

Sammy Webber

 By [Martin Myers](#)

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Guitar wizard Sammy Webber will be hosting a star-studded lineup when he celebrates 40 years in the music industry at the Baxter Theatre Centre in Cape Town on Wednesday, 21 November 2018.

Webber hails from Retreat. He cut his performing teeth with a number of bands, including Inside Out, U-Turn, Funtime, and Virtual Jazz Reality. His bass playing has won him many fans and his stint with Virtual Jazz Reality made him a household name. About eight years ago, disaster struck when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which affected his health. His eyesight is severely affected, and he uses special lights on the neck of his guitar when he performs.

I caught up with him last week.



[Photography by Otis J. Gore](#)

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

Knowing that people are enjoying what I am offering.

What drives you: ego or humility?

Humility most definitely!

Any funny moments on stage?

It wasn't on stage, but at the gig itself. It was a prominent venue, packed with guests, and I walked into a glass door that I thought was open. Not once, but twice in the same evening.

■ ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

My wife Lesley-Rae. I admire her for the way she takes care of me, I am sure most of us have no idea what it must be like to take care of a handicapped person.

■ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

All of my bass guitars.

■ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

Light beer.

■ ***Dream gig to do?***

North Sea Jazz Festival.

■ ***What makes you stand out?***

My white walking stick.





[Photography by Otis J. Gore](#)





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■ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

Personal training.

■ ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Loving, ambitious, humble, competitive, compassionate.

■ ***Top of your bucket list?***

An appearance at the North Sea Jazz Festival.

▣ ***Your greatest achievement?***

Playing in New Orleans with VJR.

▣ ***Wishes and dreams for the year ahead?***

The wish for me to have my health back will never stop. Without health, all the wealth in the world means nothing.

ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

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