

SOÛLKREÔL



Senarya
ARTISTE — MUSICIENNE

ARTIST-MUSICIAN



Senaya was born in the country where the Négritude was born in the city of Dakar in Senegal. Her mother is from Guadeloupe and her father from Senegal. She is an artist, singer, songwriter, composer, guitarist, director, producer. Her music is the Soûlkreôl.

A music mixed as one pleases, with colors of Jazz, Soul, Spirituals, Makossa, Gwoka, Funk, Zouk, Afrobeat, Biguine, Zougoulou, Blues..

The Voice of the Soûlkreôl

Senaya is the voice of Soûlkreôl, a style she has developed over time. With a warm and emotional voice, she brings the rhythms of the Caribbean and Africa together with her 5 pieces band.

A universe where she pays tribute to those who inspired her to be who she is, to honor the ancestors.

Thus, to mention only those, Jacob Desvarieux, Manu Dibango, Aimé Césaire, Papa Wemba, Bebe Manga, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Langston Hughes, Kassav, Bob Marley, Cesaria Evaroa, Miriam Makeba, James Brown, Michael Jackson, Nina Simone, meet in this universe Soûlkreôl.

For Senaya, the dead are not dead like Birago Diop's poem "Les Souffles", she tells us that they are living memories,

which lasts for eternity, whispering words and colors full of life in our ears and giving us the strength to continue our journey while keeping our heads high.

Moreover, the show "SENAYA, The Voice of the Soûlkreôl" is also reinterpretations of songs from the album of Senaya

"Garde la Tête Haute" released in 2005.

If black music were a tree, Senaya's music would represent all the rich and diverse roots of that tree. The artist-musician declines her mixed soul from Creole, Wolof, Portuguese, French, English to Spanish...

Finally, "SENAYA The voice of Soûlkreôl" is Senaya on stage who shares with us with her unique voice, with a so recognizable tone, her current compositions.

Her artistic approach has taken root since March 2016, the singer-songwriter, grant holder of the Canada Council for the Arts initiates this return to her roots in Guadeloupe, in order to study the music of the Guadeloupean heritage: the Gwoka, the Biguine, the Quadrille, the Zouk, and to create a new repertoire that will blend with all its rhythmic colors, Soul, Jazz, Blues, Spirituals, Folk, Makossa, Mbalax, Afrobeat, Funk, Electro.

In April 2019, Senaya receives a grant from FACTOR (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent for Recording and marketing of album), which allows her to begin the production of her album which was released in 2023. Through her album entitled

"Soûlkreôl Vol1.//Roots/Racines, Senaya is conveying us to a new breath, a new flight. Also, Senaya invites us to join her and enjoy a unique show like "the Voice of the Soûlkreôl".

At each performance, the artist-musician reconfirms the two nicknames given to her by her supporters: "Divine" and "Lioness". Divine, she reveals herself through her melodies that take the viewer to a familiar place. The "Lioness" because Senaya is a show woman, positive energy.

She presents herself with grace and class. Feline, she dances and interacts with the audience in a warm, joyful, always with a great sense of humor.


Senaya is also a songwriter who delivers striking texts full of humanism whose central theme is love in all its forms: solidarity, sisterhood, fraternity, hope, sharing. For her, happiness, as she says so well is to allow everyone to leave her show with a smile on their lips and a head full of stars enough to give them the strength to go about their daily activities. Senaya is therefore a singer of the people, who wants to be close to his public, without sophistication but with the heart.



Milestone dates in Senaya's journey

Senaya grew up in Dakar but has already lived in many countries. Following her arrival in Montreal in 1996, Senaya co-founded the band Sunroots, a band composed of three Cameroonians: Guy Langué, Muna Mingole and Didier Edo. Sunroots proposes to the Canadian public to meet the music of the Caribbean and Africa. It is therefore by giving shows across Canada that Senaya refines her stage presence. It is also during this period that she writes and composes her first songs. **Four years later, Senaya decides to start a solo career.**





Then comes the time for recognition: **In 2003**, she was named Artist of the Year at the International Song Contest of Granby (Québec, Canada). Still in 2003, following her award, she went on tour in Québec with the Granby winners and the artist Dumas

In 2004 she received the "Coup de cœur" award at the festival Vues sur la relève.

