

RSAM at Arts at One concert series at Douglas College

Rwandan music is part of a continuum that constantly shape-shifts in subtle ways that stretch over lifetimes and across borders. Its character has been enriched by its traditions, by the contributions of exiled Rwandan artists and current sounds influenced nowadays by Nigeria and the West. These have combined to create new styles and sounds, based around signature danceable rhythms and complex vocal patterns. Local homes and streets overflow with enchanting sounds: choirs, traditional “imbyino” dance and songs, hip-hop, Afropop, Reggae and the Inanga (Rwandan Zithar). This rich culture has been muted by the absence of a local music industry, so the country’s music is not as well known as other African music.

In summer 2013, Juno award winning artist Jacques Murigande, a.k.a Mighty Popo, answered a call to develop a concept for a public Music School in Rwanda. Mighty Popo, one of Canada’s respected musician, is an Artist whose music reflects his love of his native country and the African continent, traditional music and his immersion in a world culture. A member of the 2004 Juno Award-winning band African Guitar Summit, he’s received praise for his wonderful solo work, performed at the Canadian edition of Bob Geldof’s international Live 8 concerts and received a Canadian Folk Music award for his 2007 album Muhazi.

March 10th 2014 marked the establishment of the first vocational public music school in Rwanda located in Nyundo, Rubavu western Rwanda. The three-year music program supports professional development and enhances capacity and transferable skills. As of January 2018 the Music School has relocated to Muhanga southern district and took the name Rwandan School of Creative Arts and Music. “RSAM”

The Rwandan School of Creative Arts and Music, with the support and involvement of the Government of Rwanda and the School’s partners, will help Rwandan artists promote their own music and develop a market for it, bringing the world’s attention to their art and culture. RSAM is slowly but surely developing a local music infrastructure and industry bridging the gap between old and new, rural and urban.

RSAM CONCERT PROGRAM

S/N	ARTIST	STYLE	DURATION
1	RSAM Percussion Ensemble	Rwandan Drumming	3 min
2	Inanga	Rwandan Zithar	3 min
3	Amahamba	Rwandan Pastoral Song	3 min
4	Imbyino	Rwandan Modern Traditional Music	4 min
5	David Ndushabandi	Original Music	3 min
6	Bolingo	Original Music	3 min
7	Bukuru and Shakira	Original Music	3 min
8	Lionel	Original Music	3 min
9	Derek	Original Music	3 min
10	Frank	Hip-Hop	3 min
11	Okkama	Original	3 min
12	Mistake/Fox	Hip-Gakondo	3 min
13	Jonathan/Sharon/Mercy	Gospel	3 min
14	Danny Nanone	Hip-Hop	5 min