

Mingas, Mozambique: Biography Summary

Born and raised in Mozambique, Elisa Domingas 'Mingas' Jamisse is the fourth of six children. Destined to sing, Mingas took part in a number of talent shows in her youth. Through this process she eventually became the lead singer of one of the most popular bands in Mozambique at the time, Hokolókwé. The band toured extensively throughout Mozambique under trying civil war conditions.

Mingas established herself during the challenging period of transformation in Mozambique. Her determination and love for music were the keys that pulled her through the country's tumultuous political reality.

She was a lead singer in 'Orchestra Marrabenta Star de Mozambique' during tours throughout Europe in 1987-88. Solo recordings during this period included 'Ava Sati Va Lomu', 'Elisa Gomara Saia'. Later she recorded 'Nweti' and other tracks with the group Amoya in Paris. Her recording of 'Nweti' was included in the Putumayo Records collection 'Women of the World'. As part of the group Amoya, she was awarded the 'Grand Prix Decouvertes 90' at a Gala show in Guinea Conakry.

In the late 1990s, Mingas performed with Miriam Makeba as a backing vocalist and solo artist during Mama Africa's international tours that spanned four continents. Professional highlights in Mingas' career include performances at the Sydney Opera House in Australia and a performance for Pope John Paul II during his visit to Brazil.

During her career, Mingas has performed with internationally celebrated artists such as Hugh Masekela, Gilberto Gil, Mariza, Jimmy Dluclu, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and many others. Her song 'Malungelo', performed by Mingas together with Hugh Masekela, is included in Hugh Masekela's CD 'Phola' and also in Mingas' CD 'Vhumela'.

In 2010 she was designated 'United Nations Millennium Development Goals Envoy for Africa' and in 2013 'UN MDG Goodwill Ambassador for Mozambique'. To enable her to work more effectively in the areas that are of particular importance and interest to her, namely education and health care for women and girls, Mingas established the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) 'A Vukka' in Mozambique in 2012. 'A Vukka', in her mother tongue Xitswa, literally means 'wake up' or 'stand up'. The name was also inspired by the title of her first solo album, 'Vuka África'.

From her visits to maternity and children's health care sectors in hospitals in the region of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, Mingas has witnessed the great difficulties caused by shortage of medical professionals, clean water, sterilizing equipment, mosquito nets, incubators, etc.. Further, to better understand the reasons why girls leave schools at an early age, she has participated in debates with girls at secondary schools.

Mingas has recorded two solo CD albums, 'Vuka África' (2005) and 'Vhumela' (2013). She has also released one video DVD, 'Mingas Ao Vivo', recorded live at Centro Cultural Franco Moçambicano in Maputo.

In 2013, Mingas was honored by the French government as 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre National des Arts et des Lettres'.

Mingas tours widely throughout Mozambique, Southern Africa and internationally, gaining a legendary status in her country.

For more information, please visit: www.mingas.com

