



ZENZILE MIRIAM MAKEBA

March 4, 1932 -
November 9, 2008

South African singer, songwriter, actress,
United Nations goodwill ambassador, and
civil rights activist

She brought
African music to a
Western audience
and popularized
the world music
and Afropop
genres.

She made several
popular songs
critical of apartheid,
becoming a symbol
of opposition to the
system, particularly
after her right to
return was revoked.

The 1977 song
"Soweto Blues",
written by her
former husband
Hugh Masekela,
was about the
Soweto uprising.