

EMPRESS NYIRINGANGO PRESS-KIT





BIOGRAPHY



A Canadian multilingual songwriter and performer, Empress Nyiringango blends Rwandan traditional music with contemporary influences. She is the creator of the "JABLUR": a fusion of jazz, blues, and traditional rhythms of Rwanda; her homeland. In particular, she features an old ritual instrument, which she wishes to bring out of oblivion: the INANGA, a Zither with strong symbolism for the peoples of the great lakes of Africa.

For several years now, Empress Nyiringango has been touring the world and celebrates the respectful coexistence of people who have fled war and all other forms of violence. Through passionate chants, her messages are universal; It is about faith, courage, hope, healing, resilience and love. In this regard, Heather Kitching, of Roots Music Canada, noted that her music "drips from her soul".

Award-winning artist, the third of her albums 'UBUNTU', has been nominated for the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award, in the category 'GLOBAL ROOTS ALBUM OF THE YEAR'. And her single "WIHOGORA" is sound track of "It COMES IN WAVES", a Canadian film officially premiered at the 2025 American Black Film Festival in Miami USA.. Empress Nyiringango holds a master's degree in education from the University of Ottawa; she is also a teacher, freelance actress, and a storyteller.



Jablur is a self coined musical style created by Empress Nyiringango. It stands for and blends elements of jazz, blues and traditional Rwandan music. This distinctive fusion features the oldest instrument of the Great Lake regions "Inanga" (zither) and contemporary music.

The sound of JABLUR in the album "UBUNTU" categorizes itself as a universal story with an incredible feel of players in different places combining elements of jazz, blues and cultural immortalization of Inanga's ancestral Rwandan sound. There is a captivating tone and harmony in all the instruments - zither, saxophone, bass guitar, cello, piano, kora, percussion etc.

Her songs, in general, feature a blend of traditional Rwandan and contemporary music. They are inspired by real events such as historic events, hardships, child abuse, resilience, love, faith and maternal wisdom from a cultural perspective. And while each song varies in tone, they're all original and bring a captivating and vibrant resonance to the music.



Some of the music Collaborators on the JABLUR project :

- **Aron Niyitunga:** Guitar, Electric Keys, and Canadian music director-producer
- **Nduduzo Makhathini:** well acclaimed South African jazz pianist and scholar
- **Ian Desouza:** Canadian bass guitar player • **Marcus Sali:** Canadian wind instruments player (saxophone, oboe, f lute, and more)
- **Kofi Ackah:** Ghanaian/CANADIAN percussionist (congas, cowbell, shakers, talking drum)
- **Tino Damba:** Zimbabwean Drummer
- **Raphael Weinroth Browne:** Canadian Cellist and composer • **Bill Ruzima:** Rwandan vocalist
- **Patient Akayezu:** Rwandan zither player (Inanga)
- **Makembe:** Makembe: creative entrepreneur of Rwandan sounds (Ikembe)
- **Benoit Rwivanga** aka “Kipeti”: Rwandan artist and music director



DISCOGRAPHY



PRESS



- Music Reviews by the Artistic director of the Folk on the Rocks Festival (FOTR) 2025



- Interview on CBC radio-Yellowknife; The Trailbreaker with Hilary Bird



- Média Ténos- Radio Taïga&L'Aquilon du Nord-Ouest du Canada: Le 13 juin 2025



- Black Ottawa Scene Review Sept 10th, 2024:



