



KAÏSSA

LOOKING THERE

After a number of years as a back-up singer for well-known African music artists and meticulous efforts to develop her own unique style in the clubs of New York City, Kaïssa has finally blessed her fans with the stunning debut album we've been yearning for. Our excitement must be similar to that of an astronomer witnessing the birth of a new star, thrilled with the knowledge that this is just the beginning of what will surely be a bright and fiery future.

I'm sure if you are hearing the power and beauty of Kaïssa's music for the first time you will join her avid following, and be compelled to spread the word about this African diva. While she may be new to many, Kaïssa is very familiar to fans of African music in New York, which has been her home base since 1996. Her endearing personality, passionate performances and voice which combines the smoothness of velvet with vivacious intensity, has earned her a growing group of adoring fans, eager to share their enthusiasm with others.

You may wonder after listening to this masterful album, "Who is this woman and where did she come from?" Kaïssa was born in Cameroon and moved with her family to Paris when she was 13. The City of Lights is home to a thriving and multicultural music scene with artists from all walks of life, coming together to create new and exciting flavors. Besides touring and/or recording as a back-up singer with well-known African artists like Salif Keita, Manu Dibango, Cesaria Evora, Kasse Mady and Papa Wemba, Kaïssa also worked with French pop star CharElie Couture, multimedia artist and musician Jean-Michel Jarre and American stars Martha Wash and Diana Ross.

New York has offered her a wealth of new collaborators, including Patrice Bihina, a producer, composer and guitarist who co-wrote many of the songs on this album, Tony Cedras, a highly-respected South African musician who has recorded with Paul Simon, Jimmy Buffet, and Cassandra Wilson among others, and her husband, the masterful drummer Maciek Schejbal. Many other talented veterans of the music world in New York have joined in to lend a hand on this album.

Looking There has been many years in the making, and Kaïssa and her colleagues have devoted great care and persistence to ensure that it reflects her true artistry and depth of talent. For those of us who have been patiently awaiting its arrival, this album exceeds even our wildest hopes and captures the spirit and soul of a star that will certainly be dazzling us for years to come.

-Jacob Edgar

Recorded, edited and mixed at Makai Studios, Brooklyn, New York by Maciek Schejbal,
mixing assistant- Francky Moulet.

Drums recorded at PureDrums NYC by Graham Hawthorne, assisted by Fab.

Mastered at Creative Kingdom Records, Johannesburg, South Africa
by Mike Manitshana.

Produced and arranged by Maciek Schejbal

Thanks to Tony Cedras, Andre Manga and Fred Doumbè for their commitment to this project.
Thanks to all musicians, James Hurt, Patrice Bihina, Carolin Petit, J.C. Doo-Kingue, Leo Traversa,
Bob Quaranta, James Zollar, Kofo the Wonderman, Paweł Maçiowoda, Frank Bambara, Alain Agbo,
Aaron Heick, Henri Tanash, Martino Atangana, Colette Michaan and Jahdan.

Very special thanks to Graham Hawthorne for his unflagging support from start to finish.

Special thanks to Cassandra Goins, Peter Allan, Sam Dikoume, Fab, Jacob Edgar, Jim Nordstrom,
Ken Rich, Benjamin de Menil, Diego Campo, Nicola Stemmer, Carlos Pereira, Bintou N'Daw,
the Kormans, Deb and Yuko, Barry Greenspon, John Castellano, Alex Kossi, Yaw Agyeman,
Ben Crentsil, Vickie Fremont, Maggie Ngunang, Sarah Gamble, David Weiss.

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I. Essimo (05:34)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Fred Doumbè- percussion, backing voice

Kofo the Wonderman- talking drum

I dedicate this song to the freedom fighters – to the sometimes “unknown” who gave their lives so that other generations will be free. I condemn the arrogance of the “powerful ones”. I say arrogance because they think they know what is good for us while knowing only what is good for them. Corrupted governments, colonialists, tyrants, they own the world for what price? Men kill each other for money and power. Will they face justice when it is time to answer? Africa and many other places have been abused, raped, dominated, and invaded. Who gave you the right to divide, steal, alienate?
This world, our world is worth fixing.
So let us fix it.

2. Senga (05:33)

(Carolyn Petit / Kaïssa / Jahdan)

Aluana Music, SACEM / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, rhythm programming

Andre Manga- bass

Tony Cedras- keyboards

Fred Doumbè- guitar

Aaron Heick- soprano saxophone

Jahdan- rap

Senga-Listen. Stop and listen. Listen to the elders. Wise elders. Wise writers. Wise griots. They are showing you the way, smoothing out your path. Stop and listen. We will surely learn in the process. It is about being open to all sources of enlightenment. It is about sharing love.

