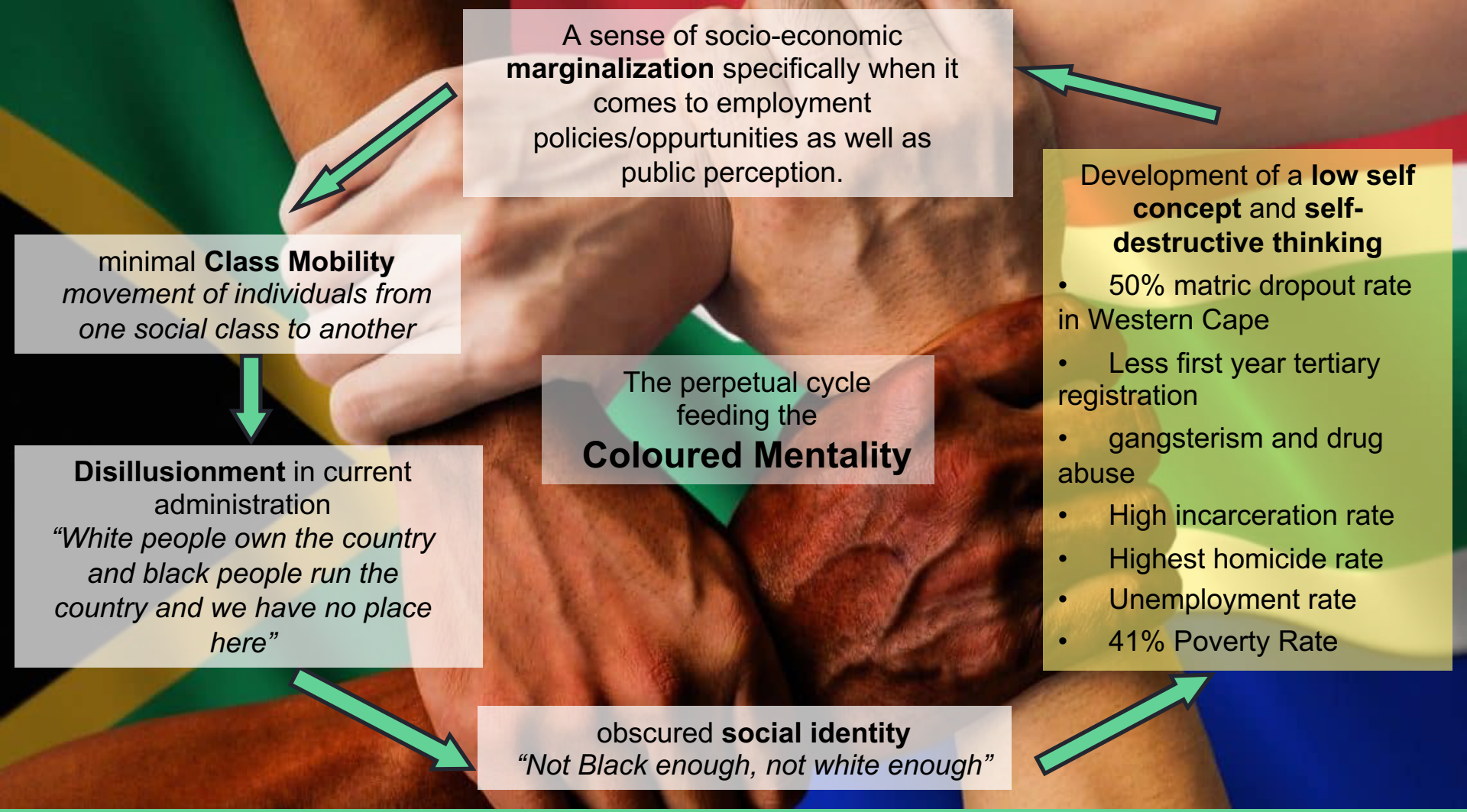


What is the Coloured mentality?

Investigating:

The South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB) (2015 – 2017)

And race based statistics around **Poverty**, **unemployment**, **Education**, **housing** and **Crime**



A sense of socio-economic **marginalization** specifically when it comes to employment policies/oppurtunities as well as public perception.

minimal **Class Mobility**
movement of individuals from one social class to another

Disillusionment in current administration
"White people own the country and black people run the country and we have no place here"

The perpetual cycle feeding the
Coloured Mentality

Development of a **low self concept** and **self-destructive thinking**

- 50% matric dropout rate in Western Cape
- Less first year tertiary registration
- gangsterism and drug abuse
- High incarceration rate
- Highest homicide rate
- Unemployment rate
- 41% Poverty Rate

obscured **social identity**
"Not Black enough, not white enough"

4. The Coloured mentality

Born Coloured: not 'Born-free'

3-part suite

This reflects my **hope** for the self empowerment of Coloured people by breaking free from an Apartheid mentality that was meant diminish their self worth.

