



## **MEET THE CANDIDATES**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION  
AGM 2022

## Board of Directors Election 2022

*Candidates up for Re-Election*

Nate Sabine



### **Music BC President (Incumbent)**

It has been an absolute honour to serve as President of the board at Music BC these last two years. The team accomplished many of the goals that we hoped to achieve - the artist accelerator especially comes to mind - in what is undoubtedly the most daunting time for our industry in recent history. Through working with the incredible folks here, and seeing first-hand the results and impacts of our programs, I've become more convinced than ever not only of the level of talent we hold here in B.C., but also of the importance of our organization. I've spoken with and witnessed so many artists and industry professionals have their career trajectories positively affected by Music B.C. that I've lost count. As I've seen via my roles as a director at Blueprint, and serving on the board of the Hospitality Vancouver Association, there is a long way to go until we see a full recovery. I'm hopeful that I can contribute in a meaningful way and look forward to 2023, as we move into another year of lobbying for program funding, moving through our strategic plan, and re-imagining some core programming.

### **About Nate Sabine:**

Nate has had a successful career in Vancouver entertainment and hospitality for over 20 years. Self-producing club nights, live hip hop shows, and managing various local artists in the late 1990s and early 2000s lead to a lengthy stint as director of brand and marketing at Donnelly Group, ownership in ventures from retail to restaurant, and to his current role as director of business development at Blueprint. At the west coast's largest independent live concert and festival company, he deals variously with government and public relations, brand partnerships, and sponsorship, touching every one of Blueprint's ventures in BC, Alberta, and across the country. The industry veteran also serves as the President of Music BC, a director of the Hospitality Vancouver Association and serves on the DV BIA Board of Directors. In 2019, he co-founded the Mental Wealth seminar series, free interactive events focused on industry and BIPOC mental health. Nate is also a dedicated family man, music lover, tennis player, skateboarder, and mental health advocate.

Teon Gibbs



### **Director (Incumbent)**

Over the last two years I have learned a lot about the scope of the Canadian Music Industry, and I have cultivated a larger platform for both myself as an artist and my company 100 Collective to facilitate opportunity for people from my community. Since 100 Collective has implemented our community building events: 100 Fest, Culture Con, and showcases, we are in close connection with our artists and hear their grievances and goals. Being an artist with a few more years of development and experience, I can understand the language our community is speaking, and I hope to be a conduit for progress.



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I want to continue to advocate for opportunities for BIPOC artists as well as being an ear for consultation to ensure that things are not only equitable and inclusive, but also scalable and appealing to the people.

I feel as if Music BC, its associated programming, this diverse board, and the current caliber of music coming out of BC right now makes me think we have never been in a more exciting place. If there is potential to impact and shape the way the music scene looks for the future, I want to be a part of that.

### **About Teon Gibbs:**

Teon Gibbs is quickly becoming one of the most recognizable names in Western Canada. With consistency and a willingness to push himself artistically, Teon has independently toured the US West coast, been nominated for Western Canadian Music Awards, been featured in publications such as: Complex, CBC, Earmilk, CTV and The Vancouver Sun and is currently working on an album with several Grammy and Juno nominated producers.

"I might do it for the culture" a lyric from Teon's first EP has embodied how he approaches business. He has cultivated a community around him through his company 100 Collective. 100 Collective is a BIPOC owned music organization that prides themselves in developing artists and accelerating their career paths. They have done this through: content creation, curating showcases for larger producers, hosting their own boutique festival "100 Fest" and a music conference called "Culture Con". Teon and 100 Collective are now looking to further serve their community by adding distribution to the myriad of artist services they provide. 100 Collective Records hopes to facilitate infrastructural growth for Hip-Hop and R&B artists, especially those who are BIPOC, who have been underrepresented in Western Canada.

"It kind of feels like we're buying back the block" says Teon as he looks to the future.

## Board of Directors Election 2022

### *Nominees for Election*

#### **Ashley Sperling**



#### **Director (Nominee)**

Music BC does incredible work advocating for and celebrating BC-based artists, creators, businesses, and music industry leaders at home and abroad. With my music industry experience, relationships, and passion for elevating artists, I can help support the team in that work. I'd love to collaborate with the board and staff to understand where my skills and experience would be most useful, whether that's in media relations and building profile, marketing, events, or fostering stronger relationships within specific genre communities and with industry stakeholders. On a personal level, as a relative newcomer to BC I'm excited to continue becoming more immersed in the robust music community in Victoria and across the province.

