

EMPRESS
NYRINGANGO



BIOGRAPHY

Ottawa based Rwandan Canadian singer-songwriter Empress Nyiringango is a self-taught musician, showcasing the self-titled Jablur sound, which stands for jazz, blues, and Rwandan. This distinctive fusion features Rwanda's oldest instrument "Inanga" (Zither) and contemporary music sounds. Singing in her mother tongue Kinyarwanda, Swahili, French, and English, Empress Nyiringango composed her first song 'Agahinda' (sorrow) in memory of all the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Saddened by the heinous crimes, she embarked on an arduous healing musical journey to convey messages of resilience, compassion, unity & peace to her people and audiences alike.

Her artistic journey began in Kigali - Rwanda in high school, where she explored her creativity while singing, writing, directing, acting, and stage managing. Her songs, such as Wanalia (They cry), Umwana (Child), Umurage Ukwiriye u Rwanda (Legacy for Rwanda), Amahoro I Rwanda (Peace in Rwanda), and Afrika were inspired by history, life experiences, people struggle, love and many great artists across the world. Empress Nyiringango released her debut album 'Resilience' in 2016; EP- Ishimwe (gratitude) in 2019; and her second album UBUNTU was released on October 29th, 2022, in Ottawa. She has successfully completed a mentorship program provided by Arts Network Ottawa in summer and this allowed her to apply all the learned skills to advance her career to another level.

On her days off from music, Empress puts her Master's in education (University of Ottawa, 2020) in practice by doing freelance interpretation and consultation in the Ottawa arts community. She performs for residents in long-term care through Radical Connections. She is also a freelance actress and a mother of two who enjoys taking care of and spending time with her family.



JABLUR

JABLUR is a self-titled musical style coined by Empress Nyiringango. It stands for a combination of jazz, blues, and Rwandan music. This distinctive fusion features Rwanda's oldest instrument "Inanga" (Zither) and contemporary music sounds. You can hear this distinctive style on her EP **ISOKO**, and her latest album **UBUNTU**.

The **JABLUR** sound in '**UBUNTU**' album is a universal story with an amazing feel of players in different places combining elements of jazz, blues, and culturally immortalizing ancestral Rwandan sound of Inanga. There's an enthralling tone within all the instruments - Rwandan zither, saxophone, bass guitar, cello, piano, kora, etc. None of the musicians ever played together before, yet the music sounds incredibly harmonious.

UBUNTU album is composed of 12 tracks that showcase a fusion of Rwandan and contemporary music. The new songs are inspired by real-life events such as hardships, child abuse, resilience, love, faith, and mother wisdom from a cultural standpoint. And while each song varies in tone, they all are originals and bring a captivating and vibrant resonance to the album.



Some of the music Collaborators on the **JABLUR** project :

- **Aron Niyitunga:** Guitar, Electric Keys, and Canadian music director-producer
- **Nduduzo Makhathini:** well acclaimed South African jazz pianist and scholar
- **Ian Desouza:** Canadian bass guitar player
- **Marcus Sali:** Canadian wind instruments player (saxophone, oboe, flute, and more)
- **Kofi Ackah:** Ghanaian/CANADIAN percussionist (congas, cowbell, shakers, talking drum)
- **Tino Damba:** Zimbabwean Drummer
- **Raphael Weinroth Browne:** Canadian Cellist and composer
- **Bill Ruzima:** Rwandan vocalist
- **Patient Akayezu:** Rwandan zither player (Inanga)
- **Makembe:** Makembe: creative entrepreneur of Rwandan sounds (Ikembe)
- **Benoit Rwivanga** aka "Kipeti": Rwandan artist and music director

DISCOGRAPHY



PRESS

NOVEMBER 14th, 2022

Unique FM - Michel Picard

NOVEMBER 2nd, 2022

Radio-Canada Sudbury - Daniel Aubin

OCTOBER 29th, 2022

CBC Radio Ottawa - Giacomo Panico

OCTOBER 29th, 2022

Téléjournal Ottawa-Gatineau - live media coverage of UBUNTU album release

NOVEMBER 18th, 2022

tvRogers - Claude Andréa Bonny

NOVEMBER 2nd, 2022

Sur le vif - Philippe Marcoux



PERFORMANCES

Dec 3rd, 2022

Album Release encore concert at 164 Lounge, Ottawa ON

November 27th, 2022

Acoustic performance at the World Multicultural Festival, Ottawa ON

October 29th, 2022

UBUNTU second album launch at the Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre, Ottawa ON

Oct. 09th, 2022

Benefit concert for the Route de l'Espoir at Minotaure, Gatineau QC

Sep 23rd, 2022

Ontario Cultural Days Concert at St. Vincent Hospital, Ottawa ON

Sep 4th, 2022

Intercultural Arts Festival, Kingston ON

May 14th, 2022

Performance at the Bird migratory day festival at Britannia Beach, Ottawa ON

April 1st, 2022

With Mehdi Cayenne at the Centre Culturel du Vieux Aylmer, Gatineau QC

July 28, 2019

10th African festival anniversary at Queen Juliana Park, Ottawa ON

July 4th, 2017

Canada's 150th anniversary celebration and Rwanda cultural day Festival at the Horticulture Building, Ottawa ON



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