Part 1: **Acceptance**

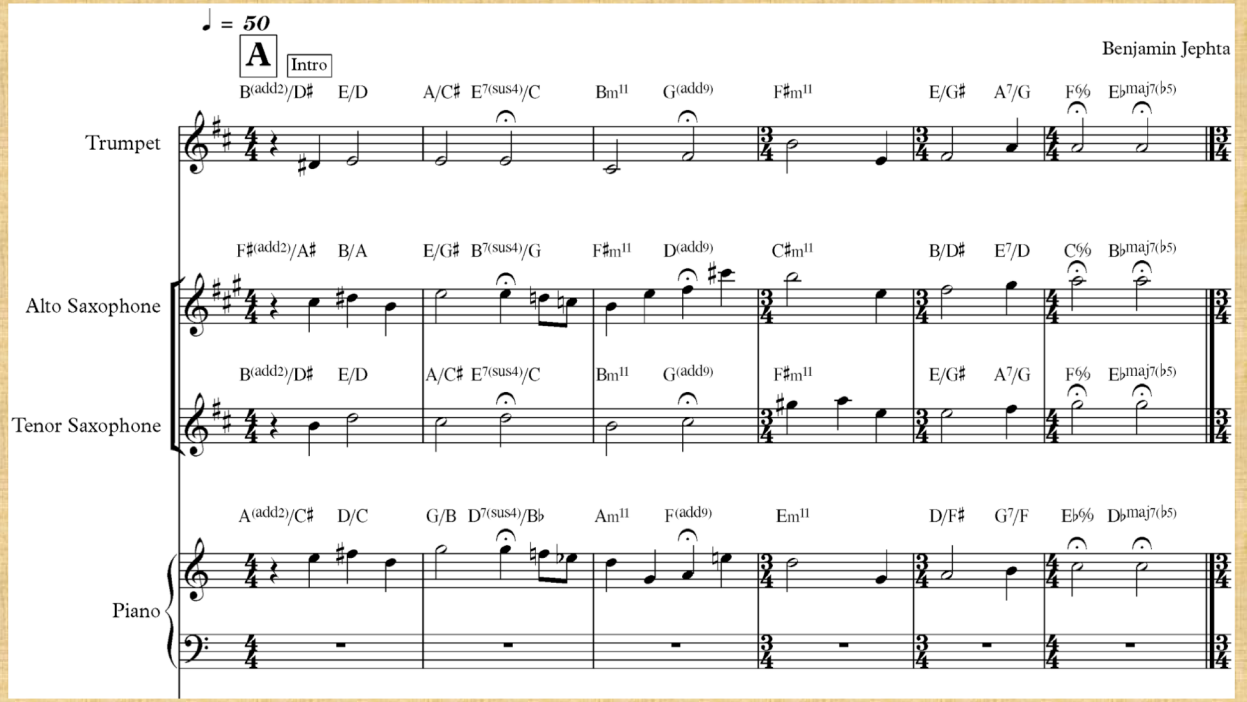
Part 2: **Metamorphosis**

Part 3: **Resurgence**

1. Acceptance

Acceptance of who we are and what we came from. This starts with a dialogue

I portray this by creating a unified statement upfront to set the tone for what is still to come

