

Highlights from
Africa & her Diaspora.

LITTLE GIG MUSIC REPORT

Compiled by Jess White
of akumagency.com

NOV/DEC 2024

- Music In Africa host the ACCES Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.
- London Jazz Festival presents Sikelela... a celebration of South African avant garde jazz with Thandiswa Mazwai, Thandi Ntuli, Bokani Dyer, The Brother Moves One and more.
- Blinky Bill hosts a big live concert in Nairobi called KASHATA.
- Tyla hosts homecoming concerts in Pretoria and Cape Town.
- Controversy surrounds Chris Brown's performance at the largest stadium in Africa, with groups calling for his visa to be cancelled due to his history of gender based violence.
- Virgin Music acquire Downtown Music in Johannesburg. Downtown Music is a legendary recording studio used by legends such as Stimela, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Thandiswa Mazwai.
- Mozambican band 340ml announce reunion tour of South Africa.
- Sony withdraws catalogue from Boomplay amid disputes over royalty payments to Labels and Artists.
- Burna Boy is the most streamed African artist in 2024 on Spotify.
- Msaki plays a sold out concert to celebrate her ten years in the music industry.
- Over 55 artists have been killed in Sudan since the latest conflict started.
- Albums by Nigerian popstars Rema, Tems and Ayra Starr, as well as South Africa's Tyla, have earned spots in Rolling Stone Magazine's list of the 100 Best Albums of 2024.
- South African DJ and producer DESIREE has reached new heights with her inclusion in the Coachella 2025 line-up.

NOV/DEC 2024

- Leading the charge for Grammy Nominations for Africa is Tems from Nigeria, who has received three nominations. Other African nominees include Nigeria's Burna Boy, Asake, Davido, Lojay, Yemi Alade, and Rema, five-time Grammy winner Angélique Kidjo, Ghana's Rocky Dawuni, Nigerian-American Shaboozey, and Nigerian-rooted Jordan Adetunji.
-

BEST RELEASES OF THE YEAR

- Tems - Born In The Wild
- Blinky Bill - We Cut Keys 2
- Anaïs Cardot - Pink Magnolia
- Jembaa Groove - Ye Ankasa | We Ourselves
- Tyla - Tyla
- Les Amazones d' Afrique - Musow Danse
- Aziza Brahim - Mawja
- Manana - Our Broken Hearts Mend
- Aron & the Jeri Jeri Band - Dama Bëgga Ñibi (I Want To Go Home)
- Kujenga - In The Wake
- Mdou Moctar - Funeral for Justice
- Amaka Jaji - TIDET
- Buhlebendalo - Hele
- Bab L'Bluz - Swaken
- Thandiswa Mazwai - Sankofa
- Rema - HEIS
- Superjazzclub - Monochrome Radio
- Xenia Manasseh - LOVE/HATE Pt. 2
- Cool Out Sun - A Lion Is A Lion
- Malcolm Jiyane Tree-O - True Story