### **About Ashley Sperling:**

Ashley is a music and marketing enthusiast with a passion for storytelling, cultivating relationships, events, and technology. She has more than a decade of experience in the Canadian music industry, and is currently the Director of Marketing and Brand Partnerships at Strut Entertainment - a music, lifestyle, and entertainment marketing and PR agency.

Prior to moving to BC in 2020, Ashley oversaw marketing, communications and events for MusiCounts, the music education charity associated with the JUNO Awards. She also has previous experience at Universal Music Canada, Cadence Music Group/Fontana North, BlackBerry (music and content team), Luminato Festival, and previously taught digital marketing at the Harris Institute for the Arts.

Ashley has music/entertainment media and industry relationships across Canada, was previously on the Board of Directors for the Country Music Association of Ontario, and serves on various music industry juries. She has collaborated with many artists, companies, and brands on projects including Justin Bieber, Drake, Arkells, LIGHTS, Marianas Trench, City & Colour, Nuela Charles, Blue Rodeo, Keshia Chante, Karli June, 604 Records, Spotify, Music Publishers Canada, CCMA's, TD Bank Group, Aeroplan and more.

Outside of work you'll often find Ashley at a show, outside enjoying beautiful Vancouver Island, or traveling.

### **Catherine Hiltz**



### **Director (Nominee)**

Some of the most impactful touring, traveling, and artist development experiences of my career have been facilitated by or funded by Music BC. Thanks to their programming, I have performed in India, Estonia, the UK, Germany, France, on a multitude of Canadian and U.S. tours, and I have made the majority of my industry connections through Music BC events. I am excited for the opportunity to give back to and help shape an organization that has been integral to my development as an artist and professional.

I intend to offer my perspective as a queer and gender diverse person working as a creator in the industry. My network is built largely of other creators, the majority of whom access Music BC's programming. I hope to represent my colleagues, while advocating for equitable access to programming, equitable distribution of funds, and program design that centers and prioritizes communities historically underserved by the music industry. I recognize the impacts of colonialism, racism, ableism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, and capitalism in the music industry, and want to be part of dismantling these harmful systems in the creative realm.

I recognize that I am a non-indigenous person doing this work on stolen land, and I make a commitment to work towards decolonizing my professional practice and daily

life, and to learn more about indigenizing spaces, Land Back, and other anti-colonial and anti-racist frameworks.

### **About Catherine Hiltz:**

Catherine Hiltz is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and educator currently residing on unceded and occupied territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

As a session musician, Catherine has worked with artists **Tegan and Sara, Jill Barber, Rae Spoon, Mathew V, and Khari McClelland**; and is a member of event band **Queer As Funk**. Catherine has toured markets in North America, Europe, and South Asia, performing at some of the world's premiere showcase festivals. Catherine's multi-disciplinary work has seen contributions to **The Vancouver Writer's Fest, Rice and Beans Theatre, and Urban Ink**, and has worked as a session player or musical director in events bands; jazz, rock, and pop groups; and string quartets.

Catherine works as a producer, engineer, and administration assistant at **Capsule Studios** and **Arrival Sounds**, with productions charting in the **leashot National Top 10**. As a composer, Catherine has contributed original music to film and radio programming. As a music engraver, Catherine transcribed the **Rae Spoon Songbook**, a 110-song collection spanning the entirety of **Rae Spoon's** musical career. Catherine has twenty years of experience as a contemporary guitar, bass, and theory teacher, which includes teaching guitar and bass to actors for Netflix feature-length film *Mixtape* (2021); and designing and teaching a curriculum for classroom guitar for students in grades five to seven.

### **Danton Remacle**



### **Director (Nominee)**

Thank you for considering me for the board. I have a lot to bring to the table from my experience delivering accessible and inclusive services for the people of BC. I'm an organizational wiz and really know how to make things happen in large organizations. I've also worked through the complexities of delivering province wide programs from a single city - and finding ways for all regions to have their voices and needs heard.

