

Highlights from
Africa & her Diaspora.

LITTLE GIG MUSIC REPORT

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- The African Union & Music In Africa Foundation reached a major agreement to strengthen the continent's music sector, focusing on capacity building, cultural promotion, and integration of music into economic development agendas.
- Fela Kuti will be honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2026 Grammy Awards
- Recorded music revenues in Sub-Saharan Africa grew 22.6% in 2025 compared to 2024.
- Kokoroko announced as first act for MTN Bushfire 2026.
- Nyege Nyege Festival (Uganda) marked its 10-year anniversary in November with a massive line-up including Skrillex
- Kenya's Sauti Sol secured a multimillion-shilling corporate partnership with KCB Bank to expand SolFest.
- AfroFuture Ghana closed out December with Asake and Rema.
- CottonFest, one of South Africa's prominent youth-centred cultural festivals, has officially announced its closure.
- Blankets & Wine Kenya celebrates a big year with Scorpion Kings headlining their December edition.
- The Music In Africa Foundation (MIAF) and Busara Promotions, organisers of the Sauti za Busara festival, have partnered to expand the Gender@Work training programme for women into East Africa.
- The Mozambique Music Meeting - a showcase festival and music market aimed at promoting Mozambican and Lusophone music - announces its dates for 2026.
- Milk + Cookies to bring Gunna and Ordel to Cape Town and Johannesburg.
- South African multi-instrumentalist and producer Pops Mohamed has died at the age of 75.
- The Cavemen perform in Nairobi for the first time.
- South African musician Thandiswa Mazwai will mark her 50th birthday with the launch of the Sankofa Heritage Festival

BEST RELEASES OF 2025

- Annahstasia - Tether
- Mereba - The Breeze Grew A Fire
- Little Simz - Lotus
- Salif Keita - So Kono
- The Ezra Collective - Dance, No One's Watching
- Amaarae – Black Star
- WITCH - Sogolo
- Piers Faccini & Ballake Sissoko - Our Calling
- Obongjayar - Paradise Now
- Kabza da Small - 'Bab'motha
- The Cavemen - Cavy In The City
- Madala Kunene & Sibusile Xaba - kwaNTU
- Njoki Karu - Mwihoko: Ûtheri wa Ngoro
- Yazmin Lacey -Teal Dreams
- Blood Orange - Essex Honey
- Odeal - The Summer That Saved Me
- Made Kuti - Chapter 1: Where Does Happiness Come From?
- Zaylevlten - then 1t g0T crazy
- Saint Levant - Love Letters
- Kelvin Momo - Thato Ya Modimo
- Kujenga - Common Ground
- ODUMODUBLVCK - INDUSTRY MACHINE
- Kokoroko - Tuff Times Never Last
- Muneyi - There's a Burning Sensation Where My Heart Used to Be
- Fola - catharsis
- Stogie T - Anomy
- Chronixx - Exile
- Bnxxn - Captain
- Anaiis - Devotion & The Black Divine
- Seba Kaapstaad – 4ever
- Luukhanyo - Lucky UU
- Adekunle Gold - Fuji

BEST RELEASES OF 2025

- Kasiva Mutua - Desturi
- Esinam & Sibusile Xaba - Healing Voices
- Kojoy Radical - Don't Look Down
- Moonchild Sanelly - Full Moon
- Mulatu Astatke – Mulatu Plays Mulatu
- Cleo Reed - Cunty
- Boj - Duplicity
- Alsarah & The Nubatones - Seasons Of The Road
- Steamdown - I Realised It Was Me
- Labdi - Pakruok
- DBN Gogo - The Godmother
- Jupiter & Okwess - Ekoya
- Lord Kez - You, Me & the 80's
- MÖRDA - Asante III
- Black Sherif - Iron Boy
- Ebo Taylor, Adrian Younge & Ali Shaheed Muhammad - Jazz Is Dead 022
- -M-, Fatoumata Diawara, Toumani & Balla Diabaté - Lamomali Totem
- Lord Kez - You, Me & the 80's
- Juls - Com Amor Brazil
- Joshua Baraka - Juvie