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Kenya: Jazz for Peace Concert at Nairobi National Museum

By Karen Mbugua

American Rick DellaRatta, listed in the book 'Jazz Singers' as one of the top jazz vocalists of all time, was the headliner at the 'Jazz for Peace' concert held at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi on Saturday. He was accompanied on stage by Thierry De Olivier (drums), Mr Danz (bass) and Edward Parseen of the band Different Faces on the saxophone. Curtain-raiser duties were performed by highly regarded Aaron 'Krucial' Rimbui.

Rick DellaRatta showed why he is considered by many to be one of the finest jazz artistes of all time. With an almost effortless style, showcasing his unique and original piano playing, he performed many of his hit compositions including 'Living inside a daydream' (dedicated to the Maasai people), 'Fly away' and 'Take it or leave it' (the theme song for the movie Let's Get Lost - an American documentary about the turbulent life and career of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker). Proceeds from this special benefit concert in Nairobi would go to the Empaash Olorientito Conservancy Trust (EOC) which seeks to raise awareness and address the problems facing the Maasai Mara.

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