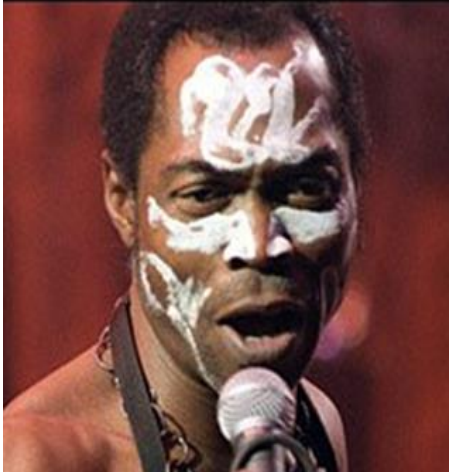


FACT FILE: AFRICAN FAMOUS ARTISTS (PART ONE)



FELA KUTI: 'The Black President'

1: FELA KUTI (15th October, 1938-02nd August, 1997)

Fela's full name is **Olufela Olusegun Oludotun Ransome-Kuti**. He was born in Nigeria and died in the same country.

He is best known as a charismatic musician, composer and Pan-Africanist. The Afro-beat music genre, which he created in the 1960s, is still popular today.

His mother was a women's rights activist and his son, Femi Anikulapo Kuti, followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a successful singer and songwriter in Nigeria and other countries.



CESÁRIA ÉVORA : 'The Queen of Morna'

2: CESARIA EVORA (27th August, 1941-17th December, 2011)

Cesária Évora was born in Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde. She was also known as '**Cise**' by her friends. Her nicknames include '**Barefoot Diva**' and '**Queen of Morna**'.

She became known internationally with the release of her album entitled '**La Diva aux pieds nus**' in 1988. More success followed with '**Cesária**' in 1995.

Cesária won three Kora Music Awards in 1997. She also received a Grammy Award in 2003 for her album '**Voz D'Amor**' which reached number 3 in the Polish Top Ten charts.



YOUSOUU : 'Le Petit Prince de Dakar'

3: YOUSOUU N'DOUR (1st October, 1959-)

Youssou N'Dour was born in Senegal. He is a successful singer and prolific songwriter and composer. He also owns a newspaper called '**L'Observateur**'.

His most known song is '**7 Seconds**', which he sang with Neneh Cherry in 1994. He went on to do more musical collaborations with other international artists such as Sting, Axelle Red, Wyclef Jean, Paul Simon, Tracy Chapman and Dido. His music genre is mbalax.

Youssou is equally active in politics and human rights issues. He tried to run for presidency in 2012. He then served as the Senegalese Minister of Tourism & Culture from 2012 to 2013.



ANJELIQUE: 'Africa's Premier Diva'

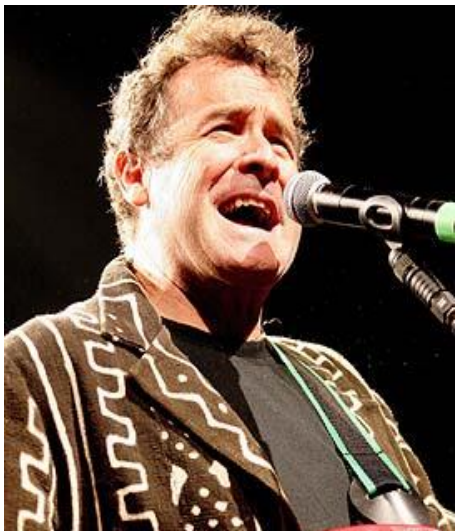
4: ANJELIQUE KIDJO (14th July, 1960-)

Anjélique Kidjo is from Benin. She is one of Africa's most celebrated and influential singers and songwriters.

Her lifelong and ardent activism has put her in the spotlight while her creative music videos have brought her international fame and recognition.

She is a recipient of numerous music awards including the Grammy, Kora, Mobo, N.A.A.C.P, Danish and AFRIMA. Her advocacy has also been rewarded by illustrious world institutions.

Afropop, jazz, Caribbean zouk, Congolese rumba and gospel are some of her major musical influences.



