

A catch-up with global composer Trevor Jones

By Martin Myers

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Dr Trevor Jones, a top global composer, will return to South Africa from the UK to open #Mex22.

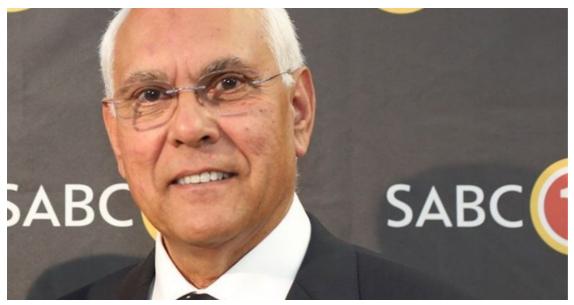


Image supplied: Trevor Jones

Having recently received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cape Town in July, Jones will deliver invaluable insights into his rich catalogue of award-winning compositions while unpacking music for film, television, gaming and spoken word.

He has worked on numerous well-known and acclaimed films, including *Notting Hill, Excalibur, Runaway Train, The Dark Crystal, Labyrinth, Mississippi Burning, The Last of the Mohicans*, and *In the Name of the Father*, collaborating with filmmakers like John Boorman, Andrei Konchalovsky, Jim Henson, and Michael Mann.

He will deal with the business aspects that define the space and bring up media writing techniques, defining goals and ambitions, how to equip yourself as a writer and map out your journey, as well as aesthetics and philosophy (if we want to touch on those rarefied aspects.

I chatted to Jones on Zoom whilst he was working at Abbey Road on the 40th anniversary of Dark Cystal...

III Music Exchange: What does it mean to you to give back?

Music Exchange offers the rare opportunity to find answers and ask questions about the Music Industry - local, national and international, and for a frank exchange of information pertaining to skillsets, industry business and practice, with fellow musicians, mentors and eminent Captains of Industry.

I look forward to it with great enthusiasm and excitement.

When are you happiest?

Thinking about music while mucking out the stables of our rescue horses - nothing like horse sh*t to make one realise that as fertilizer it's more valuable than one is.

What does music mean to you?

Communicating emotion through organised sound.

III What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

Helping to make clear the narrative and bringing out the meaning of a scene by writing music with the appropriate emotional weight.

Are you famous?

I hope not (laughs).

III What do you think of when you are writing a score?

Am I making the audience feel what the screenwriter and director intend - how can I surpass their expectations and achieve this in an original way?

What drives you... ego or humility?

A bit of both

Your heroes?

Leonardo da Vinci, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Alan Turing, My uncle Norman.

III Which living person do you admire most and why?

Sir Timothy Berners Lee the inventor of the World Wide Web.

The internet has changed communications forever and he has given it to the world freely, with no patent and no royalties due.

III What is your most treasured possession?

My Steinway piano.

III It's your round, what are you drinking?

As much as possible.

What makes you stand out?

My need to educate the next generation, my interest in the world, in people, in love and death.

Nicknames?

Dood by my grandchildren

III If you were not a composer what would you do?

Stay in bed and take the fluff out of my belly button then make films, paint, and write.

III Pick five words to describe yourself?

Obsessive, passionate, reclusive, dedicated, confused



#Mex22 set to welcome former managing director of Island Records

Five favourite albums of all time?

The Dream of Gerontius – Edward Elgar

Kind of Blue – Miles Davis

Dark Side of the Moon – Pink Floyd

Bridge over Troubled Water – Simon & Garfunkel

Elgar: Cello Concerto with Jacqueline du Pre & Sea Pictures with Janet Baker

III Greatest movies ever made?

Citizen Kane, The Third Man, Singin' in the Rain, North by NorthWest, Casablanca, Rear Window, The Battleship Potemkin, The Bridge on the River Kwai, Psycho, Nosferatu, The Spirit of the Beehive, Seven Samurai, Tokyo Story, Cinema Pardiso, II Postino

What changed your life?

A scholarship to the Royal Academy of music, and my mentors.

III Who do you love?

Myself, my wife, children, grandchildren, dogs, horses and a cat called Tom.

III What is your favourite word?

Hope

Favorite fashion garment?

The award-winning tie, designed by my son Caspar.

III Give us some real proper slang and what it means?

CRUCIAL; Slang for very good

III Top of your bucket list?

Spending as much time with my wife.

III Your greatest achievement?

Nuturing four children.

III What do you complain about most often?

Corrupt politicians

What is your fear?

Dying before I've written my next piece.



2 global music executives take the stage at #Mex22 4 Oct 2022

Happiness is?

Eating a perfect mango in a cold bath on a hot day.

Ⅲ If you are walking on stage for a keynote speech, what song would you use?

Bill Clinton in his presidential campaign would walk on stage to the Main Theme of *The Last of the Mohicans*.

I would like to have Vocalise by Rachmaninov.

Ⅲ The best life lesson you have been taught?

People matter most.

III Where would you like to be right now?

Here.

Wishes and dreams?

I wish that everyone could get a free education, either academic or trade.

And for my generation to leave a legacy for future generations of a plastic-free, unpolluted radio-active-free planet, protected by laws controlling carbon emissions and consequent climate change.

ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

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