



Thousands celebrate the proclamation of city status: the scene outside City Hall, 5 September 1928.

# JAZZ ON THE LAKE

## SALUTES THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY

On Sunday 7 September 2008 at Zoo Lake, the Jazz on the Lake Concert will celebrate Johannesburg's 80th birthday as a City. Revellers at this year's concert will re-connect with a story of amazing growth which is as old as Johannesburg itself.

Officially, Johannesburg was founded in October 1886, a few months after the discovery of gold in Langlaagte. When it was just six years old, Johannesburg was already the largest town in South Africa. But it was not until 1928 that Johannesburg gained the formal status of a City. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September a crowd of many thousands gathered outside the City Hall, to hear the official proclamation of City status being read out. The crowd was entertained by five bands and a choir. As ready as ever to celebrate an occasion, Johannesburg residents commemorated the event with six days of festivities.

Jazz on the Lake continues in a spirit of celebration, a birthday party hailing the inclusive city that Joburg has become. A star-studded line-up of performers include Jimmy Dlodlu, Zamajobe, Don Laka and Indian Jazz Band Indian Ocean.

After years of struggle, in 1995 Johannesburg was united under a single municipal government. The city's growth has continued unabated. Today the metropolitan area of Johannesburg area covers roughly 1 644 square kilometers, with a population of 3.6 million residents.



a world class African city

City of Johannesburg  
Department

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