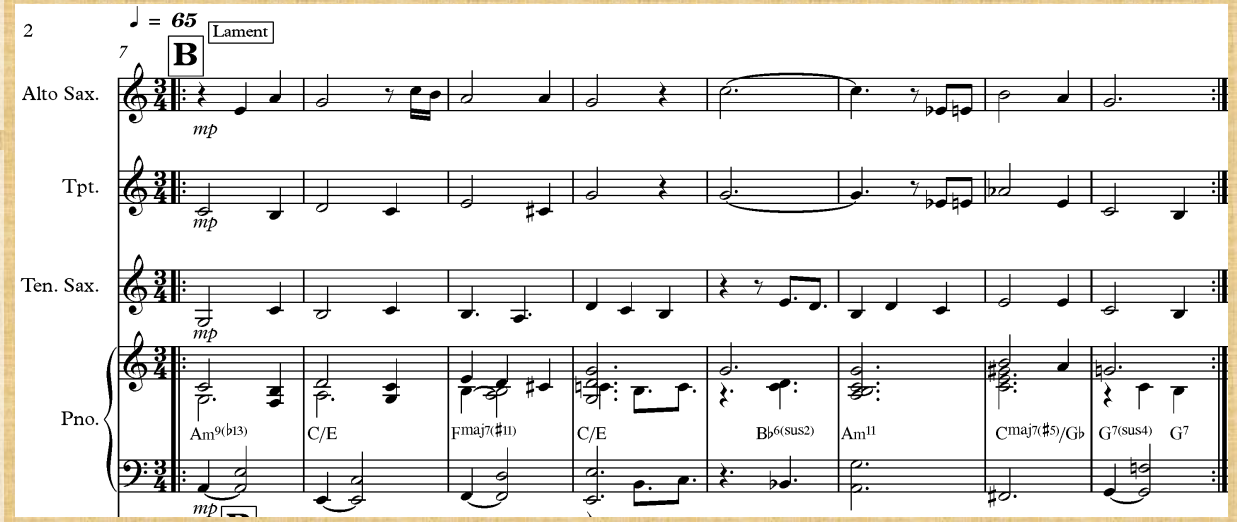


2. Metamorphosis

The process of ridding the apartheid mentality to give rise to a better sense of self.

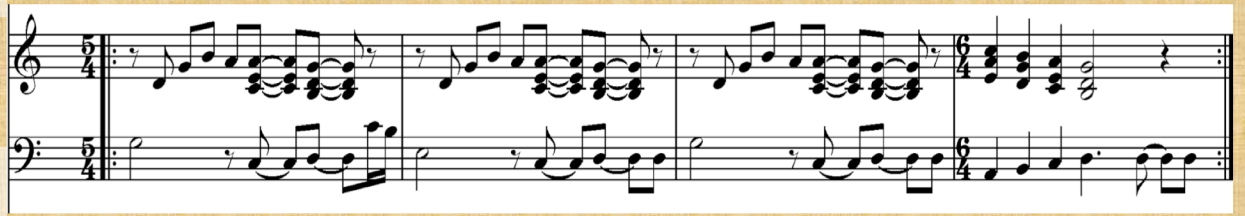
The lament features a cyclic melody that grows with intensity as an underscore to a bass solo.

I drew from the South African choral tradition: 3 voices enter independently to create one unified sound



3. Resurgence

Reconfiguring the way people see themselves to negate the terms we were defined by.



piano ostinato with a hopeful undertone that expands harmonically, but the melody remains constant

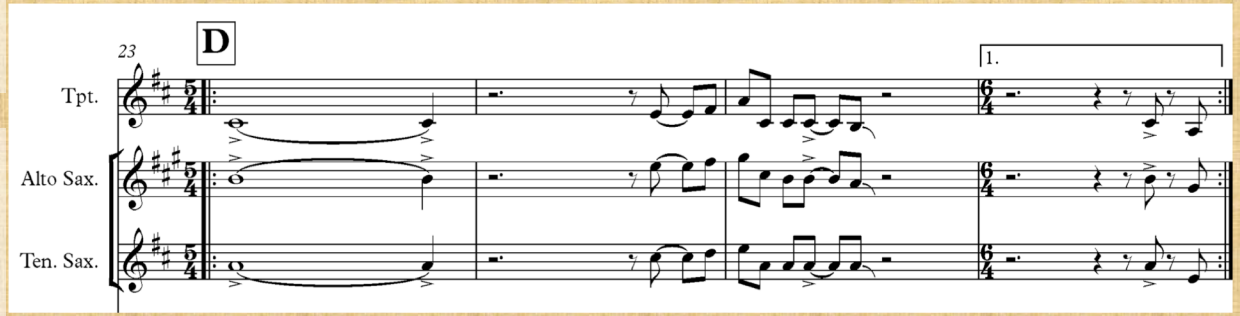
3. Resurgence

Reconfiguring the way people see themselves to negate the terms we were defined by.

The melody is simple and moves parallel between the three horns with the lead in the alto.

The horns play rhythmically loose and make use of vibrato and glissandos to give it a vocal-like quality.

