

## ALMOST ISLAND

### Contributors: Monsoon 2021

**Batsirai Chigama** is a performer, poet, literary activist, and social commentator. City of Asylum described her work as “surprising, shocking, and skillfully deliberate work,” and “a breath-taking embodiment of grief.” Chigama’s debut collection, *Gather The Children* won Outstanding First Creative Published Book at the National Arts Merit Awards in 2019. In the same year she was an honorary fellow at the International Writing Programme (IWP) at Iowa University. Her work with young people, has taken her as far as Denmark and the USA, performing and facilitating creative writing and spoken word workshops in schools.

**Hope Masike** is a musician and dancer. She is known as "The Princess of Mbira" and her music has its roots both in traditional and modern African culture. She initially studied Fine Art at Harare Polytechnic.

**Iz Mazano** is a Zimbabwean poet, based in Western Massachusetts, USA. His poems are primarily inspired by the promises that the world makes to young people and the extent to which these promises are kept. His work explores themes of hope, love, courage and current affairs. When he’s not writing poetry he spends hours developing websites, writing prose and taking photographs; all of which he avows are forms of poetic expression. His first collection will be out at the end of 2021. More at [www.izmazano.com](http://www.izmazano.com).

**Tariro Ndoro** is a Zimbabwean writer. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Rhodes University. Her poetry, essays and short fiction have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Best New African Poets Anthology*, *Cyphers*, *Fireside Quarterly*, *Oxford Poetry*, and *SAND Literary Journal*. Tariro has been shortlisted for the BN Poetry Prize, the DALROPoetry Prize and the Intwasa Short Story Prize; and was selected for Iowa University's International Writing Programme.

**Tendekai Tati** is a Zimbabwean slam poet who is based in Harare. He is regarded as a contemporary poet with a youthful and urban voice. Known by his stage moniker: Madzitatiguru, Tendekai has been involved in a number of events including local Zimbabwean festivals such as the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA), Shoko Festival and Intwasa Arts Festival. He made his performance debut at the House of Hunger

Poetry slam hosted by the Bookcafe in 2011. Internationally, Madzitatiguru participated in the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2018 (EIBF), toured Denmark in 2014 as a teaching artist, performed in The Kumusha Harare-Detroit exchange 2013, as well as Poetry Africa in 2012. He writes and performs predominantly in urban Shona, but occasionally borrows from the Queen's language too.

**Tinashe Muchuri** is a writer with passion in creative industries. He writes about the arts and gives an ear to indigenous knowledge systems and enjoys researching around the Shona people's culture. He is the writer of an anti-novel titled *Chibarabada*, a children's story book, *Auntie Mazvita*, and Shona creative resource book, *ZvipfuyonevanaVazvo*. He is finalizing his second novel *ZvavanhuHerevo!* and also aggregating Shona proverbs in their variations, variants and digging for where they originated (reasons why they were created).

**Togara Muzanenhamo** was born in Zambia and raised in Zimbabwe. He studied in The Hague and in Paris. He has published two collections of poetry, *Spirit Brides* and *Gumiguru*. His books have been shortlisted for the the Jerwood Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and the Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry. His next book, *Virga*, will be published in August 2021. He lives with his partner and two children in Harare.

**Tsitsi Jaji** holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Cornell, and is an associate professor of English and African & African American Studies at Duke University. She is the author of *Africa in Stereo: Music, Modernism, and Pan-African Solidarity* (Oxford, 2014) and two poetry collections, *Beating the Graves* (2017) and *Mother Tongues* (2019, winner of the Cave Canem Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize); as well as a chapbook *Carnaval*, published in the first *New Generation African Poets* box set (2014) through the African Poetry Book Fund.