- Press- CBC's All In A Day with Stu Mills on May 27th, 2024



- Press- Interview on Capital Current: By Jack Klinck , September 23, 2024



- Press in 2024- Sound Café Review: By Stevie Connor



- Canadian Black Music Reviews- Celebrating mothers in Canadian Music 2024



- Press- Capital Current Interview: By Emma Chang., October 9, 2024



- Press- Roots Music Canada Review: By Heather Kitching October 11, 2023



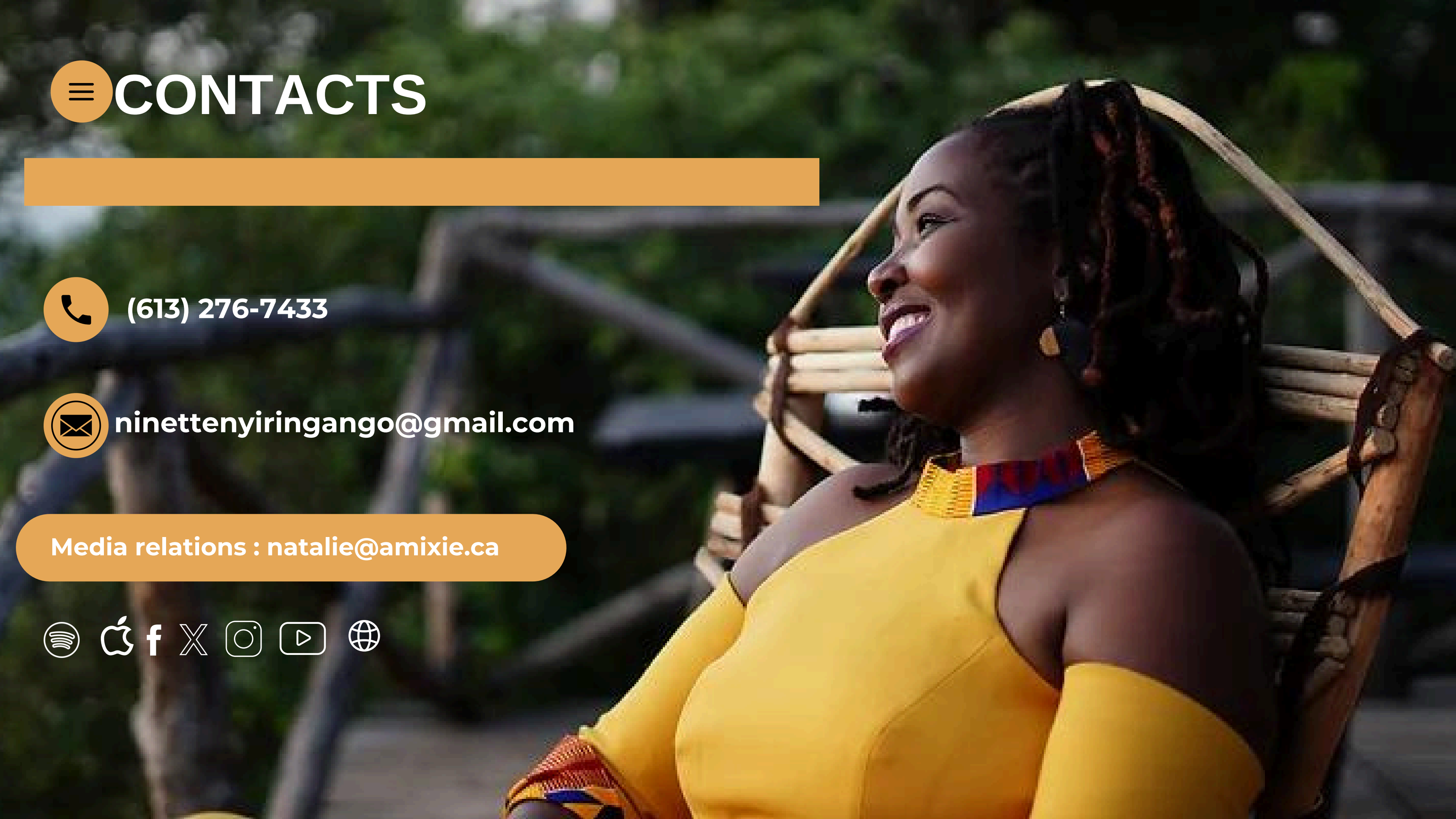


PERFORMANCES/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Aug 1st, 2025: Acoustic Performance at the Emancipation Day Celebration, at Upper Canada Village
- July 18-19th, 2025: Two Live concerts on the main stage of the Folk on The Rocks Festival (FOTR) in Yellowknife, Canada.
- June 19th, 2025: Acoustic performance presented by The Canadian Music Incubator at the World Exchange Plaza
- June 11-15th, 2025: Her new song “Wihogora” is a soundtrack of a Canadian film titled “It Comes in Waves”, officially premiered at the American Black Film Festival in Miami, USA.
- June 07th, 2025: Trio band performance in The Glebe at the City Sound Live, presented by the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC)
- May 29th, 2025: Live performance during the Jukebox Lunch concerts’ series at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.
- May 27th, 2025: Radio interview on Radio Canada with Rose Nantel in Ottawa
- May 26th, 2025: Radio interview on Ottawa’s UNIQUE FM with Michel Picard
- May 15th, 2025: Acoustic performance at the CrossCulture Showcase presented by the ArtsConnect Ottawa
- Apr 14th – 27th, 2025: Official delegate (in the Multicultural exchange and international showcases’ networking at the TogoJazz festival in Lomé, Togo and Cotonou, Benin
- Apr 04th, 2025: New video release of my song “Afrika” on my YouTube channel
- Feb 19th – 23rd, 2025: Received a scholarship to attend the Folk Alliance International Conference (FAI), held in Montreal city, Quebec.
- Nov 09th, 2024: Acoustic performance at the Multicultural World Festival at the Parliament Hill in Ottawa
- Oct 06th, 2024: Acoustic performance at the FemmeVox Music Series
- Sept 10th, 2024: Live Concert at the 15th anniversary celebration of the Shenkman Arts Centre in Ottawa.
- Aug 10th, 2024: Live concert at Habari Afrika Festival at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto
- July 20th, 2024: Live concert at the Edmonton Roots & Drums and Reggae Festival
- July 12th, 2024: Performance at the Ottawa Blues Festival which was held at the LeBreton Flats
- May 27th, 2024: Radio Interview on CBC's All In A Day with Stu Mills
- May 21st, 2024: Received the Emerging IBPOC Award presented by the Ottawa Arts Council
- Apr 04th - 7th, 2025: Attended the ceremony of the Canadian Folk Music Awards held in Newfoundland, St. Johns-Labrador
