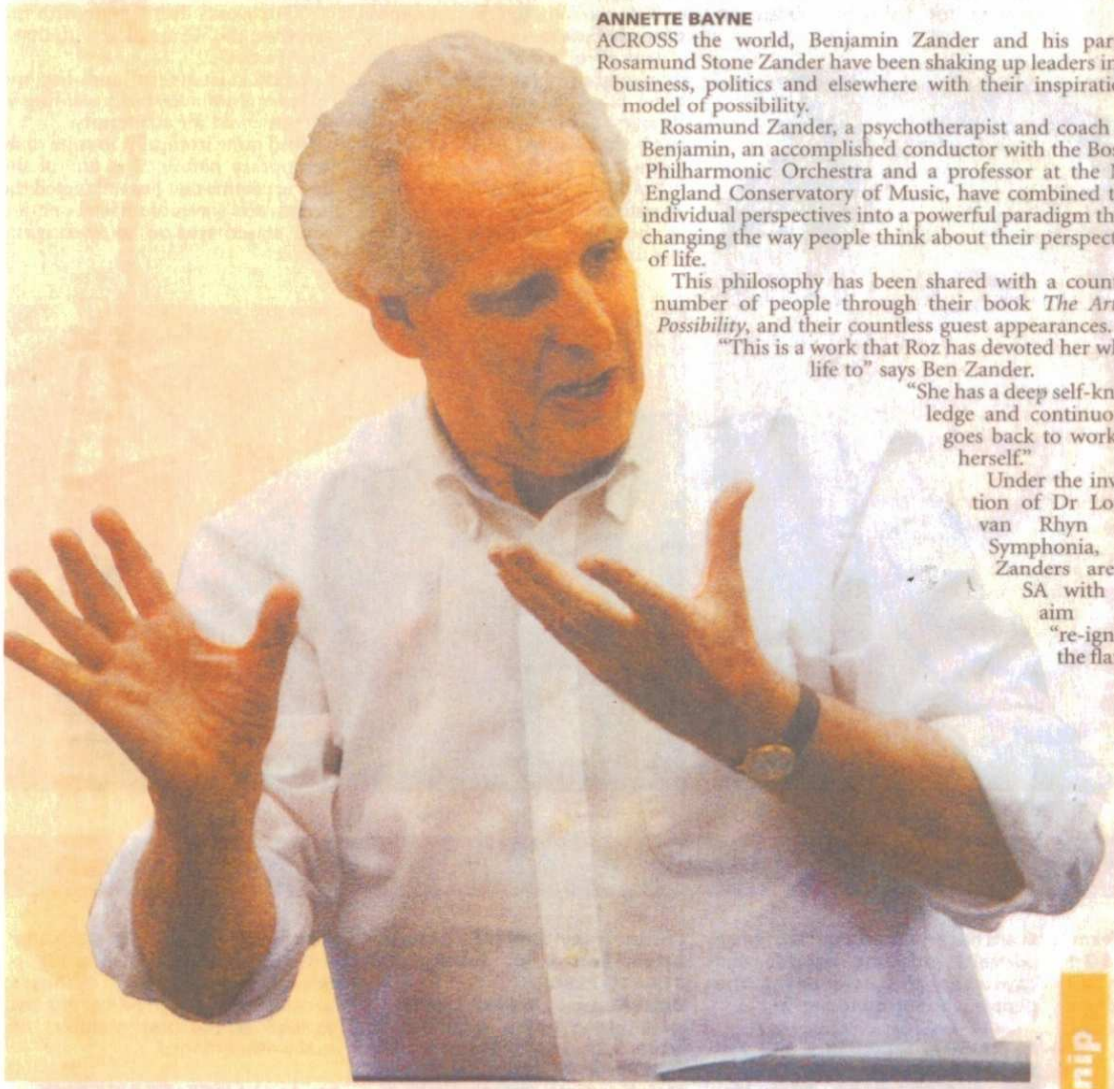
In tune with possibility

CONDUCTOR BRINGS MUSIC AND INSPIRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA



ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. Conductor Ben Zander in action.

ANNETTE BAYNE

ACROSS the world, Benjamin Zander and his partner Rosamund Stone Zander have been shaking up leaders in big business, politics and elsewhere with their inspirational model of possibility.

Rosamund Zander, a psychotherapist and coach and Benjamin, an accomplished conductor with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and a professor at the New England Conservatory of Music, have combined their individual perspectives into a powerful paradigm that is changing the way people think about their perspectives of life.

This philosophy has been shared with a countless number of people through their book *The Art Of Possibility*, and their countless guest appearances.

"This is a work that Roz has devoted her whole life to" says Ben Zander.

"She has a deep self-knowledge and continuously goes back to work on herself."

Under the invitation of Dr Louise van Rhyn and Symphonia, the Zanders are in SA with the aim to "re-ignite the flames of possibility for South Africans", and their jam-packed programme means they are likely to touch and perhaps inspire over 20 000 South Africans.

"South Africa has always amazed me," says Ben Zander.

"Everybody always assumed there would be an inevitable bloodbath, and to see what's happening is unbelievable. No, it's not 100% harmonious, but who could imagine such a thing?

"We love this country and there are more people with passion, ideas and desire for the country to succeed than anywhere else. But the stakes are high and the world is watching."

While Ben Zander might be exceptionally motivating when addressing business leaders, it is when he is engaging with music that he truly inspiring.

One of his many engagements had him visit The Buskaid Soweto String Project in Diepkloof, where he addressed and conducted the Buskaid Ensemble.

He barely mentioned the book or the possibility model but in everything he said and did during the three hours he shared with them, he promoted possibility.

Before this master-class had even started to find a rhythm, he had shared his response to mistakes, something that has become old-hat to the students he trains and orchestras he conducts.

"How fascinating!" he says throwing his hands into the air, as every mistake in music (and life) is an indication of what needs attention. By the end of the session, the young musicians were throwing their hands in the air with fervour, but their musical performance was already stronger.

Zander was all over the place, full of infectious energy, concentrating on individual performances, drawing a smile from a young tenor who was so busy concentrating on getting it right he had forgotten to enjoy himself and all the time sharing anecdotes, thoughts, stories and encouragement.

"I don't measure success in wealth or cars," he says in closing. "I measure it in shining eyes – and just look at all the shining eyes in this audience."

Ben Zander will be conducting the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra in a number of music events in Cape Town.

For a full programme visit *www.symphonia.net*.

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There are still places available for "The Art of Possibility" presentation for business leaders on August 20 in Midrand. For further information, contact Lynette at Symphonia on 021-913-3507 and for bookings e-mail *lynette@symphonia.net*.

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