

Namvula

The Scottish-Zambian singer-songwriter with a new release



WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

A playlist I made for my newborn son of my favourite artists, including Dobet Gnahoré, Rhye, Toumani Diabaté, Souad Massi... I spent days compiling it, but somehow he still seems to prefer me singing 'Take Me Home, Country Roads' on permanent loop!

YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE ALBUMS?

Any of OutKast's early albums, because they're just that good; *Guru's Jazzmatazz Volume 1*, for how he blended the worlds of jazz and hip-hop; Tracy Chapman's debut album, she made me want to write; and Cassandra Wilson's *Belly of the Sun* – she made me want to sing.

MUSICIAN YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Miriam Makeba for what she stood for, how much she achieved and her glorious voice. She was the first African recording artist to win a Grammy. She was a vocal, truthful activist. The length and depth of her career and her life are an inspiration all round.

FAVOURITE NEW ARTIST?

My fellow Zambian artists James Sakala, Mumba Yachi and Wezi are three I love.

MEMORABLE MUSICAL ENCOUNTER?

Being involved in a choral project with Hugh Masekela for the London Cultural Olympiad in 2012. He is such a force, both musically and as a human being.

IF YOU WEREN'T A MUSICIAN, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

A carpenter. One of those really cool ones who can build their own house.

+ **ALBUM** *Namvula's new album, Quiet Revolutions, will be reviewed next issue*

Elida Almeida

The young Cape Verdean singer returns with her second album



WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

At the moment mainly music from Nigeria (Asha, Yemi Alade), Ivory Coast (Revolution), and the US (Bruno Mars, John Legend). Of course, also music from home!

YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE ALBUMS?

My favourite album comes from Cape Verde: *Djâm Brancu Dja* from Bulimundo. They are the band that popularised the *funaná* style. When I listen to this album, I get goose bumps.

MUSICIAN YOU MOST ADMIRE?

I admire Katchass, considered as the king of *funaná*. He was the one who took *funaná* to the international musical stages. I admire how he was able to keep together the band Bulimundo, up to the day of his death.

FAVOURITE NEW ARTIST?

Lucibela, an artist of the new generation in Cape Verde and a great friend. I think she will be the next great Cape Verdean voice.

MEMORABLE MUSICAL ENCOUNTER?

Thanks to the RFI Award I won in 2015, I toured to 15 African countries. In Mali, I had a great moment during a workshop on Malian music discovering different traditional instruments. I then participated with my musicians in a jam session with Boubacar Traoré and local musicians.

FIRST ALBUM YOU EVER BOUGHT?

Lura's *Eclipse*. I have always loved her music.

YOUR HIDDEN TALENT?

I asked my musicians for their opinion. And they all said: *la cuisine!* Indeed, I love cooking.

+ **ALBUM** *Elida Almeida's album Kebrada is reviewed in this issue, see p44*

Tomáš Liška

The Czech bassist and composer releases his debut album



WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

I am quite crazy about Gabriel Kahane and the album *The Ambassador*. It's a new and inspiring approach to songwriting for me.

YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE ALBUMS?

Pat Metheny & Charlie Haden – *Beyond The Missouri Sky*. It is 'The Album' for me: a never-ending source of balance, humility and musical maturity.

MUSICIAN YOU MOST ADMIRE?

If I have to pick just one, it would be bassist and composer Charlie Haden. He is, for me, a perfect example of personal self-evolution in all kinds of levels.

FAVOURITE NEW ARTIST?

As I mentioned, Gabriel Kahane, then Norwegian songwriter Thomas Dybdahl, and if anybody still hasn't heard about the Icelandic band Kaleo, check them out!

MEMORABLE MUSICAL ENCOUNTER?

Playing a couple of tours with Peter Rowan. To be beside him on the stage was one of the strongest moments in my musical life.

FIRST ALBUM YOU EVER BOUGHT?

Red Hot Chili Peppers – *One Hot Minute*. I took my bass guitar and practised those songs for months!

IF YOU WEREN'T A MUSICIAN, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

I would probably run an activity around nature – permaculture gardens or beekeeping. Who knows, maybe there is still time to explore other parts of the inner world.

+ **ALBUM** *Tomáš Liška's album, Invisible Faces, is reviewed in this issue, see p62*