- Apr 06th, 2024: nominated for the Canadian Folk Music Awards in the category of Global Roots Album of the Year

Empress Nyiringango has performed at international festivals in Rwanda, Egypt, Kenya, Congo and Canada. She has also collaborated with local and international artists such as Finn M-k; Tunga Aron, Nduduzo Makhathini, Raphael Weinroth-Browne; Abel Maxwell, Sifa Choir, Kipeti Ngabo, Yawo from Togo as well as a Rwandan/Canadian Juno Award winner Mighty Popo. In 2007, she also collaborated with a Rwandan artists' collective on an album recording project of songs such as "Christmas in Darfur", a project funded by the Aegis Trust in partnership with the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre to promote peace in Darfur (Sudan). This gave her the opportunity to see her music broadcast in her native country and abroad. Empress Nyiringango participated in a local music project organized by Record Runner Rehearsal Studio and GPM Enterprise, in collaboration with emerging and international artists in the nation's capital to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Subsequently, a song called "Free to live again" was released in the summer of 2017, which can be found on Sound Cloud. Her music, including her videos, has been aired on various radio and television stations in Africa and North America: Radio Taiga & L'Aquilon of Nord-West of Canada; RADIO CABIN; RADIO CANADA TV & RADIO; CBC RADIO; BBC RADIO 4; CHUO; CHANNEL EAST; ROGERS TV; DIASPORA CONNECTION-AVR, CKCU; CIUT FM; TANG RADIO AND RWANDA BROADCASTING AGENCY-RBA.

- Jan 23rd, 2024: Private Live Concert at Kinaxis- coordinated by the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC).
- Dec 09th, 2023: House Concert at the Gala Fundraiser for the Radical connections in Wickfield
- Oct 27, 2023: Acoustic performance at the Music Care Conference- Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre in Ottawa
- Oct 12-13, 2023: Official showcase at the Folk Music Ontario Conference in London Ontario.
- Sept 9th, 2023: Live Concert at the Mandala Spotlight Event organised by the Ottawa Arts Council and took place at the Ottawa Arts Gallery.
- June 24th, 2023: Acoustic performance at the International Cultural Event during the Welcoming Week in Ottawa.
- June 17th, 2023: Live performance in Edmonton at the Portuguese Cultural Centre
- June 1st, 2023: Performance with the Commotions band at the Capital Music Award organised by Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC)
- May 19th, 2023: Provided music workshop at the Bruyere Hospital through Hospital Radical Connections Program
- May 18th, 2023: Performed for the residents at the Saint Vincent Hospital through Radical Connections Program
- April 14th, 2023: Provided music workshop at the Bruyere Hospital through Hospital Radical Connections Program



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