

Introducing GIHANZE's new album ITSIMBIRO
(warrior play)



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ALBUM DESCRIPTION

Gihanze

INTRODUCING GIHANZE'S NEW ALBUM ITSIMBIRO (WARRIOR PLAY)

Itsimbiro. The very name of the album is mysterious. Translated from Kinyarwanda (a Rwandan language), it means “warrior play.”

So, who is this new artist who starts by setting a trap for his audience? But this is not an ambush. It's a warning call. Like a sentinel, he is sounding the alarm against a fierce enemy that lies dormant within each of us: stubbornness, arrogance, greed, immorality...

In hybrid style, he faithfully transposes the notes of the inanga to the guitar. The inanga is a traditional musical instrument, usually tuned on a pentatonic scale. Halfway through the album, he pays tribute to the great masters who nourished his ear in his childhood.

His original style is not only a composition of tones refined into a melodic instrumental performance. It is, above all, a balm for the soul nourished by the wellspring of his life experiences and the traditional wisdom of his native Rwanda.



A MAN WHO STRADDLES TWO WORLDS

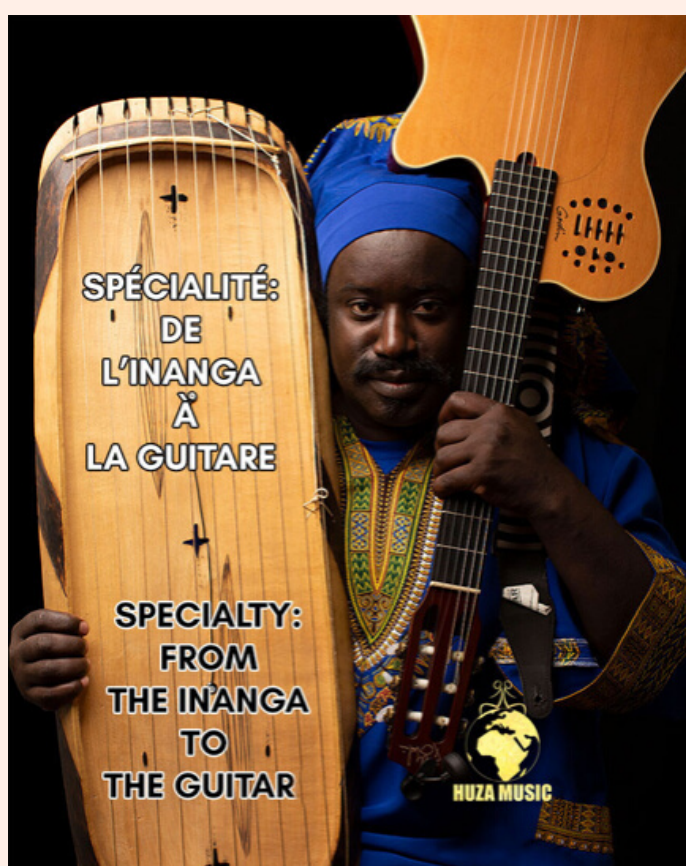
Understanding Gihanze the artist is to understand his maternal line. His mother was a folklore aficionado. His paternal grandmother a traditional priestess from a secret cult.

The young Gihanze grew up to the sounds of the music so adored by his mother and the words his grandmother murmured in his ear. An animist, Gihanze literally and in every sense straddles two worlds: our world and the world of the insider.

There was no way he could escape his destiny. Is it even possible to flee what is deep within us? Through his wanderings, the *Imandwas* of ritual music finally reeled him in.

Now proud and happy to embrace it, Gihanze invites us into eternal tranquility: *I buhora nk'akara! "Akara k'umubyeyi wa Twese!"*

You must be wondering what this means... But even if we told you, you wouldn't understand until you've heard his music.



DISCOGRAPHY

ALBUM: ITSIMBIRO

Gihanze

Titre

1. IMANDWA ZA NYOGOKURU
2. INZIRA Y'UMURINZI
3. BISETSIMANDWA
4. INGANJI Y'IMINSI
5. ABANOGERA
6. NYIRABISABO
7. NYAMWIZA
8. GARUKA
9. ROZALIYA NAKUNZE
10. UMUMARARUNGU

Titles in English

1. MY GRANDMOTHER'S GUARDIAN ANGELS
2. THE PATH OF THE SACRED TREE
3. THE IMANDWAS' CHARMER
4. THE TAMER OF DESTINY
5. GUESTS OF HONOUR
6. GIRL AT THE CHURN
7. THE BEAUTY
8. COME BACK TO ME
9. MY BELOVED ROSALIE
10. RAVISHING WOMAN

1. IMANDWA ZA NYOGOKURU 6:33
2. INZIRA Y'UMURINZI 8:10
3. BISETSIMANDWA 5:07
4. INGANJI Y'IMINSI 7:40

HOMMAGE À MES GRANDS MAÎTRES!

(SEBATUNZI)

5. ABANOGERA 6:58
6. NYIRABISABO 6:47
7. NYAMWIZA 6:52
8. GARUKA 4:27

(SIMPARINGOMA)

9. ROZALIYA NAKUNZE 8:44

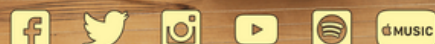
(KABENGERA GABRIEL)

10. UMUMARARUNGU 5:46



HUZA MUSIC

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ALBUM LAUNCH AND LIVE SHOW IN MONTRÉAL!

Montréal, February 10, 2020 – After having won over critics and the public in his homeland of Rwanda and around the world, Gihanze, “the man who straddles two worlds,” launched his first album in Montréal on December 21, 2020. He took Café Les Oubliettes by storm with his guitar and inanga during the official launch of Itsimbiro.

Gihanze’s album is a collection of titillating tones. In hybrid style, he faithfully and integrally transposes the notes from the inanga, a traditional instrument, to the guitar. Tuned on a pentatonic scale, he uses his instrument to produce Bluesy tunes. The lyrics in rich traditional rhymes pay tribute to the great masters who nourished his childhood ear. These elements come together to produce an original work that reflects the artist’s refined musical palette.

Accompanied by talented musicians, Gihanze breathes new life into a musical style whose roots had grown dry with time, but like a good vintage wine, becomes better with age. But beware, it could be intoxicating!

GIHANZE ITSIMBIRO

LANCEMENT D'ALBUM
CONCERT LIVE

ALBUM LAUNCH
LIVE CONCERT



**CONTACT
& INFORMATION**

Gihanze

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW:**

gihanzemusic@gmail.com

Canada: +1 514 248 5106

UK: +44 7448 135 420



GIHANZE.COM