JOHNNY CLEGG : 'The African Zulu'

5: JOHNNY CLEGG (7th June, 1953-)

Johnny Clegg is an acclaimed and award-winning singer, songwriter and activist from South Africa. His crossover music that mixes Zulu and English lyrics has sold millions of copies worldwide.

Johnny was born in England but moved to Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) where he was raised by his mother. At the age of seven, he moved to South Africa where, later on, he would build an outstanding musical career with the Juluka and Savuka bands.

The Kora and Billboard Music Awards are some of his leading achievements.



MIRIAM MAKEBA : 'Mama Africa'

6: MIRIAM MAKEBA (4th March, 1932-9th November, 2008)

Miriam Makeba was born in South Africa. Her nickname '**Mama Africa**' illustrates just how much she is a musical and human rights icon in Africa.

It is for her fight against apartheid that she was forced to go into exile in 1960, only to return to her homeland after 30 years.

While in the United States of America (USA), she collaborated with famous artists such as Paul Simon and Harry Belafonte.

She was a citizen of the world, having received international passports from nine countries, including Ghana, Belgium and the USA.



SALIF KEITA: 'The Golden Voice of Africa'

7: SALIF KEITA (25th August, 1949-)

Salif Keita is a revered Malian singer, songwriter and human rights activist. He has a predilection for Afropop, which mixes African and Western musical influences.

Despite being ostracised by his family and community for his albinism in his youth, Salif beat all odds to become one of Africa's most talented and recognised musicians.

Salif received the French '**Victoires de la Musique**' award for his album entitled '**La Différence**'.

He fights for the rights of people living with albinism. "*I am a black person/ My skin is white/... / I am a white person/ My blood is black/ And I adore that/ It's the difference that's beautiful*" he sings.



LUCIUS BANDA : 'The Voice of the Poor'

8: LUCIUS BANDA (17th August, 1970-)

Lucius Banda is Malawi's veteran singer and songwriter. He is also a human rights activist and Member of Parliament.

He started singing with his brother at an early age. Later on, it was a South African music school that would sharpen his skills.

Lucius's politically-motivated songs that stand up against oppression have often been banned on state-owned radios.

The vocal musician has also been instrumental in launching other popular artists' careers in the country .



BRENDA : 'The Queen of African Pop'

9: BRENDA FASSIE (3rd November, 1964-9th May, 2004)

Brenda Fassie was a renowned South African singer, activist and best-selling artist. Afropop music brought her national and international stardom.

Her legendary songs include '**Too Late for Mama**', '**Memeza**', '**Vulindlela**' and '**Nomakanjani**'. '**Vulindlela**' was so popular that it was used by the African National Congress Party for its elections' campaign in 1999.

Brenda was a recipient of the prestigious Kora Award and was once voted number 17 in the Top 100 Great South Africans who have ever lived. She struggled with drugs which would finally take her life away.



PAPA WEMBA: 'The King of Rhumba'

10: PAPA WEMBA (14th June, 1949- 24th April, 2016)

Papa Wemba's real name is **Jules Shungu Wembadio Pene Kikumba**. He was a very popular singer and musician from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His acting was also notable as evidenced by the highly successful film **'Life is Rosy'** in which he played the main role in 1987.

He also had an acute sense of fashion. He led the **'Sape'** movement, which stands for **'Society of Atmosphere-setters and Elegant People'**.

Papa Wemba also had a penchant for Congolese Rhumba, soukous and ndombolo and once played in famous bands such as Zaiko Langa Langa, Isifi Lokole, Yoka Lokole, Afrisa International and Viva La Musica.

He met his untimely death while performing on stage in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



HUGH : 'A world-acclaimed artist'

11: HUGH MASEKELA (4th April, 1939-)

Hugh Ramopolo Masekela is from South Africa. He is a renowned singer, musician, composer and political activist. He has been active on the national and international scene since 1956.

The instruments that he plays are the trumpet, the flugelhorn and the trombone cornet. His musical influences are African jazz, Jazz pop, Soul jazz, Instrumental pop, Afropop, Afrobeat, just to mention a few.

