

# MILÉGÉ

Milege is a group of young talented musicians from Uganda whose enthusiasm is derived from the diverse cultural music traditions of the different tribes of Uganda into which they fuse contemporary elements to express the likeness of the Ugandan people in a more current context. Milege has steadily grown from humble beginnings to one of Uganda's most exclusive and original Music outfits sharing stage with celebrated local and international artists and performing at prestigious events in and out of Uganda. Milege has performed with the lion's share of East Africa's artistic cream, from Kinobe and Essence of colour Karamoja Project, Mulatu Astatke the father of Ethio Jazz, Oliver Mutukudzi, Maurice Kirya, Joel Sebungo, to Kenya's Eric Wanaina, Gikum Mezmur and the Addis Acoustic project among others.



Milege came to the music scene with its inaugural performance at the Bayimba International Festival of the Arts in 2009.

Milege means ankle rattle that is used to dance traditional dances in *Japhadola*, a Luo dialect of eastern Uganda. This rattle exists in several forms across the African continent. The band's songs tell stories from Uganda's tribes and also reflect typical aspects of life in Uganda.

Milege's listing includes lead vocalist Gloria Akugizibwe, Manana F Birabi on guitar. Paul Wembabazi on Bass guitar, and Joanita katushabe on backing vocals/dance. Milege annually selects a member

from the Milege acoustic project to play with the band specifically *Adungu*(bow harp), *Akogo* (thumb piano) percussions and dance. Currently, Milege has not won any awards but was nominated for the Olive Gospel award of best band, Milege was also recognized by the Young Achievers Awards as a promising enterprise.

In addition to Milege's opening 6 song EP released in 2010, the band is currently recording its debut album "Essence of Colour" to be released early in 2016.

Over the past five years, Milege has evolved to be not only a band but also a complete social enterprise consisting of the band itself, a company- Milege Inc. providing premium services to other artists like; sound equipment hire, creative lighting, stage hire, rehearsal venue spaces and a nonprofit organization- Repainting Uganda, involved in cultural exchange and promotion of indigenous art forms.

Milege also runs 2 artistic platforms.

Milege World Music Festival; a 3 day camping festival on the shores of Africa's largest lake and

The Milege acoustic project; a weekly showcase for students, staff and Alumni of Uganda's largest public University Makerere University.

Milege is also involved in several community development projects through music and the arts in general



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