



# KAPTURE

**Sandy Evans**

**Bobby Singh**

**Brett Hirst**

**Toby Hall**

guest vocalist

**Sarangan Sriranganathan**

## **Biography of Ahmed Kathrada**

### **Courtesy of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation**

Ahmed Mohamed Kathrada is a South African politician and former political prisoner and anti-apartheid activist. In 1964, as part of the Rivonia Trial he and his fellow freedom fighters were sentenced to life imprisonment. He spent 26 years and 3 months in prison, 18 of which were on Robben Island. During his incarceration he obtained four university degrees and wrote many letters revealing a wonderfully imaginative and learned mind. Following his release in 1990, he was elected to serve as a member of parliament, representing the ANC. In 1994 Kathrada was elected to parliament again and served as President Mandela's parliamentary counsellor. He was chairperson of the Robben Island Museum Council until his term expired in 2006. He lives in Johannesburg with his wife Barbara Hogan.

### **Books Published**

1999 Letters from Robben Island

2004 Memoirs

2005 A Free Mind: Ahmed Kathrada's Notebook from Robben Island

### **Liz Lea writes:**

I met Mr K, as he is known, in 2012 when I was commissioned by KZN DanceLink. Mr K's writings provided the perfect meeting ground to work with the beautiful dancers of Flatfoot Dance Company. That initial dance piece, 'A Free Mind', inspired the solo dance work 'Kapture', created in Australia. We developed the score by exploring the rhythms behind Mr K's prison number 46864 and his writings about chameleons, chillis and peaches. An extraordinary man with a gentle soul who continues to inspire, educate and move people around the world. May the music he has inspired move people a little more and may this album make his heart sing as he does ours – as free as a bird.

### **Liz Lea**

Liz Lea Productions

[leadance.com](http://leadance.com)

## Sandy Evans writes:

Exploring intersections between improvisers from jazz and Indian music backgrounds has been a passion in my recent musical work. Bobby, Brett and Toby have been cherished companions on this creative journey. We were fortunate to meet dancer/choreographer Liz Lea when we performed in Canberra in 2011.

My interest in integrating Western, Indian, traditional and contemporary approaches and ideas in music resonated with parallel streams in Liz's dance practice. I was delighted when she asked us to collaborate on a score for her 30 minute solo dance work 'Kapture', an homage to Ahmed Kathrada that premiered in 2012. The music on this CD was developed from the dance score.

'Kapture' is a response to some of the extraordinary stories from Kathrada's writings about his experiences in prison, and his visionary, powerful and profound philosophy and life force. It is also a response to Liz's movement, choreography, and her generous, imaginative and emotive interpretations of Kathrada's experience.

Once I started work on the music for this recording, I kept imagining Sarangan Sriranganathan's soulful voice. The opening track, **Passive Resistance, No Regrets**, is based on the 14 beat Hindustani taal Deepchandi. Sarangan's wordless vocals beautifully evoke the power of enduring passive resistance.

**One Planet** is an up-tempo 7/8 piece celebrating the unity of humanity. Kathrada writes of the importance of memory in sustaining him in his isolation. This **Explosion of Memory** is explored in track 3 where the soprano saxophone improvisation is counterpointed by Toby's evocative and haunting percussion.



Toby Hall



Bobby Singh



Sandy Evans



Brett Hirst



Sarangan Sriranganathan

**The Censors** is a musical response to Kathrada's description of the physical and emotional pain inflicted by the censors. The rhythmic cycles in tracks 4, 5, 6 and 8 explore permutations of Kathrada's prison number.

**Freedom, Priceless Above Rubies:** Kathrada's proclamation that freedom is 'vulnerable, in need of eternal vigilance, and priceless above rubies' inspired tracks 5 and 10. Track 5 features improvisations by Toby, Sarangan and Bobby.

The inspiration for track 6, **Colour in the Cell**, comes from Kathrada's story about decorating his cell with colourful rolls of gift-wrap obtained via his stationery order, thwarting the efforts of prison authorities to take away his dignity.

Brett performed the solo bass improvisation **Deprivation** while watching Liz dance in the studio, conjuring the deep losses that accompany prolonged imprisonment. For Kathrada, the greatest loss was the absence of children, the theme expressed in track 8, **No Children Here**.

**Robben Island** was the island where the prisoners were incarcerated, a cold place in every way.

In track 10, **Lokasvatanrataa**, Kathrada's phrase about freedom that inspired track 5 is sung in Sanskrit by Sarangan to a 12/8 African-inspired groove, drawing together Kathrada's Indian heritage (Gujarati) with his life in South Africa and his friendship with his cell mate Nelson Mandela.

In track 11, **Peace**, a hypnotic 5/8 percussion rhythm intertwines with a bass ostinato built on a rhythmic pattern conceived by South Indian mridangam maestro Guru Karaikkudi Mani.

Kathrada recalls a remark made about two prisoners looking out of their cell windows - one saw bars, the other saw stars. In **Some See Stars**, Bobby beautifully expresses the warmth and positivity of a stargazer with a free mind.

I am deeply grateful to Liz, Bobby, Brett, Sarangan and Toby for their wonderful creativity and dedication.

Thank you, Ahmed Kathrada.

**Sandy Evans**

This CD is dedicated  
to Ahmed Kathrada



Special thanks to Liz Lea, Tim Dunn, Ted Howard, Tony Gorman, Cheryl Orsini, Guru Kaaraikkudi Mani, Aneesh Pradhan, Shubha Mudgal, Shanni and Bill Dalton, Jean Evans, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia, the Australia Council for the Arts, Sydney Improvised Music Association, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, Lynn Maree and Peter Taylor of KZN Dancelink, Liane Loots of Flatfoot Dance Company, Chris Whiteman and Vasudevacharya.

Recorded 29-31 January 2015 and mixed 17-19 February 2015  
at Rancom Street Studios, Botany

Engineer **Ted Howard**

Vocals on Track 10 recorded by

**Sarangan Sriranganathan** at Sarangan's Studio

Mastered by **William Bowden** at King Willy Sound, Launceston

Producer **Sandy Evans**

Executive Producer **Tim Dunn**

Music and Production Consultant **Tony Gorman**

Sanskrit Language Consultant **Chris Whiteman**

Graphic design **Cheryl Orsini**

Band photography **Karen Steains**

Cover photograph of Liz Lea by **Lorna Sim**

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Australian Government



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|----|---|------|
| 1  | Passive Resistance, No Regrets (Evans)  | 6:07 |
| 2  | One Planet (Evans)                      | 3:14 |
| 3  | Explosion of Memory (Evans/Hall)        | 4:40 |
| 4  | The Censors (Evans/Singh)               | 7:18 |
| 5  | Freedom, Priceless Above Rubies (Evans) | 7:10 |
| 6  | Colour in the Cell (Evans/Singh)        | 4:18 |
| 7  | Deprivation (Hirst)                     | 2:15 |
| 8  | No Children Here (Evans)                | 2:58 |
| 9  | Robben Island (Evans)                   | 7:59 |
| 10 | Lokasvatantatrataa (Evans)              | 6:44 |
| 11 | Peace (Evans)                           | 4:05 |
| 12 | Some See Stars (Singh)                  | 3:20 |

Total Time 60:08

**Sandy Evans** tenor and soprano saxophone

**Bobby Singh** tabla

**Brett Hirst** bass

**Toby Hall** drums and percussion

**Sarangan Sriranganathan** guest vocalist tracks 1, 4, 5 and 10

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