A Section



Final thoughts

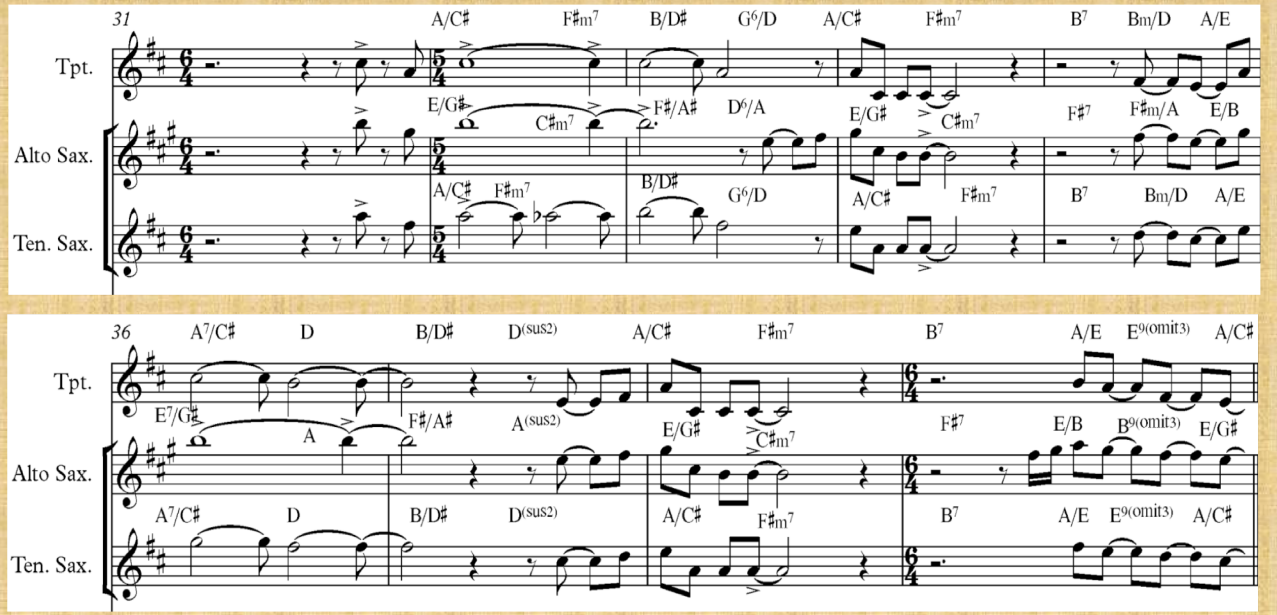
I do believe that the racial inequality in South Africa is **not** specifically a coloured issue, but we cannot deny peoples lived experience. What makes this issue important to me, is that here we have people that has been denied their **history** and their **place** in South Africa. They are **trapped** in terms of class and social mobility and as a minority community, they are often **overlooked**.

Final thoughts

Going forward, Coloured people will have to **reimagine** an identity that is not just stereotypical, but allows for different **possibilities**. What's important for us as Black and Coloured South Africans is to understand these multiplicity of identities through **dialogue**, so that we become aware of all the different parts that make up our **being** and **culture**.

3. Resurgence

B Section



Personnel

Double/electric bass	**Benjamin Jephta**
Drums/drumpad	**Tyson Jackson**
Percussion	**Tareq Rantisi**
piano/keys	**Noe Zagroun**
trumpet/flugel	**Alonzo Demetrius**
Alto sax	**Nerya Zidon**
Flute/Tenor sax	**Stephen Byth**
Engineer	**Liz Teutsch**

Future plans

Continuing to develop my musical identity through this research

Album release Spring 2020

Present a longer/detailed version in schools and conferences

Move to NYC for my OPT year

Long term

Develop a music program in Cape Town with a that is based on the ‘Global Jazz Institute’ model: Instilling a sense of **Social justice** within musicians.

Thanks

My Parents, Danielle, Amy, Sanjin and Family

Recording personnel

Tyson Jackson..... drums
Noe Zagroun.....piano
Tareq Rantisi.....percussion
Nerya Zidon.....alto sax/consulting engineer
Alonzo Demetrius.....trumpet/flugel horn
Stephen Byth.....Tenor sax/ flute
Liz Teutsh.....Engineer
Assistant engineers.....Alonzo, Alexis & Yifei

The BGJI Family

All the students
Fellows and Faculty
Artistic Director: Danilo Perez
Managing Director: Marco Pignataro
Advisor: Bruno Raberg
Committee Member: Terri-lyne Carrington
Visiting Artists: Terri, John Patitucci, Ben Street, Joe Lovano, George Garzone, Adam Cruz
Private instruction: John Lockwood, Susan Hagen

Funders

The Oppenhiemer Foundation, SAMRO Overseas Scholarship, Richard Cock Foundation

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Video

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SABC Newsroom (2016, September 13) “*Coloured debate*” [video file] retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSEc2-fEFKE&t=820s

Pansula dancers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vWdZI6-2-w

Capetown celebrates Minstrels Carnival: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmVdndziiKk