For background information:

Dr Gordon Cragg

Dr Gordon Cragg was born in Cape Town and obtained a first class BSc Honours degree in Chemistry from Rhodes University in 1956. He went on to get a DPhil in Organic Chemistry from Oxford University in 1963 and did two years of post-doctoral research at the University of California in Los Angeles before returning to South Africa to work for the CSIR.

In 1966 he joined the University of South Africa, moving to the University of Cape Town in 1972 and then to the Cancer Research Institute at the Arizona State University as Assistant Director in 1979. In 1985, he joined the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Maryland and in 1989 was appointed Chief of the NCI Natural Products Branch in the Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis Division.

Dr Cragg's major interests lie in the discovery of novel natural product agents for the treatment of cancer and AIDS, with an emphasis on multi-disciplinary and international collaboration. He has given over 100 talks at conferences worldwide and published over 150 book chapters and papers related to his interests.

He also established collaborations between the NCI and similar organisations in many other countries, promoting drug discovery from their natural resources. The Missouri Botanical Garden has named a recently discovered Madagascar plant in his honour, the *Ludia craggiana.*

Though retired in 2004, Dr Cragg still serves as an NIH Special Volunteer for the National Cancer Institute in the United States. Among his achievements are the National Institute of Health's Merit Awards for his contributions to the development of the anticancer drug Taxol and his leadership in establishing international collaborative research in biodiversity and natural products drug discovery.

He was also elected to Honorary Membership of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (discovery of drugs from natural soruces) and being named a Fellow of the Society in 2006. Also in 2006, he was awarded the "William L. Brown Award for Plant Genetic Resources" at a symposium held in his honour that was entitled "Realising Nature's Potential: The Once and Future King of Drug Discovery".

Dr Abdullah Ibrahim

Dr Abdullah Ibrahim is not only a world-renowned pianist, composer and recording artist, but also a music educator. He founded the M7 Centre in Cape Town which advocates a holistic approach and supports the all-round development of young artists.

A deeply spiritual person, Ibrahim has always understood music as a healing power and is particularly concerned with maintaining respect for tradition and the connection between generations. Dr Ibrahim started his career as a professional musician under the name of Dollar Brand in Cape Town.

Until the early 1960s he worked in South Africa, accompanying among others Miriam Makeba and founding the first significant African jazz band, the Jazz Epistles, before leaving for Europe in 1962. There he was discovered by Duke Ellington, who took him to New York in 1965.

A triumph at the Newport Jazz Festival launched him into the jazz major leagues. In 1968, he was awarded a Rockefeller Grant to study at the Julliard School of Music and in the same year made his significant conversion to Islam.

During the 1970s and 1980s he was the leading figure in the integration of African jazz and developed an original style of music that was an organic connection between American Jazz and African roots. He recorded prolifically for a variety of labels and produced the legendary "Mannenberg" and "Soweto", songs which became synonymous with the people's anguish and their struggle against apartheid.

It came as no surprise when he was invited to play at Nelson Mandela's inauguration in 1994. From the late nineties on he has also dedicated himself to large-scale projects such as writing for Swiss and German Symphonies and Orchestras.

Described as Africa's authentic ambassador to the jazz civilisation, the name Abdullah Ibrahim is as inextricably linked with jazz history as those of jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, John Coltrane and Don Cherry.

Marlene Dumas

Born in Cape Town in 1953, Marlene Dumas is widely regarded as one of the most important painters working today. Known for her representations of the human figure and for exploring complex themes such as gender identity, beauty, sexuality, racism, violence and religion, Dumas is an international presence in the art world.

She showcases her work in the collections of major museums and public institutions such as The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Gallery in London, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and museums located in Paris, Frankfurt, The Hague and Munich.

Dumas studied a BA in Visual Arts at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, in the early 70s and was particularly influenced by photography and the "burden of the image". Accepting a scholarship to study at the prestigious Dutch artist-run institute de Atelier, Dumas moved to Amsterdam in 1976, where she continues to live and work.

In addition to her outstanding work as an artist, Dumas is an active teacher and writes on her own art and art issues in general. For many years she has been part of the faculty and has provided support for de Ateliers. In 2006 she was honoured with the Alex Katz Visiting Chair in Painting at The Cooper Union in New York.

Dumas has done one-person exhibitions in cities around the world and has won numerous awards. For her contribution to contemporary art over the past 20 years, she was in 2007 awarded the Dusseldorf Art Prize, one of Germany's most prestigious art awards.

In 1998 she received the Coutts Contemporary Art Foundation Award in Zurich, along with fellow artists Stan Douglas and Edward Ruscha. Also in 1998, she won the David Roell Prize presented by the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund. She chose to share her prize with young South African artists through the Iziko South African National Gallery, where as a result the curator established an innovative artist-in-residence and publishing programme.

Justice Kathleen Satchwell

Ms Justice Kathleen Satchwell was a prominent human rights attorney before being appointed to the High Court of South Africa as a Judge of the Transvaal Provincial Division in 1996. She has served in the civil, criminal, tax and Labour Appeal courts and a considerable number of her judgements have been reported in South African Law reports.

She obtained a BA degree and Honours degrees in both Anthropology and African Languages from Rhodes University, where she was the President of the SRC in 1972. From 1975 to 1978 she was a volunteer and then Co-ordinator of the Black Sash Advice Office in Grahamstown and initiated a programme of support for detainees held in Eastern Cape prisons.

Satchwell was the attorney in many of the noteworthy political trials during the 1970s and 1980s and was one of six lawyers from around the country selected by the prisoners on Robben Island to represent them in their demand for release during 1991. She has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University and has acted as an external examiner for the Law Faculty of Rhodes.

As an attorney, she chaired a number of commissions of enquiry and in 1999 was appointed by President Nelson Mandela as Chairperson of the Road Accident Fund Commission to enquire and make recommendations as to "a reasonable, affordable, sustainable and equitable system for the payments of benefits to the victims of road accidents in South Africa".

Her subsequent report is widely considered to be an extremely important document, being the product of intensive local and international research.

She has been actively involved in judicial education as a member of the Judicial Services Commission, co-ordinating orientation programmes for newly appointed Judges of the High Court between 1998 and 2002 and convening continuing education seminars for judges on topics such as "race, gender and class".

Judge Satchwell has been associated with a number of high-profile South African NGOs and is currently a Trustee of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.