

Highlights from  
Africa & her Diaspora.

# LITTLE GIG MUSIC REPORT

Compiled by Jess White  
of [akumagency.com](http://akumagency.com)

# JAN / FEB 2025

- Music In Africa signs an historic agreement with the African Union.
- Tems (Nigeria) wins her first Grammy and flautist Wouter Kellerman (South Africa) wins his 4th Grammy Award.
- Tyla becomes the first African solo artist to reach 1 billion streams on Spotify.
- Warner Music Group completes full acquisition of Africori.
- Sauti za Busara holds potentially its last festival in the old fort with Thandiswa Mazwai, Blinky Bill, The Zawose Queens, Assa Matusse and Kasiva Mutua all blowing the crowds away.
- Concerts SA awards grants for multiple South African artists to tour SADC.
- Spotify reports over the Valentine's season, the platform recorded a 194% increase in heartbreak music consumption, highlighting the universal connection between music and human emotions.
- John Legend performs in Rwanda
- Ladysmith Black Mambazo celebrate 65 years with a USA tour
- South African percussionist 'Tabang Thabane' passes away
- Iconic Ghanaian musician, founder, and band leader of legendary Afro-rock group Osibisa, Teddy Osei, passed away aged 88.
- Newly launched Kenyan label Pwani Tapes has reissued a collection of songs by the legendary Queen of taarab, Zuhura Swale.
- The Trace Awards were held in Zanzibar, honoring outstanding achievements in African and Afro-inspired music and culture around the world.
- The Marrabenta Festival in Mozambique goes ahead through the political turmoil.
- The Dakar Music Expo held in Senegal holds its most successful conference yet.
- Cape Town International Jazz Festival announces dates and first round of acts including Ari Lennox, Thandiswa Mazwai and Black Coffee in collaboration with Nduduzo Makhathini.
- Santuri hosts the second edition of Kilele in Nairobi

# BEST RELEASES OF THE YEAR (JAN / FEB)

- Mereba - The Breeze Grew A Fire\*
- Ebo Taylor, Adrian Younge & Ali Shaheed Muhammad - Jazz Is Dead 022\*
- Piers Faccini & Ballake Sissoko - Our Calling\*
- Njoki Karu - Mwihoko: Utheri wa Ngoro
- Saint Levant - Love Letters
- Alsarah & The Nubatones - Seasons Of The Road
- Kasiva Mutua - Desturi
- Santrofi - Making Moves