3. Eyoum (03:57)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Henri Tanash- guitars

Fred Doumbè- percussion, percussion programming, backing voice

You are gone and this is so painful. Mother, don't cry anymore, this is a song for him. Brother, you were a father to me. I admired you so much. Brilliant, caring, funny, you were all of that. I miss you so much brother. The pain is so huge. Will I see you again?

4. O Si Keka (07:37)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Paweł Maćiwoda- bass

Tony Cedras- acoustic guitar, keyboards

Alain Agbo- electric guitar

Martino Atangana- electric guitar

Fred Doumbè- backing voices

Jahdan- rap

Share the love not the bad word. Stop the gossip, stop the rumours. Stop the cycle of lies.
Hypocrite playing innocent. Foolish not able to appreciate the gem of friendship. Don't waste
time criticizing. This song asks people to drop false pretenses and to live a truthful life.

5. Joy (05:00)

(J.C. Doo-Kingue / Kaïssa)

Kango Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Fred Doumbè- bass, percussion programming, backing voice

Tony Cedras- keyboards

Henri Tanash- guitars

Aaron Heick- soprano saxophone

Mother I thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for the unconditional love and support. I thank God that I came to life through you. You show me the way to understanding, accepting, forgiving, and loving. You are a gem. I love you.

6. Sangwam (05:31)

(Carolin Petit / Kaïssa)

Aluana Music, SACEM / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- voice

Tony Cedras- accordions, harmonium

Kofo the Wonderman- talking drums

I miss you Dad, this is a song for you. Though I know we are just passing by this earth, passing to learn and love, your departure has been a very painful one. This is a song in the memory of my father. I express the pain of losing a part of me. I also remember the good moments.

7. Big Brother (5:26)

(Stevie Wonder)

Jobette Music Co., Inc. / Black Bull Music

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Andre Manga- bass

Tony Cedras- keyboards, guitar

Aaron Heick- flute

Fred Doumbè- backing voices

This is a song that opened my eyes to social realities. Stevie Wonder wrote it over 30 years ago, things changed, or maybe they didn't really change?

8. Mumi (05:05)

(Maciek Schejbal / Kaïssa)

Nova Huta Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion, percussion programming

Fred Doumbè- bass, percussion, percussion programming

Andre Manga- guitar

Aaron Heick- flute

Colette Michaan- flute

I believe there is a positive guiding light in this world.

I know because it led me to you. You are my partner, my friend.

This is a love song.

9. Ombwa Te (05:53)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, rhythm programming

James Hurt- synthesizer solo, rhythm programming

Andre Manga- bass

Patrice Bihina- guitar

Tony Cedras- keyboards

I will not be discouraged anymore, I will keep the faith. This is about living with faith.

When times of discouragement come, keep the faith. Everything will happen. At God's time, the perfect time.

I wrote these lyrics at a low and difficult time in my life. If you look carefully you will see the paradise offered to you. It is right here. It is his promise. He cares and loves us. We should not worry and burn ourselves on earthly matters, as long as we believe. The promise of the light is surely in us all.

10. To Ndje (06:00)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Fred Doumbè- bass, acoustic guitar, percussion, backing voice

Andre Manga- electric guitar

Tony Cedras- keyboards

Aaron Heick- alto flute

Frank Bambara- congas

Land that gave me life. Nostalgia of home. Growing up there, looking there.
I have been away for a long time. You have so much to offer. I miss you.

11. Alea So (5:26)

(Patrice Bihina / Kaïssa)

Love Lina Music, ASCAP / Mon Bebe Music, ASCAP

Kaïssa- lead and backing voices

Patrice Bihina- rhythm programming, percussion programming

Maciek Schejbal- drums, percussion programming

Fred Doumbè- bass, guitar, backing voices

Henri Tanash- guitar

Music is a part of life in Cameroon, everybody participates in it. Births, deaths, marriages, every event is accompanied by music. I love to entertain; In this song I sing about the joy I have singing. This is about the enjoyment of making music, singing, dancing. I am inviting people to join me in the celebration of life in joy and dance. I also want to demystify the whole 'star system'. In Africa performers and audience mix together very naturally and the music is very therapeutic. It is all about exchange between the performers and the audience.



1. Essimo (5:33)
2. Senga (5:31)
3. Eyoum (4:01)
4. O Si Keka (7:28)
5. Joy (5:26)
6. Sangwam (5:30)
7. Big Brother (5:25)
8. Mumi (4:53)
9. Ombwa Te (5:48)
10. To Ndje (6:06)
11. Alea So (5:12)

Produced and arranged
by Maciek Schejbal

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Cover Photo by Maciek Schejbal
Design by Dominik Klimowski and Maciek Schejbal