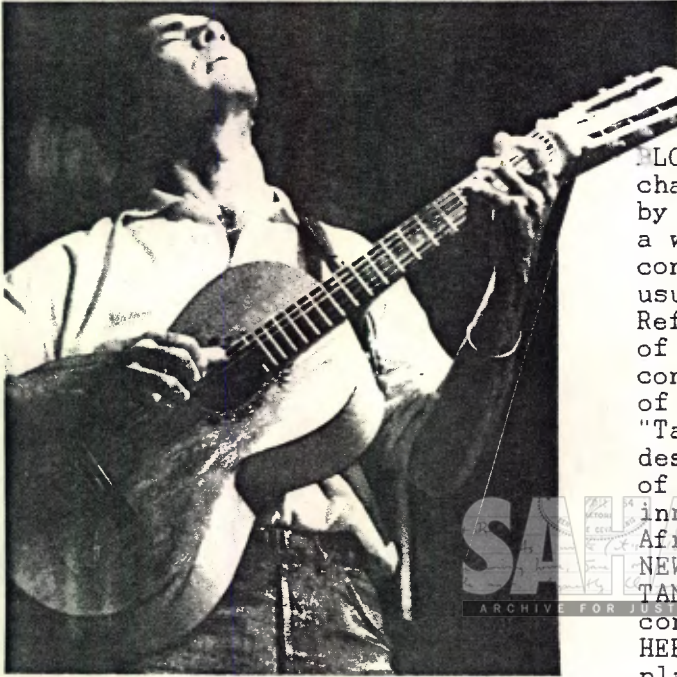


SHIFTY RECORDS

# TANANAS

A DELICIOUS STATE OF MUSICAL CONCIUSNESS



BLOWING IN LIKE THE BREEZE OF change itself, the music made by this talented threesome is a welcome and refreshing contrast to the mush one usually hears on pop radio. Referring to a delicious state of conciousness brought on by consuming excessive quantities of cheap wine, the word "Tananas" is indeed an apt description of the heady state of mind created by this innovative outfit. South African guitar wizard STEVE NEWMAN is at the apex of the TANANAS triangle, that connects up with drummer IAN HERMAN and Mozambican bass player GITO BALOI.

As a guitarist, STEVE NEWMAN has already achieved recognition for his work around the world. He has made a number of appearances on the folk platform at the Glastonbury Festival, and has been a regular performer at folk and jazz clubs in Britain. His solo recordings were also released to positive critical response internationally.

Drummer IAN HERMAN has also been recognised as a major talent in his field, and his presence can be noted on an impressive array of recordings, from the 'klopse' rock of THE GENUINES, the light jazz-pop of JENNIFER FERGUSON and the instrumental fusion of the now defunct but fondly remembered ISJA.

GITO BALOI's work to date has been mainly with Mozambican act PONGOLA, developing a unique form of Mozambican jazz-funk. Along with IAN HERMAN, he also worked with the 'People's Poet' MZWAKHE MBULI, on his "CHANGE IS PAIN" album.

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The combination of NEWMAN's Afro-jazz acoustic guitar with the funky undertow of BALOI's bass and HERMAN's eloquent percussive measures create a sound unlike any you might have heard before. Their collective understanding of South African music and their response to their environment has lead them to an exciting and distinctive synthesis of African and western musical forms.

At the same time, what TANANAS have forged here has a large degree of solid pop appeal that is surprising considering the largely instrumental makeup of their mix. Critical acclaim, extensive airplay on commercial radio and the successful penetration of a variety of charts is testimony to this fact.

The occassional inclusion of GITO's lyrics into the songs also adds a strange and interesting touch. The words, he explains, are a mixture of Portuguese, Shangaan and Ronga (from Mozambique). The titles of these tracks demonstrate this south - east African linguistic hybrid. The track "NADA", for instance, is "about happiness", "LINDA NOIT" means "Beautiful Night" while "STANDANYOBO" refers to "the music that we play".

A delicious state of conciousness is indeed what one can expect from indulging in the intoxicating sound of TANANAS - so drink up and enjoy!