In 2005, Senaya taught herself to play the guitar and co-produced her album *Garde la tête haute*, which earned her a nomination at the Juno Awards (the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy Awards). The songs on the album were co-written and co-composed with Wesley Louissaint, known as Wesli, and Sonny Black. **Also in 2005**, she founded her own production company with her older sister, who became her manager, to fulfill her aspirations as an independent artist

That same year, Senaya began a promotional mini-tour with her musicians in Belgium and France. Meetings with the media and a concert for her new French fans helped strengthen the release of the single and music video *Garde la Tête Haute*, which sold over 25,000 copies.


In June 2006, Senaya performed at the Francolies de Montréal and the Nuits d'Afrique Festival. These two performances once again received praise from the local press. **In 2007**, the multidisciplinary artist solidified her presence on the stages of various festivals across Canada and beyond. She toured the different provinces of Canada with her musicians and gave bilingual conference-concerts at universities and colleges, sharing her journey..

In 2010, in Mexico City, as part of the Ollin Kan Festival (Festival of Resistance), her performances were a great success. That same year, she was named Musical Revelation by the Minister of Culture of Senegal at the Festival des Arts Nègres in Dakar. **In 2011/2012**, she was invited by the Association of Caribbean and Guyanese People in Côte d'Ivoire, where she performed in collaboration with Ivorian artists in Abidjan.

2012, she produced her show in Montreal sponsored by the TD Bank, as part of as part of Black History Month, paying tribute to some legendary figures of the Black World who have marked their time (Langston Hughes, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Miriam Makeba, Aimé Césaire, Bébé Manga, Kassav).

In 2015, she headlined an Afro-Caribbean evening as part of the Montreal Black Film Festival. In March 2016, she was the only Canadian artist officially selected by M.A.S.A (Market for African Performing Arts) to perform with her musicians in Côte d'Ivoire and connect with industry professionals.

It is on stage that the artist shines at her best, as evidenced by the latest review of her three-show series at the Nuits d'Afrique **Festival in summer 2016**, published in *Jeune Afrique* magazine, where she was described as a 'sure value.' 'A recognizable, unique voice.'



In March 2016, the singer-songwriter and Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient began her journey back to her roots in Guadeloupe to study the music of Guadeloupean heritage: Gwoka, Biguine, Quadrille, and Zouk, and to create a new repertoire blending these styles with her full range of rhythmic influences—Soul, Jazz, Blues, Spirituals, Folk, Makossa, Mbalax, Biguine, Afrobeat, Funk, and Electro. Senaya is in what she calls an 'open-air artistic residency' in Guadeloupe. She goes to meet artists spearheading these musical currents such as: Jacques Marie Besses known as Djenmbi of the group Gwasound, the group Akiyo, Robert Oumaou of the group Gwakassonné, Serge Popotte of the group Fretless, the percussionists of Ka, Georges Livio and Jean-Philippe Devarre, the Geoffroy family (René Geoffroy and his son Jonathan Geoffroy), always with the idea of creating links between peoples, between Canada, Guadeloupe, and Africa.

In August 2019, Senaya received a grant from FACTOR Canada, enabling her to return to recording with her new musical project, scheduled for release in 2023.

From 2018 to 2021, Senaya continued to grow her career: she performed at the Haiti en Folie Festival and collaborated with the renowned artist Émeline Michel. She also served as spokesperson for Montreal's Creole Month, during which she presented a show. Additionally, the artist-musician performed at the inaugural Festival of African Gastronomy, the Fondou au Noir Festival, and the Afro-World Festival (AfroMonde).

In 2023, she released her second album, *Soûlkreôl Vol. 1: Roots/Racines*, and performed at various national and international festivals, including showcases such as Festival Kossa Africa, Festival Afromonde, MUZ, Folk Ontario, and others

Senaya – her unique style, her worldview, her Soûlkreôl



CONTACT : DIVINESENAYA@YAHOO.CA

WHAT'S APP ONLY (0590) 0690-73-01-83

Canada : (514) 570-1884

Official Website

<https://divinesenaya.wixsite.com/epk-senaya>

Instagram/Twitter/YouTube: @divinesenaya Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SENAYAMUSIC