In addition to a public service career, my heart and passions lie in music. As an independent artist navigating the industry for so many years I truly value what MusicBC offers. The support, knowledge and networking opportunities are invaluable to everyone at any stage of their career. Serving on the board for me is the perfect blend of my public service expertise and my passions and experiences in the music industry.

### **About Danton Jay Remacle:**

Danton lives in Lək̓ʷəŋən Territory (also known as Victoria) and has spent 20 years navigating the music industry as an independent artist and climate activist. He has also spent the last 10 years as an organizational development professional in the BC Public Service.

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He has released five albums with three different groups, toured Canada, and performed internationally. Most notably Decades After Paris, a band he co-leads with wife Heather Lynn, has had lots of support from the CBC, and has garnered international attention with climate emergency groups and film creators. Decades After Paris is a folk-jazz-rock group that explores the socio-economic impacts of a changing climate and envisions possible futures we'll encounter.

Danton also has a successful career in organizational development, putting his psychology research and education to good use. He's worked in the natural resource sector as a process efficiency expert, has written ministry service plans and corporate risk registers, and most recently leads the team responsible for the Province's web strategies.

His work in this field brings accessibility and inclusion to the highest priority for any digital initiative focusing on plain, inclusive language and the removal of digital barriers. As such, he has been a speaker, panelist and leader for building accessible and inclusive government services. His most recent talk was about empowering and creating safety for team members with visible and hidden disabilities. And his team's coolest release is the Writing Guide for Indigenous Content, one of the first such guidance materials released by any government; and which was written entirely by Indigenous People.

In essence, Danton is a social-environmental advocate by heart, a change maker by day, and a music maker by night.

### David Borys



#### Director (Nominee)

I am excited for the opportunity to run for Music BC's Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of playing multiple roles within the music industry in my fifteen-year career and as a result have developed a wide range of perspectives and have become a keen advocate for musicians and songwriters. In particular, I am passionate about ensuring that the interests and opinions of songwriters are represented at all levels of music governorship and funding. It is vital that we not only create an environment of opportunity for performing artists and musicians but also for those who no longer consider themselves performing artists yet continue to contribute to the making of music in profound and powerful ways.

Coming out of the pandemic I have become re-energized in ensuring that the future of music in BC and in Canada incorporates the wide variety of contributors who are necessary for a healthy musical environment. The new digital realities of music distribution have seriously affected the ability for songwriters to earn an income and to generate revenue, hurting not just their wallets but the ability to reinvest in their own careers. Thus, it is more important than ever that organizations like Music BC thrive and grow, seeking to expand their membership and enhance their advocacy efforts. I hope to use my time on the board to help it do just that while continuing to learn about this industry and develop leadership skills due to working with an inspired Board of Directors. I hope to bring my diverse experience and passionate advocacy to the table



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as well as providing a fresh, positive and energetic voice to an organization that continues to provide tangible benefits to its members and others within British Columbia.

### **About David Borys:**

David Borys is a multi-genre songwriter who has written for a wide variety of recording artists in country, rock, pop and EDM. He has been in the music industry for nearly fifteen years. For seven of those he was the lead singer of the country-rock act The Steel Toe Boots. In 2017 he left the stage to become a full time songwriter and now splits his time between Vancouver and Nashville. From 2017 - 2019 David also tour managed for a number of independent artists. He now writes for artists in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Australia and is one-half of the EDM duo *Neighbours*.

As a songwriter he's twice been asked to perform at the coveted Canadian Country Music Awards Songwriter Series (2011 and 2018) and has been nominated multiple times for his music by both the B.C. Country Music Association and the Manitoba Country Music Association. His songs have been featured on ABC's hit television show *Nashville*, a number of Hallmark movie specials, as well as on radio stations in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. Since 2018 David has had more than sixty cuts by various artists in a wide variety of genres.

Jeff Ojeda



### **Director (Nominee)**

My name is Jeff Ojeda and I am running to be a board director for Music BC. I've had the privilege of being part of several initiatives through Music BC, including: being a mentor & consultant for the Jumpstart Program, the creator of the Music Marketing 101 Lesson for Jumpstart Foundations, and my company and clients have shared in the benefit of the wonderful, inaugural ARC program, travel and showcase grants, to name a few.

