

PATHWAYS

The Inspiring Musical Journeys of Cordial Artists



from Soweto to Graceland

Bakithi Kumalo

"...this cable is unbelievable. I'm just loving it!"

Reunion. Little did the young and talented Bakithi have any idea that *Graceland* would become a huge international hit, propelled by fretless bass playing that would help define the album's signature sound and deliver to a grateful audience a host of immediately recognizable bass hooks.

35 years later, Bakithi is still part of Paul Simon's band, still delighting audiences with the *Call Me A!* bass break, and still imparting a feel and sound that is uniquely Bakithi to music beloved by a generation.

Bakithi's bass "voice"—often described as having a human vocal quality—was formed from local influences: his mother's church choir, his sax-playing uncle's band, and a host of neighborhood musicians. Taking inspiration from

the left-hand work of accordion players in township bands, then later from the likes of Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Jaco Pastorius, Bakithi's unique approach to bass earned him coveted sideman positions with a host of artists, from Cyndi Lauper and Gloria Estefan to Grover Washington and Herbie Hancock. Along the way: Five solo albums, *The Lion King 2019* soundtrack, and the joyous live *Graceland Experience*.

Bakithi keeps his bass rig simple, the goal being for his unmistakable tone to shine through. The latest addition to that rig: Cordial cables. Says Bakithi: "The performance of this cable is unbelievable...now I can hear *all* the frequencies in my bass sound. I'm just loving it!"

www.CordialCablesUSA.com

When aspiring bassist Bakithi Kumalo found out that he had been recommended for the project that would become Paul Simon's *Graceland*, his first reaction was "Paul who?" In Soweto, the depressed apartheid-era South African township where Bakithi was born and raised, the American superstar was largely unknown, save for a single chart-topping track, *Mother and Child*



Bakithi's Cordial Favorite:



CSI METAL High Copper Instrument