

MOKOOMBA BIOGRAPHY

Mokoomba is one of Africa's most exciting young bands. Mokoomba hails from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and they are vibrant, distinct combining their traditional Tonga and pan -African music cultures with dashes of Rap, Ska, Soukous and Afro-Cuban music. Since winning the Music Crossroads Inter-regional Festival Competition in Malawi in 2008, Mokoomba has toured more than 40 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania, received critical attention for their recordings and numerous accolades.

Highlights are performances at the European Development Days Awards in Stockholm (Sweden) in 2009, Festival Couleur Cafe (Belgium) and opening for the Cranberries at Colors of Ostrava Festival in 2010, Moshito Music Conference showcase Johannesburg (South Africa), World Music Expo showcase in Thessaloniki (Greece) as well as a live performance on BBC TWO's program "Later..with Jools Holland" in 2012. In 2013 Mokoomba featured at HIFA 2013 closing concert collaboration with Senegal's star Baaba Maal in Harare then embarked on a 40 date summer tour with debut performances at WOMAD (UK), Roskilde Festival (Denmark) and Gnaoua Festival (Morocco) to mention a few as well as trips to South Korea, Kenya and Reunion Island. In 2014 Mokoomba has performed at WOMAD Australia, WOMAD New Zealand and a Europe tour including a 13 date UK Tour as well a a debut US/Canada tour.

Mokoomba recorded its first album "Kweseka-Drifting Ahead" and the hit single "Messe Messe", produced in collaboration with Dutch DJ GREGOR SALTO as part of the Stand UP anti-poverty campaign funded by AfricaUnsigned in 2009. In 2011 Mokoomba and Gregor Salto released an EP titled "Umvundla" and in 2012 Mokoomba launched its second album "RISING TIDE", produced by MANOU GALLO, which has received rave reviews from world music specialists including UK's prestigious Songlines Magazine, Froots Magazine, Afropop Worldwide and The Guardian which listed "Rising Tide" in its top 5 world music albums of 2012 also making it into the top ten of many "best of 2012 albums" lists.

They are also subjects of a documentary called MOKOOMBA-FROM ONE RIVER BANK TO ANOTHER by Frank Dalmat and Francis Ducat which tells the story of Mokoomba in the context of the relationship between culture and economic development in the south and are recent winners of the Songlines Music Awards – Best Newcomer 2013, NAMA Arts Personality of the Year 2013, ZIMAA Top Touring Artist of the Year 2013, the Zim Achievers – International Best Touring Artist 2014 and the ZIMA award 2014.

BAND MEMBERS

Mathias Muzaza : Lead vocals

Ndaba Coster Moyo : Drummer & backing vocals

Trustworth Samende : Lead Guitar & backing vocals

Donald Moyo: Keyboards & backing vocals

Miti Mugande: Percussion & backing vocals

Abundance Mutori: Bass Guitar & backing vocals