As a music entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience, my intention is to bring a well-rounded perspective to the already vibrant organization and not only have a voice as a manager and music entrepreneur, but also a diverse one. I am also proudly gay and a person of colour who shares indigenous lineage from South America. My experience ranges from being an artist, producer, creative director, manager and label owner. I have had my hands in the independent music community since I picked up a guitar when I was 11 years old.

I presently manage Canada's biggest breakthrough independent/unsigned artist in 2022 and I believe my tenacious nature and comprehension in music would be critically valuable to the board.

### **About Jeff Ojeda:**

Jeff Ojeda is a passionate entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience in the music industry. His experience ranges from working on the road as a guitar technician, to building brands for names: Nickelback, Keshia Chanté, Florida Georgia Line, Flo-Rida, Morgan Wallen, Dallas Smith, Universal Music, Roger Taylor (QUEEN), Big Loud, Island



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Def Jam, Chris Lane and more. He is now leading the way managing Canada's most successful independent breakthrough artist in 2022, Kyle McKearney.

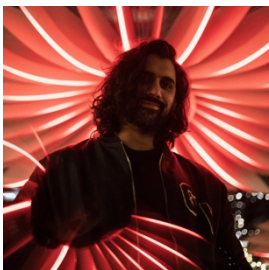
Since Phase Management Inc.'s inception in 2017, Jeff has garnered seven Top 40 billboard charting radio hits in Canada, and his artists have supported with: Nick Carter, Kip Moore, The Black Crowes, Brett Kissel, and many more. Additionally, Jeff's client Spencer Bleasdale recently received a Grammy nomination this year and also received Canada's greatest honour in music — a Juno Award.

Jeff got his start in music just over 15 years ago when he offered guitar technician services to a local band that had ambitious tour plans. During long drives and downtime on tour, he took it upon himself to learn graphic and web design. His work as a music branding specialist caught the attention of many, launching his creative career in music. In 2017, Jeff made the bold transition to artists manager and started Phase Management.

Jeff is also currently nominated as a Creative Director of the Year at the Canadian Country Music Awards. He is now on the board of directors for the BC Country Music Association.

There is no denying the bright trajectory ahead for Ojeda and Phase Management's roster. Look out for new music releases from Phase Management's artists throughout the year.

Kultar Chohan



### Director (Nominee)

I wish to serve on Music BC's Board of Directors to create a lasting impact on the industry in the province that has helped me solidify my place within it. Representing the artists, producers, and the communities I'm involved in, along with all of those striving to make music their life, I would strive to provide everyone with equal opportunities to flourish. I'm able to provide a unique perspective after working with the executive and operations teams across all major labels in several different countries, as well as developing artists from scratch locally. I understand the process and also some of the blockers that exist at every level of the industry and am able to bring strategies that other cities have used to help their industry proliferate. By maintaining accessibility to funding, information, networking opportunities, showcasing opportunities, and lobbying for infrastructure, Music BC will be able to help the province elevate the deep talent we have and provide a platform for their music to be heard globally and sustain a viable career.

### About Kultar Chohan:

Getting his start as a musician at age 11 playing drums/percussion, Kultar (KC) Chohan quickly realized his passion for music and has been following it ever since. While attending the University of Guelph for Mathematics and Physics he became a resident DJ in the city and moved on to spin some of the largest clubs in Toronto. After moving to Vancouver to work in the corporate world in business development, he gained 10 years of experience helping to build and grow several companies all while getting





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connected to the music scene in BC and surrounding himself with the up and coming talent of the city. KC, under Keep Clarity Music, now manages emerging artists KNOWN. and Haley Ahonen, producers KULTARGOTBOUNCE and Highly Collectible, and works closely with several other notable BC artists such as Teon Gibbs and PEAK while continuing to produce and songwriter himself. Leveraging both his creative and business acumen, KC aims to continue moving the industry locally and abroad forward and create culture through community.

