



SANDRA NANKOMA

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BIOGRAPHY

Ugandan Soul/Jazz Artist and composer Sandra Nankoma stands out as a luminary whose soulful melodies and rich cultural influences have left an indelible mark on the industry. Born and raised in the heart of Uganda, Sandra's journey to musical prominence is a testament to her artistic prowess, versatility, and a deep-rooted connection to her cultural heritage. Sandra's musical journey is a rich tapestry of influences, blending Traditional Soul, alternative sound, Jazz ballads, and African rhythms, all while drawing inspiration from the Motown era and traditional ugandan pop of the 60s ([Kadongo Kamu](#)). She seamlessly weaves her maternal tongue, Luganda, her paternal, Lugwere and English into her music, creating a signature style rooted in her diverse cultural background.

Early Years and Musical Awakening

Hailing from the village of Kamonkoli Eastern Uganda, Sandra Nankoma was Immersed in the cultural richness of Uganda from a young age. Raised in a family that appreciated and celebrated traditional music, her childhood was a melodic tapestry of rhythms and melodies that would later shape her distinctive musical style. It was in these formative years that Sandra's innate talent began to bloom, and her journey into the world of music began.

Sandra's initial exposure to various musical genres, including soul and jazz, ignited a passion that would guide her artistic exploration. As a young artist finding her voice, she navigated the diverse sounds around her, drawing inspiration from both local and global musical traditions, she recalls a conversation with her late father of the music icons she aspired to be like, Micheal Jackson, Miriam Makeba, Prince and Whitney Houston and her father's response being, you can be anything you want to be out in life. The dream begun from there on.

The Genesis of a Musical Odyssey

Sandra's foray into the music industry began in 2017, where she quickly garnered attention for her soul-stirring vocals and poignant song writing. Her early works reflected a fusion of soul, Jazz, and elements of traditional Ugandan music, establishing her as a trailblazer in a music scene that was increasingly embracing diversity.



One of the pivotal moments in Sandra's career came with the release of Kaddugala off her debut Album YENZE, an anthem of Melanin, that champions the fight against colourism, a release that catapulted her into the spotlight with multiple International Award nominations like the VISA POUR LA CREATION by Institute Francais Paris 2017 and the AFRIMA in 2018, in two categories Best inspirational Artist Africa, and Best Female artist Eastern African . The project showcased not only her vocal prowess but also her ability to weave a narrative through music, earning critical acclaim and endearing her to a growing fanbase.

Collaborations and Artistic Crossroads

Throughout her Career, Sandra Nankoma has actively sought collaborations that push the boundaries of her artistic expression. Teaming up with fellow musicians and artists in her country and across the globe, she has engaged in projects that showcase the diversity of East African Music. On the project LANGI an EP is a perfect example of inter-cultural connection between Barzo Brenez also Artistically known as BARZO. Barzo is a Costa Rican DJ/producer with a career spanning over a decade of releases and live performances, who has demonstrated great skill for mixing different musical styles with ease and flow. The EP “Langi”, is a refreshing combination of Funk, Afro and House grooves. The title track langi, which also translates to “Colors” in Luganda, speaks about seeing someone’s true colors and moving past a relationship.

These collaborations not only highlight her adaptability but also contribute to the cross-pollination of musical styles in the region. Her collaborations extend beyond the realm of music. Sandra has seamlessly transitioned into acting, bringing her artistic flair to the stage in her performances combined with photography as a way of expression. You will see this more on her upcoming projects, be sure to subscribe to her YouTube channel and newsletters.

Recognition and Impact

Sandra Nankoma's contributions to the music industry have not gone unnoticed. Awards and accolades have followed her along the path of her musical journey, solidifying her status as a respected figure in African music. Her impact extends beyond awards, however, as she continues to inspire a new generation of artists to embrace their roots while fearlessly exploring new artistic horizons.

Beyond the Stage: Activism

Beyond her musical endeavours, Sandra Nankoma is a passionate advocate for self-love, through her campaign #Kaddugala which means Melanin , a fight against colorism in her community Using her platform for positive change, she lends her voice to issues that resonate with her, embodying the belief that art can be a powerful catalyst for social transformation.

The Ever-Evolving Artistry of Sandra Nankoma

2023, Sandra teamed up with the Latin Grammys Nominee, Mexican producer/percussionist/vocalist/DJ Pahua for the remix of Langi the title track off the collaboration EP, LANGI. They, Sandra and Barzo continued the joiurney of this EP with different remixes including House DJ and Record Producer from Mexico Hotmood from Discoweey Label. The project was a success. Sandra Nankoma's journey continues with unwavering momentum. Her recent project, Kakana reflects an artist who refuses to be confined by the expectations of the industry. With each new creation, Sandra invites her audience into a world where tradition and innovation coalesce, creating a musical experience that transcends borders and resonates with the universal language of emotion.

Stay updated on Sandra Nankoma's latest endeavours by following her on all social platforms as SANDRA NANKOMA and visiting her official website www.sandranankoma.com . As she continues to shape the musical landscape with her soulful melodies and cultural richness, Sandra invites listeners to join her on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and, above all, a celebration of the diverse beauty of East African music.

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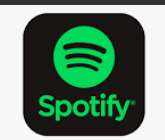
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