



## Santuri Press Release

DJ Rachael from Uganda, one of the central DJ/Producers involved with the Santuri East Africa project over the last 3 years, has been selected to perform at the prestigious WOMEX DJ Summit in Spain this October.

Santuri, began its relationship with DJ Rachael some three years ago at DOADOA festival where she collaborated with the team on some tracks. As a female DJ/Producer from Uganda she falls into a very small group of female DJ's in East Africa. Santuri and Rachael have been involved in several initiatives together, the latest of which took place earlier this month in Kampala – the Femme Electronic workshop. This ran in conjunction with the Rapture Warehouse event to celebrate DJ Rachael's 20 years in the business. As one of only 5 selected DJ's at the WOMEX DJ Summit, it's a huge honour for any DJ, let alone one from Uganda where electronic music is still in its infancy and female DJ's are rare around the world, and even rarer in East Africa.

### **Firsts!**

- DJ Rachael is the first artist to represent Uganda at WOMEX
- DJ Rachael helped Santuri initiate the Femme Electronic platform for female DJs in UG which is the first of its kind in Africa.

### **More information**

#### **About Santuri [www.santuri.org](http://www.santuri.org)**

Santuri is an East African initiative to create fresh, dynamic new music with a strong regional identity. Bringing together the traditional and the futuristic, Santuri facilitates

collaborations between musicians, DJs and electronic music producers, with the purpose of supporting and nurturing a spirit of artistic adventurousness. Bridging the gap between traditional artists, instruments, rhythms and cultures and the cutting edge of the global underground music scene, Santuri has various exciting projects underway in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Santuri is a not-for-profit limited-by-guarantee company that operates throughout East Africa. The organisation is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. The mission of Santuri is to develop and support a vibrant and creative East African network that enables artists and musicians to experiment, innovate, collaborate, and present their work professionally to audiences both regionally and globally. Santuri creates spaces and platforms for learning and expression for musicians, DJs, curators, and audio engineers. Santuri works toward the vision of an authentic and globally-recognized East African sound created by empowered and connected East African artists.

## About DJ Rachael

Rachael is small, quiet and shy offstage, but she's quite a different entity once she gets on the decks. Her wide appeal and multiple genres probably have more to do with the range of audiences DJ Rachael gets to play in front of in UG, than any mixed focus. She is one of East Africa's pioneer Girl DJ's, a Rapper, Musician, Producer and Activist.

- 20 years DJ'ing in East Africa
- Based in Kampala, UG
- Genre/s: Hiphop, Rap, Dance, Electro

## About Femme Electronic

Femme Electronic is a Santuri initiative to bring DJ training workshops for women to East Africa. Supported by Goethe-Zentrum Kampala and Native Instruments (who supplied the DJ equipment) Santuri arranged for Ena Lind from MINT Berlin, a major female electronic music platform, to visit Kampala for the workshops. The workshops were aimed at new or nearly new female DJ's. The workshops, facilitated by both Ena Lind and DJ Rachael were based around DJ Rachael's 20 year celebration event. At Santuri, part of our normal strategy is to run workshops with performance opportunities built in. Two of the trainees have already secured gigs, one of these with UK producer Jesse Hackett of Owiny Sigoma.

MINT Berlin have been highly active in providing networks and spaces for female DJs,

performers and producers. [www.mintberlin.de](http://www.mintberlin.de)

## The Ugandan Context

Electronic music itself is very much in its infancy in Uganda and East Africa in general. However, in the last 2-3 years Uganda has seen a rapid surge in interest in DJ culture and electronic music, evidenced by various new events, festivals and tours that have pushed it into the arts and culture landscape. With one notable exception [from the [Santuri Network DJ Rachael](#)], women have been largely absent from this process.

## The Rapture Warehouse Party

DJ's Rachael's celebration of 20 yrs in the business. Ena Lind from Berlin also took a turn on the decks. The party was much covered in the Ugandan press and beyond.

## About Womex 16 DJ Summit

The WOMEX DJ Summit invites artists from all over the world to perform in front of the the WOMEX delegates and general public. It's a huge market place for talent that often leads to many new opportunities for artists.

In just four years, the WOMEX DJ Summit has grown to become one of the most popular programme elements, with customised club nights that feature a cherry-picked line-up of DJs highlighting the trends, sounds and beats featured on dance-floors across the world. With its fifth edition to be held at WOMEX 16, the WOMEX DJ Summit has become a drawcard for professionals and musicians seeking club sounds and electronic music from across the world.

Five electronic acts, curated by [Guy Morley](#) (UK), hit the decks at Sala Capitol in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain, who had this to say on WOMEX and the electronic scene:

"Dance music culture is a really important element of world music; helping to both excite new audiences and move on preconceptions. The self-confidence of 'homegrown' dance music is charged-up around the globe creating popular musical archetypes that threaten the dominance of US and European 'pop' culture. Native markets grow stronger and a new generation make their mark, often more reliant on neighbouring markets than on ones further afield, in Europe or North America. The evidence for this can be seen in through this year's DJ submissions, where there were really strong fields from both Africa and South America. These

days how this all works together with notions of counter culture is a complex task but I hope visitors to the WOMEX DJ Summit get some insight."

The 5 selected DJ's are

- Acid Arab DJ Set (France)
- DJ Rachael (Uganda)
- DJ Satelite (Angola/Portugal)
- El Remolon (Argentina)
- Hatim Belyamani (Morocco/USA)

Official Womex Page: [http://www.womex.com/programme/showcase\\_festival/dj\\_summit](http://www.womex.com/programme/showcase_festival/dj_summit)

Womex Press Release 6/7/16: <http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=2375b94acfa26d1c0d18f4e84&id=c13250c858>

Womex Newsletter 6/7/16: <http://us10.campaign-archive1.com/?u=2375b94acfa26d1c0d18f4e84&id=cbab88813a>