



**ALBINO**

**MBIE**



# ABOUT ALBINO MBIE

Albino Mbie is a multi award-Winning **Musician, Guitarist, Singer, Composer, Sound Engineer, Music Producer**, and a Berklee College of Music Professor in Boston. **He was born** in Kamubukwane District, Bairro George Demitrove, well known as Benfica, **in the suburbs of Maputo, Mozambique**, the capital city of Mozambique, a country in Southern Africa known for its rich musical and cultural heritage. Fueled by the resourcefulness and determination that have always characterized Mozambicans, **he built his first guitar at age 15 from a 5-liter can of oil, scrap wood, and strings made from electrical cords**. He moved to the US to attend Berklee College of Music in 2009, being among the first Africans awarded a full tuition scholarship via the Berklee African Scholars Program. In 2013, he graduated with a dual major in Music Production & Sound Engineering and Guitar Performance and dual minors in Acoustics and Electronics. Since then, he has shared his Mozambican roots—music, dance, culture, and native languages enriched by the experience of living and studying in the US with the rest of the world. During the years, he learned **to combine rhythmic patterns and musical concepts to create a unique Marrabenta, Nikatche, Afro-Pop, and Moz-Jazz sound**.

His passion for travel, discovery, experimentation, to be an active touring musician allowed him to share the stage with godfathers of American jazz, such as Wayne Shorter, Joe Lovano, John Patitucci, and more, as well as African giants such as Richard Bona, Jimmy Dlodlu, Mulatu Astatke and many more.

# ARTIST'S MISSION STATEMENT



He started music education formally in Mozambique, where the higher education system exclusively taught western traditions and social structure. The educational perspective did not empower African music traditions and had a name for the desired outcome, an empiric musician. Forced to study the western music education system to fit in, he felt marginalized and excluded in his own country and society.

In 2009, he was granted a scholarship to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the US. His main objective in pursuing higher education at Berklee was to learn music directly from African descendants in the diaspora and how they could bring their voices, grow in their music and culture, and build community in such a hostile environment.

After three years of jazz guitar education at the Berklee College of Music, he was longing for home. He needed to reconnect with his Mozambican roots to combine it with the newer musical influences. He searched for mentors, Richard Bona and Lionel Loueke, who could support him in finding his voice and guiding him in the process of discovery, reappropriation, and inspiring for growth toward who he is today. In this research path, he has learned **the power music holds, African music, in particular, in breaking down social and cultural barriers.**



He has understood the central role it could and should play in activating a positive process of decolonization and recovery of an African cultural identity capable of **actively constructing a more inclusive and welcoming society.**

His musical project searches for ways to build up from the western education system that he has formally studied and the oral transmission system that his ancestors have been preserving for hundreds of years. He hopes it can support many other people to know where we come from.

*"Albino is the next  
upcoming guitarist and  
composer from Africa with  
fresh ideas.  
He needs to be heard by  
the whole world!"*

Lionel Loueke

# THE MUSIC



His music brings awareness to various languages, cultures, and traditions by combining many disparate parts into an organic whole. While it is rooted in rhythms from the south of Mozambique, specifically: Maputo, Gaza, and Inhambane provinces. **He blends Marrabenta rhythms, Chope music with jazz harmonies, and the freedom of improvisation individually and collectively through call and response with the audience.** Marrabenta is an urban musical style born in Maputo during the colonial period, known for its guitar counterpoint, vivid rhythms, and typical swinging dance moves. Chope music belongs to the chopi people, an ethnic group from the Zavala region in the Inhambane Province.

The **eclectic mix of his compositions resulted from finding his sense of home, belonging, and authentic voice in a multicultural environment.** In the songwriting, he brings forward the need to address social injustice issues and climate change and to offer the world a way to get more people together and inspire collective movement and change.

**His music aims to honor life by combining the energies of different musical traditions to create an authentic voice, a set of emotional, political, and personal songs that are vessels of hope.**

In the project, **he is open to change and "contamination," bringing him closer to the different audiences he interact with, making them protagonists of his musical evolution.** His three band members play a central role, talented musicians gifted with humility, self-awareness, and personality, supporting his desire to deepen research and experiment. Ebinho Cardoso, the band's bass player, is one of the most respected Brazilian bassists of the new generation. A virtuoso of his instrument, composer, arranger, singer, and researcher, he uses atypical elements of the electric bass, showing its range of possibilities. Jiri Nedoma, born in the Czech Republic, is a highly sought-after pianist, keyboardist, and arranger who blends jazz, classical, R&B, and gospel into his musical language. Matthew Williams is a Boston native drummer who earned a full-tuition Berklee City Music Scholarship and was part of the City Music All-Stars.

They are all professionals who have always believed in Mbie's vision and have stimulated his growth and musical development.

Albino Mbie continuously encourages his bandmates to be modern sonically because the Mozambican rhythms are very traditional. **In our performances, the keyboard player uses synthesizers and modules, the guitar, bass, and voice use pedal boards for sound effects, and the drums use pads to trigger various sounds. The contrast creates a unique sonic concept for the Albino Mbie Project.**



*"Albino Mbie is one of the  
freshest new voice on jazz  
scene"*

J.R.Carroll



*"Mbie's lyrics depict African images broadly and reverently, in every verse, the atmosphere of the music jovial, if not celebratory."*

Charley Ruddell



# AWARDS

1

Honor as one of the first African Scholars and studied Music Production and Sound Engineering, Jazz Guitar Performance along with a minor in Electronic and Acoustics.organic.

2

First place, International Songwriting Competition 2013, World Music category (USA).

3

Revelation prize of the year 2013/14, Ngoma Mozambique.

4

Best Upcoming African Artist nomination 2014, Radio France International (RFI)

5

Finalist for single Where You Come From, John Lennon Songwriting Competition 2016

6

2018 and 2019 Boston music awards Nominee (MA, USA)

# WHERE TO FIND ALBINO MBIE'S MUSIC



**YOUTUBE**



**APPLE MUSIC**



**SPOTIFY**



**SOUNDCLOUD**



# CONTACTS



+1 (617) 406-9633



[www.albinombie.com](http://www.albinombie.com)



@albinombie



Albino Mbie