



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES

THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES,
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A LECTURE BY

WARREN BESSEY

on the music and history for his Zulu Royal Trilogy (Nandi, Indlovukazi yezi Ndlovukazi, Inkosazane Mkabayi and iNkosi uShaka: Umbono, Isizwe, Isiphetho).

THEME:

An Historical-Musical Account of Three Luminous Zulu Figures through the Lens of an Urban Classical Composer of African and Western Influence

DATE

Friday,
24 October 2025

TIME

12h15

VENUE

Howard College Theatre,
Howard College Campus

TO RSVP

[CLICK HERE](#)

Enquiries: Professor AJ Bethke | bethkea@ukzn.ac.za

LECTURE OVERVIEW:

- As creative artists we must be thinkers and strategists
- Visualization techniques when composing music
- Vertical and horizontal approach to music
- The concept of dance, music and visualization
- Reverse Engineering – you have to know where your music is going
- Why do some people hate certain genres of music?
- Know the truth of your music

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Speaker Biography – Warren Bessey

Canadian born resident of South Africa, Warren Bessey is a composer, writer, and producer of music, both symphonic and for a wide variety of media, including radio, television, advertising and film. He is also a behaviour change communication specialist, children's author, publisher, and lecturer. Over the course of his career, he has served a client base of more than 75 companies and organizations with commissioned works from symphonic orchestra to commercial activities for wide-ranging and diverse audiences. His productions have achieved national and international accolades. His is a journey of many years and cross-cultural, multi-national experience.

Warren Bessey received his university education from North Texas State University where he focused on Music Education, Performance, Jazz Education and Composition. Since 1987, he has resided in South Africa and has served as Jingle Composer, Writer, Audio Producer, and Audio Engineer.

For more than 25 years, using intellectual and creative talents, he has produced numerous radio dramas and other behaviour change communication programmes (as commissioned by South African Government and donors) to provide key public health and development messages that are accessible and entertaining to reach audiences which relate culturally to storytelling and drama. Mr Bessey is also the writer and producer of a well-loved road safety education programme for children in isiZulu, "Ungqimu idada no Siyaza idada," which set road safety rules to music and aired each Saturday morning for three years on South Africa's uKhozi FM and had a Saturday morning listenership of more than 2.7 million every Saturday morning.

Most recently, Mr Bessey had the honour of producing the first publication based on the life and works of iNyosi BM Mdletshe, poet and official praise singer of the Zulu Monarchy for the past 22 years. The printed literary work (also in eBook, and audio book forms) spotlights Zulu royal history and the cultural and historical contribution of BM Mdletshe and those of his ancestors who served the Zulu Monarchy for more than 200 years. It was a tremendous opportunity to ensure a great historical narrative was documented in writing, preserved for the generations to come, and authentically presented to the world.

Mr Bessey currently graduated with a Master of Music with distinction in composition from Rhodes University and currently is a Rhodes University PhD candidate.

