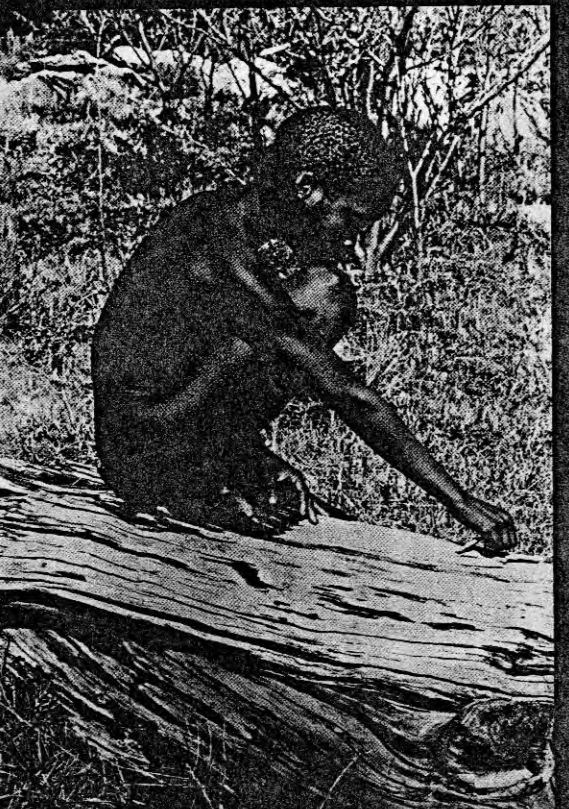


# BLUE NOTES FOR MONGEZI



He sounded as a flame dances

The beauty of the forms in joyful movement

Expressing clearly the clear light within.

When we met him we each of us knew we had found a brother

So together we went to the home of his parents

As he came with us to our parents' homes

To make our farewells

So that together we might go into the world

And do the things we knew we must do.

We were his companions on many long journeys

With joy we watched his graceful flame unfurl—

A light to guide us.

In the full flowering of his genius he suddenly left us

On the fourteenth of December nineteen seventy five

His joyful dance stilled

His light returned to its source.

So we gathered to meditate in music

The passing of this our brother in music

Mongezi Feza

As alone he took that longer journey

Home among the great ones.

These extracts from his rites of passage

We dedicate to his memory

May the light which through him shone so clearly

Make all hearts glad.

Chris McGregor

UMongis! Into yayikhalisa ixilongo litshise iindlebe ngathi ngumilo.  
Hayi ke elo xilongo lakhe! Into enelizwi ellityityibayo nje ngedangatya  
libhabetwa ngumoya. Eso sikhalo sakhe sixela nge nkanyiso yakhe.  
Inkanyiso e yabengezela ilizwe lonke.

Savana, saqondana, sazana sonke zisuka noMongis. Ukumamba  
kwethu ekhaya, samkhapha saya kwaFeza. Naye wasikhapha saya  
kokwethu. Sa hamba ke, sawela siza kushumayela eli vangeli.  
Sahamba sityhudisa, sityhobaza, kodwa sizazi apho sibheka khona.  
Sahamba sincedisana, sigcinene kwezo ndlela zohambo lwethu.  
Sinyuka, sisithla sikhambisa eli vangeli lomculo wase Afrika. Inkanyiso  
kaMongis isikhonza, isikhokela.

Hayi amashwa! Kwathi sisathi nanku! nanku! Sambukele ejonge  
phambili. Kwa kuyizolo, ngoDisemba, wasishiya UMongis. Cimi! Eso  
sikhanyiso sakhe sacima. Sashiyeka apho sikhwelwe sijongile.  
Sithe masi khe sikuncedise kwelo hamo lwakho nto kaFeza. Le ya  
namhla nje siyenzela wena ke Mongis.

Ndlela ntle Mongezi, nto kaFeza. Usibulisele kwabadala. Phumla  
Mongezi, ufezile, sivile. Lomculo sisikhumbuzo sakho.  
Nantso ke zinto zakowethu. UMongezi sisigidimi sathu sonke. Sivi

STEREO OGD 001 /002



Blue Notes in Zürich 1964

Mongezi Feza was born in Queenstown, South Africa in 1945. He started playing trumpet when he was eight years old with the help and support of his brother Sandi. At fifteen he became a professional musician. In 1962 Mongezi joined the Blue Notes, a band formed by Chris McGregor with Dudu Pukwana, Louis Moholo, Johnny Dyani and the late Nkomo Moyake. They toured throughout South Africa until leaving in 1964 to play at the Antibes Festival. The band stayed on in Europe playing with local and American musicians before coming to London in 1965. The arrival of Mongezi and the other South African musicians injected an exciting new element into the London jazz scene. Many exhilarating nights were spent at such venues as Ronnie Scott's Old Place in Gerrard Street.

Although Mongezi worked with Chris McGregor in all his groups, including lead trumpet in the Brotherhood of Breath, he played with many other British and European musicians and was an important voice in the development of the new music movement. He also led his own group and wrote the music for several South African theatre productions.

Mongezi was greatly respected for his truly original music. His brief but very creative life ended on 14 December 1975. The joy and warmth of his music will always be remembered.

Hazel Miller

**DUDU PUKWANA** alto sax, whistle, percussion, vocals

**CHRIS MCGREGOR** piano, percussion

**LOUIS MOHOLO** drums, percussion, vocals

**JOHNNY DYANI** bass, bell, vocals and most of the words

Side One (22 min. 35 sec.)

Blue Notes For Mongezi: First Movement

Side Two (19 min. 50 sec.)

Blue Notes For Mongezi: Second Movement

Side Three (19 min. 20 sec.)

Blue Notes For Mongezi: Third Movement

Side Four (23 min. 30 sec.)

Blue Notes For Mongezi: Fourth Movement

This music was recorded on 23 December 1975 in a rehearsal room in London. It is the spontaneous tribute of four musicians who had assembled in London for the Memorial Service for their friend. No discussion took place beforehand and nothing was said during the session, save through the music. As the musicians arrived and set up their instruments they joined in and played without a break for three and a half hours, not even stopping whilst the rolls of tape were changed. It is regrettable that we could not issue discs of the whole session, as the music had a cohesion and spectrum of emotion that was complete. However, the tapes were mixed and edited in Hastings in January and February 1976 by Chris McGregor and myself.

Keith Beal

# BLUE NOTES FOR MONGEZI



Dudu Pukwana

Chris McGregor

Louis Moholo

Johnny Dyani