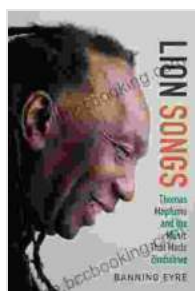


# Thomas Mapfumo and the Music That Made Zimbabwe

The Lion of Chimurenga: A Life in Music and Resistance



## Lion Songs: Thomas Mapfumo and the Music That Made Zimbabwe by Edgar H. Schein

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 22630 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 413 pages



Thomas Mapfumo is a name synonymous with Zimbabwean music and its transformative power. For over half a century, the "Lion of Chimurenga" has captivated audiences with his electrifying performances and politically charged lyrics that have both inspired and challenged a nation. His music has become an integral part of Zimbabwe's identity, a soundtrack to its struggles and triumphs.

## **The Roots of Chimurenga**

Mapfumo was born in 1945 in Marondera, Zimbabwe, during the height of colonial rule. From a young age, he was exposed to the traditional music of his Shona heritage, which would later form the foundation of his own musical style. In the 1960s, as the winds of independence swept across Africa, a new genre of music emerged in Zimbabwe: chimurenga, a fusion of traditional rhythms with Western influences.

Chimurenga, meaning "struggle" in Shona, became a powerful tool for political mobilization. Musicians such as Mapfumo used their music to voice the frustrations and aspirations of the oppressed black majority, calling for an end to colonialism and the establishment of a just and equitable society.

## **Mapfumo's Rise to Stardom**

In 1973, Mapfumo released his debut album, "Hokoyo," which quickly became a smash hit in Zimbabwe and beyond. With its infectious rhythms and politically charged lyrics, the album catapulted Mapfumo to the forefront of the chimurenga movement. His music resonated with the

masses, who saw in him a fearless voice that articulated their own experiences and aspirations.

Over the next two decades, Mapfumo released a string of groundbreaking albums that cemented his status as a musical icon. Albums such as "Gwindingwi Rine Shumba" (1976), "Chimusoro" (1978), and "Corruption" (1989) became anthems of the struggle for independence and the fight against corruption and injustice.

### **Political Activism and Exile**

Mapfumo's music was not only a source of inspiration but also an act of political defiance. His lyrics often criticized the government's policies and corruption, which led to harassment and persecution by the authorities. In 1983, he was forced to flee Zimbabwe and lived in exile for over a decade.

Despite the threats and intimidation, Mapfumo never abandoned his commitment to social justice. From his exile in the United States, he continued to release albums and perform to sold-out crowds around the world. His music became a symbol of hope for Zimbabweans both at home and abroad.

### **Return and Legacy**

In 2004, after the resignation of long-time ruler Robert Mugabe, Mapfumo returned to Zimbabwe to a hero's welcome. His return marked a new chapter in his life and career. He continued to release new music and performed to packed stadiums across the country.

Today, Thomas Mapfumo remains an icon of Zimbabwean music and culture. His music has transcended generations, inspiring musicians and

activists alike. His legacy is one of political resistance, social justice, and the enduring power of art.

## **Discover the Story Behind the Music**

In the book, "Thomas Mapfumo and the Music That Made Zimbabwe," renowned music historian and journalist Professor Andrew Tracey tells the definitive story of this legendary musician. Based on extensive interviews with Mapfumo himself, his family, and colleagues, the book provides an intimate look into the life and mind of a musical trailblazer.

From his humble beginnings in rural Zimbabwe to his rise to global stardom, the book explores Mapfumo's personal journey as well as the cultural and political context that shaped his music. It also examines the impact of his music on Zimbabwean society and its lasting legacy.

## **Free Download Your Copy Today!**

Discover the fascinating story of Thomas Mapfumo and the music that shaped a nation. Free Download your copy of "Thomas Mapfumo and the Music That Made Zimbabwe" today and get lost in the rhythms and lyrics that have inspired a generation.

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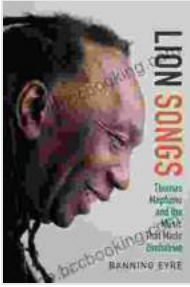
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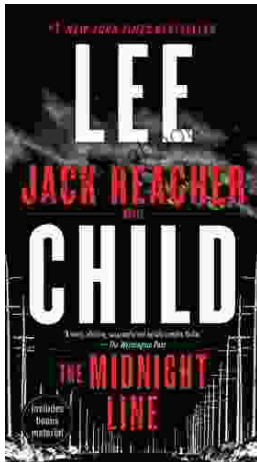
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