Navreet Dhaliwal



### Director (Nominee)

I am running for this year's Music BC Board of Directors because music is my entire world through and through. I have been working in the Vancouver music scene since I was 16 as an independent event producer, marketing specialist, and photographer. Throughout my years of working in this world, I have worked as an independent contractor, have worked in the public sector in music on the municipal level, and now I'm working in this world in the private sector at MRG. Throughout my various roles in working in the music industry, I can confidently speak on operations and happenings in all those levels and advise Music BC on its happenings throughout the fiscal year. I hope to join the Music BC Board of Directors to remind myself that while the music industry can be unstable at times, there has never been a better feeling than serving the community and its people that have provided me with a home and have made me feel safe.

### About Navreet Dhaliwal:

Marketing and-PR-specialist, Navreet Dhaliwal is known for her creative vision and drive. Instead of forcing herself to choose between music and business, Navreet has found unique ways to blend her talents by helping creatives understand the monetary value of their craft. Navreet has been working in the arts and entertainment space for 5 years with the goal of addressing a rapidly changing entertainment industry. She deeply believes in artists' ability to showcase their talents and make a living. Navreet has co-founded and works within her organization, Face the Music Entertainment, which is a local concert organizer that aims to support the livelihoods of local musicians and to create intimate live music hubs in Vancouver with inclusivity and diversity at the core.

Over the course of the pandemic, Navreet had the opportunity to work as a Music Planning Researcher for the City of Surrey where she compiled research on Surrey's music ecosystem, created a music directory, music venue and business map and identified trends and findings unique to the City of Surrey's music industry for the development of the Surrey Music Strategy in its initial phases. Alongside these

operations, she donates her time and efforts to the Music City Taskforce which aims to cultivate a music economy by providing opportunities to artists and bringing music to the City of Surrey. In the summer of 2022, Navreet joined the MRG Live team as one of two Live Marketing Managers in the Vancouver office where she oversees marketing operations for any and all shows happening in MRG-owned and operated venues (and external venues) throughout Western Canada.

Pat Chessell



### **Director (Nominee)**

One of the reasons I am putting my name forward to join the Music BC Board of Directors is that I want to give back to an organization of which I have always been proud to be a member. I would bring knowledge, skills, experience and a passion to help my colleagues in the music industry. As someone who is a strong believer in diversity and inclusion, I believe I have a high level of personal integrity, and the courage to broach difficult topics. I have always been open to change and new ideas, and am committed to learning; I am willing to put in the time to fully learn about my role, and how I can best serve the Board, and ultimately, all members of Music BC. Being a self-employed musician for a good part of the last 20 years, I have also gained the business and financial skills which will give me a good foundation for this role. I will always be here to listen to members' concerns and will put in the time to serve Music BC to the best of my abilities.

### **About Pat Chessell:**

Pat Chessell has played music for as long as he remembers being alive. The British Columbia-based songwriter, singer, and guitar player began his career performing with Belfast musician Danny Burns, who was well known in both jazz and Celtic music circles. Now in his mid-30s, Chessell has become a well-loved act in Western Canada, playing the region's top festivals, nightclubs, theatres, and special events. He often performs more than 200 shows a year, either solo or with his backup band and was nominated for "Traditional Singer of the Year" at the 2022 Canadian Folk Music Awards.

In the last 15 years, he has released four albums, as well as lending his talents to others' recordings. His last two albums were recorded at the Warehouse Studio, the legendary recording venue owned by Canadian rocker Bryan Adams, and featured appearances by musicians such as Steve Dawson, Geoffrey Kelly (Spirit of the West), and legendary Irish fiddler Gerry O'Connor. Pat Chessell has played all across Canada, throughout the U.S., and in his ancestral homeland of Ireland. He has opened for a variety of well-known acts, such as Jim Byrnes, Sharon Shannon, Delhi 2 Dublin, and The Town Pants. Chessell has an extensive catalogue of songs written himself, and has also co-written songs with Ivan Boudreau, John Bowman, Bruce Coughlan, and Vancouver radio personality Larry Hennessey.

Pat Chessell has also worked in education for the past eight years, and holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC. He has been involved in many philanthropic causes, including recording an album which raised money for Canadian veterans' charities, and organizing events for the Danny and Bridie

Burns Community Fund, a fund which provides food, empowerment, and advocacy within the community through donations, awards, and bursaries.