He won several music awards including a Grammy in 1968 for **'Best Contemporary Pop Performance-Instrumental'**.

Hugh's music helped to fight the apartheid regime in South Africa.



GRACE CHINGA : 'The Gospel Queen'

12: GRACE CHINGA (28th June, 1978-16th March, 2016)

Grace Chinga is a Malawian gospel music icon. She was a popular singer and composer and won the hearts of many, in her own country and abroad.

She is remembered for her energetic and inspiring performances.

Ethel Kamwendo, one of Malawi's best gospel musicians, highly influenced her music career which started in a choir, in 1998.

Some of Grace's most loved songs are **'Korona'**, **'Ndidzayimba Nyimbo'**, **'Mwayenela Ulemu'** and **'Thandizo Langa'**. The latter was chosen as the **'Best Song of the Year'** during the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation's Entertainer of the Year Awards. Many accolades would follow.



KHALED: 'The King of Rai'

13: KHALED (29th February, 1960-)

Khaled Hadj Ibrahim is from Algeria. He is an acclaimed raï singer and songwriter. He also plays several instruments. He used to be known by the name Cheb Khaled.

Khaled is so popular that he has sold more than 80 million albums worldwide.

He has won many major awards in different countries such as India, Algeria, France, Britain, USA, Canada and Morocco.

The talented musician was given the Moroccan citizenship in 2013.

'Didi', 'Aïcha' and 'C'est la vie' are some of his most well-known songs.

He has collaborated with famous international artists like Carlos Santana.



FEMI KUTI : 'The Prince of Afrobeat'

14: FEMI KUTI (16th June, 1962-)

Olufela Olufemi Anikulapo Kuti was born in London, England, to legendary Nigerian singer Fela Kuti and his wife Remilekun Taylor. He is a successful musician and political activist.

He is also an excellent player of multiple instruments such as the trumpet, the keyboard and the saxophone.

His famous albums are 'No Cause for Alarm', 'Femi Kuti', 'Shoki Shoki', 'Fight to Win', 'Day by Day', 'Africa for Africa' and 'No Place for My Dream'.

Femi has numerous accolades including the Nigerian Fame and African Kora awards. He has also received four Grammy nominations.



MANU DIBANGO: 'The Lion of Africa'

15: MANU DIBANGO (12th December, 1933-)

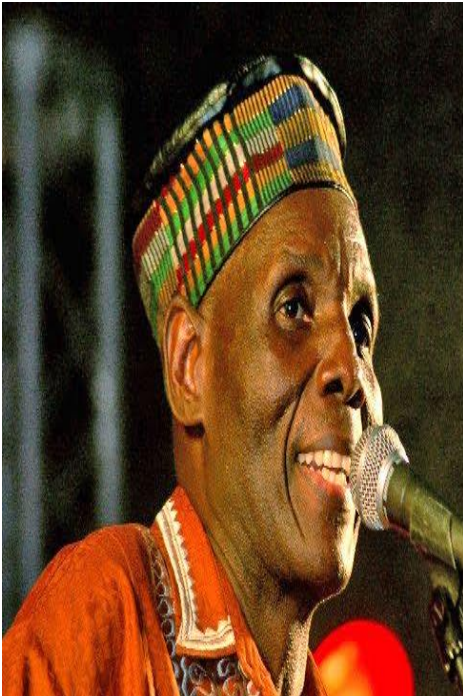
Emmanuel 'Manu' N'Djoké Dibango is from Cameroon. He is a musician and a songwriter. He also plays the saxophone and the vibraphone.

He is inclined towards African Rhumba, Afrofunk, Afrobeat, jazz and makossa.

Manu is best known for his 1972 international hit entitled 'Soul Makossa', which famed music stars such as Michael Jackson, Akon and Rihanna readapted.

His musical career has seen him collaborate with Fela Kuti, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, King Sunny Adé, Peter Gabriel and Cuban musician, Eliades Ochoa.

