



**Eugene Skeef FRSA** - worked intimately with the late Steve Biko in the Black Consciousness Movement in the 1970s - conducting cultural literacy training workshops, teaching poetry and using the arts in general as a tool to raise the awareness of black youth across then Apartheid South Africa. His internationally renowned work for decades in exile and since his return to post-Apartheid South Africa has inspired youth on the continent and globally to harness their natural creative skills to transform their lives themselves, embracing their own cultural and spiritual agency. He has also used his inspirational creative workshop method to influence the careers of legendary musicians including Bheki Mseleku, Khaya Mahlangu, Sibongile Khumalo, Busi Mhlongo and Nduduzo Makhathini. Instrumental in establishing the education departments of leading international principal orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Skeef is world renowned to global audiences for centering his African heritage and indigenous knowledge ritual archives in global cultural music compositions.

**Skeef will be performing the convocation at CERT with his young mentee, Chester Summerton**, a South African jazz pianist of Xhosa ancestry who works towards aligning his musicianship with this heritage. Summerton centers his pianist approach on a Xhosa Celebration dance called *umXhentso* - summoning the Ancestors through his artistry. Through the mentorship programme, under Eugene Skeef, Summerton found himself connecting with the spirit of legendary South African pianist, the late Bheki Mseleku.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHqX9rYQoes>

**Eugene Skeef's book** *In Search of my River* is a testament to the power of poetry to transform lives and evoke the spirits of our African ancestors to mediate in our search for our deeper selves as a people who have lost our centre in this chaotic world. It is a symphonic work overflowing with resonant imagery of the healing power of nature and all the arts as a deep evocation of our true identity.

**Eugene Skeef's innovative and path breaking global work in culture and youth development establishes great research, teaching and learning synergy for CERT. His work creates new methodological pathways around research involving deep listening, and understanding rites of passage and indigenous knowledges affirmations - so central in our diverse African educational contexts in schools, communities, colleges and universities. Join us in this phenomenal soul-enriching learning journey.**

**CELEBRATE AFRICA DAY IN A RITUAL ARCHIVE CONVOCATION WITH INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SOUTH AFRICAN COMPOSER AND EDUCATOR EUGENE SKEEF**



**Thursday 25 May 2023**

Time: 15h00 – 18h00

**Friday 26 May 2023**

Time: 14h00 – 17h00

**Venue:** Bunting Road Campus Research Village, University of Johannesburg

**Theme:** Wear comfortable and warm clothes and shoes.

**N.B.** Bring your own cushion/pillow to sit on for an interactive journey. This is a FREE event!

**RSVP:** By 23 MAY 2023

**SPACES ARE LIMITED!!!**

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