Saralyn Purdie



### **Director (Nominee)**

There are two aspects of my professional life that suggest I would be one of the right people to be a contributing board member for MusicBC – my experience at 604 Records and the fact that I am a lawyer. My experience with 604 taught me not only about the workings of the Canadian music industry when it comes to funding, industry norms and navigating the digital era for music, but also how to execute ideas. I believe I could best serve the MusicBC board not only as a member, but as an executor of ideas and plans. Once something is on my list, I find a way to get it done. As an individual I am passionate about the music industry, and I am very determined - a combination I believe would serve the board well."

Being a lawyer lends itself to advising on legal issues and strategy. As I am only a first year call, I may lack in seniority or cache - however, I would argue that the board will be better served by a young lawyer who is not already swamped, who has the time to be on multiple committees, spearhead projects, and take initiative. As I am starting out as a lawyer, the next two years are a great time for me to volunteer my time and get involved in the BC music community again. I am not applying to be on the board just to stick it on my resume, I am applying to really get involved and give my time to the great programs and artists.

### **About Saralyn Purdie:**

Saralyn started her career in the BC music industry over 10 years ago with a summer internship at 604 Records and never looked back. After a short detour to finish her extremely useful degree in Philosophy at UBC, she completed the Advanced Art and Entertainment Management Diploma at Capilano U and a practicum with Chief Music Management before returning to 604 Records as a project coordinator. Over 4 years at 604 Saralyn worked with a number of talented BC artists of various genres from country artists Dallas Smith and Jojo Mason to the established pop and rock acts Marianas Trench and Theory of a Deadman. At 604 Studios Saralyn found a passion for event coordination; planning and executing concerts and livestreams for various 604 and Light Organ artists.

In 2018, Saralyn left 604 to pursue entertainment law, starting a law degree at the top 30 law school University of Birmingham in the UK. Graduating with a First Class LL.B., Saralyn returned to Canada promptly as the Covid-19 pandemic set in around the world. After completing her articling year with Art & Entertainment lawyer Lindsay Bailey, Saralyn was called to the BC bar in August of 2022. Now a practicing lawyer, Saralyn is pursuing her dream of representing Canadian artists as an Art & Entertainment lawyer at the Lindsay Bailey Law Corporation.

Tresor Otshudi



### **Director (Nominee)**

My name is Tresor Otshudi Ekadi and I would like to apply for the position of Board Member with Music BC. I am a singer, composer, and a band and choir teacher. I teach privately at Long & McQuade and as a classroom teacher at Gabrielle Roy a francophone school in Surrey.

I have a strong background in the music industry and possess a broad range of skills in administration, organization, and marketing. I hold a diploma in business, a musical theatre certificate, a Bachelor of Arts in classical music, and I have more than 20 years of experience as an award-winning recording and performing artist.

In addition, one of my areas of expertise is group singing. I conducted Juste Chanter Gospel Choir, Just Sing Children Choir, Gloria Dei Chorale, the AV Community Choir, and several workshops. Also, I performed on 4 different continents as a singer and choral director. With this background and knowledge of Classical Music, Musical Theatre, French Music and African American Music I believe I would serve as an excellent Board Member to Music BC. I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to serve on the board of Music BC and put my knowledge to use.

### **About Tresor Otshudi:**

Tresor is an award-winning singer, composer and conductor who has more than 20 years of experience performing in 4 different continents. He is also a Band and Choir Educator at École Gabrielle Roy, in Surrey. He is a composer, conductor, singer, and owner of Tresor Music. He produced one solo album, 2 Eps, and writes music for choirs and bands. One of his compositions "Alleluia to the Lord" was sung by the Vancouver Chamber Choir under the direction of Kari Turunen, during the Interplay workshop in 2021. He won Pacifique en Chanson and performed at Chant Ouest, in Vancouver in 2018, broadcasted live in Radio Canada. He also won 100% Phénomènes in France in 2011, a talent Tv Show on TF6 Channel. He is the son of the famous guitar player of Congolese Rumba Pépé Felly Manuaku. And he created a song and a successful concept called R&B Ndombolo.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Trinity Western University, in Langley, in Canada, a Musical Theatre certificate From Choreia, in Paris, France, and a Business Diploma from Pigier, in Lille, France