He was named UNESCO's artist for peace in 2004. He has also received several prestigious awards in France and elsewhere.



'TUKU': 'A prolific recording artist'

16: OLIVER MTUKUDZI (22nd September, 1952-)

Oliver Mtukudzi, or '**Tuku**' as he is fondly known, was born in Zimbabwe. He is a prominent and celebrated musician, entrepreneur and human rights activist. He has also starred in a few films.

Tuku is so prolific that he has released more than 60 full-length music albums in his life, making him a household name in Africa and elsewhere. He mostly sings in Shona, Ndebele and English.

His '**Tuku music**' is a clever mixture of Afropop, Afro-jazz, chimurenga, jit, mbira, mbaqanga and other traditional African sounds. It has earned him several accolades including the Kora Award and the Italian Cavalier of the Order of Merit.

In 2010, tragedy struck his family when his 21-year-old son and music partner, Sam, was killed in a car accident.



'The blind couple from Mali'

17: AMADOU (24th October, 1954-) & MARIAM (15th April, 1958-)

Amadou Bagayoko and **Mariam Doumbia** are from Mali. The popular couple has been performing professionally since 1980, the year they got married.

Their music of predilection is Afro-blues, a blend of Malian sounds and several musical instruments such as rock guitars, Cuban trumpets and Syrian violins. The duo has sold many albums around the world.

They have collaborated with famous artists like Manu Chao, Bertrand Cantat, K'Naan, Keziah Jones, Steve Wonder and Salif Keita.

The awards that they have received include the French 'Victoires de la musique' and BBC Radio 3 World Music awards.



'MTE' or 'MTEBETI': 'The servant'

18: WAMBALI MKANDAWIRE (10th June, 1952-)

Wambali Mkandawire was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Malawian parents. He is an Afro-jazz Rock Fusion musician, acoustic guitarist, activist, publisher and Christian minister.

He was the first African to win the World Intellectual Property (WIPO) Award for Creativity. Mte Wambali also has the SAMA and BEFFTA music awards to his name.

His music was once shunned or banned on state-owned radios for their political nature.

He mostly sings in Chitumbuka.



ZAHARA: 'The Blooming Flower'

19: ZAHARA (9th November, 1988-)

Zahara Bulelwa Mkutukana is the youngest person in this compilation. She is a best-selling and highly talented music artist from South Africa. '**Zahara**' means '**shining**', '**bright**' or '**flower**' in Arabic.

She has won over 18 awards including the Kora, Channel O Music Video, SAMA and Nigerian Entertainment Awards since 2011.

The popular Zahara mostly sings Afrosoul and Afropop in Xhosa. She also plays the acoustic guitar.

Her most notable albums include '**Loliwe**', '**Phendula**' and '**Country Girl**'. '**Loliwe**' is said to be South Africa's second fastest selling album since Brenda Fassie's '**Memeza**' released in 1997.



YVONNE: 'The Princess of Africa'

20: YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA (30th November, 1965-)

Yvonne Chaka Chaka is a popular and talented singer, songwriter, humanitarian and entrepreneur from South Africa.

Her most played songs include '**Motherland**', '**Thank You Mr. DJ**', '**I Cry for Freedom**' and '**I'm in Love with the D.J.**'.

She was one of the first black artists from her country to receive international recognition, alongside the legendary Miriam Makeba.

Her powerful voice has been keeping the African continent on the dance floor for more than 30 years.



LUCKY DUBE: 'Africa's Reggae King'

21: LUCKY DUBE (3rd August, 1964-18th October, 2007)

Lucky Philip Dube was from South Africa. He was a prolific best-selling reggae artist, rastafarian and outspoken social activist.

The aim of his music was '**to entertain, to educate and to unite people**' as he once explained in an interview with Fikisha Cumbo at the Motown Offices in Manhattan.

Lucky initially played mbaqanga music before switching to roots reggae. He was influenced by the legendary Peter Tosh and Jimmy Cliff.

Reggae fans all around the world woke up to tragic news on 18th October, 2007, as they learned of their hero's death at the hands of armed robbers. He was 43.