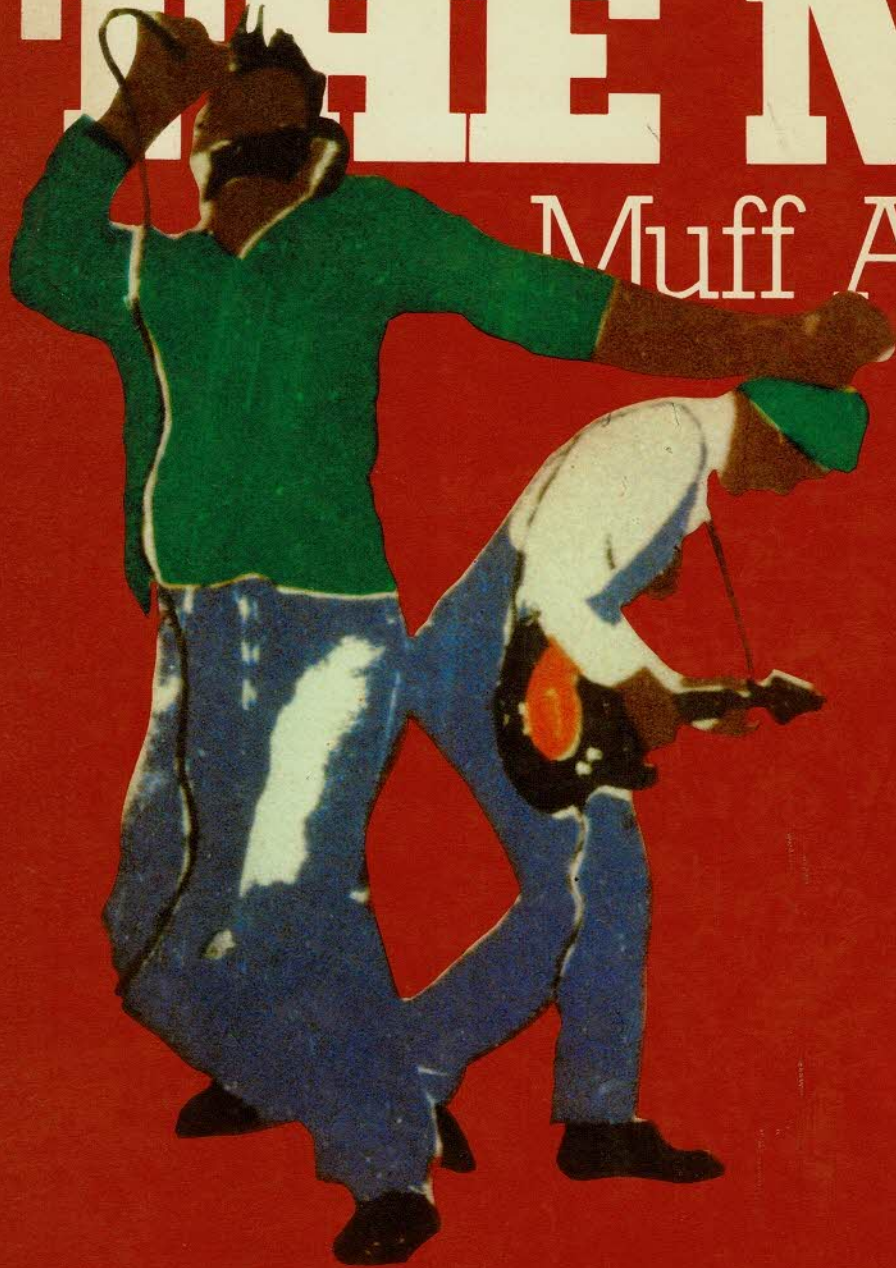


# MUSIC IN THE MIX

Muff Andersson



PLEASE RETURN TO  
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The story of South African popular music

# Foreword

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THIS book has changed considerably since I started writing it. The original idea was a sort of A-Z of South African musicians, but that idea faded pretty quickly simply because it is impossible to write about any group of people without touching on their environments, the laws which control their activities and the ideas that are imposed on them by the rulers in their society.

South Africa has spawned many types of music – vastrap, mbaqanga, mbube, kwela, tickeydraai, the list is endless – but all the forms that have emerged have in common a struggle to rise above the imposed economic and political conditions.

The same book could be written on art in South Africa, or literature, or sport. It is highly subjective, and not comprehensive – that would be impossible, since musicians come and go and the book could stretch into 10 volumes and still not even *mention* all the names of musicians who have made their mark locally.

This book attempts to trace the contemporary music scene in this country from its origins in black indigenous and white imported music. It discusses the problems facing musicians – apart from factors like record company exploitation, which is worldwide – that are unique to South Africa. Musicians here have no union to protect them; they are often directly troubled by the security police if their music becomes too political; they are forced to perform to segregated audiences on most occasions, and when they do play at non-racial venues they are subject to pressures exerted by baton-wielding police and snarling dogs. Most of all, professional musicians are in the stranglehold of one of the most repressive tools of the state: SABC radio and TV.

The book concentrates on light, commercial music – but also touches on other popular forms like the resistance music. It attempts to be not only a comment on the plight of an art form/expression of life, but also a comment on a very peculiar society: the two ideas cannot be separated. **M.A.**



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