



MARI'S ARTIST PROFILE

CONTACT

Name: Mari Gikaru

E-mail: marigikaru@gmail.com

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



Short Info

Artist Name: Mari

Born: July 21, 1989

Genre: Pop, R&B, Afro-fusion

Languages of Performance: English, Swahili,
Selected African Traditional

Instruments Played: Piano, Guitar

Types of Performance: Acoustic, Live Band

Career: 2009 - present

“Began his musical career as a singer-
songwriter in 2009 “

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



DISCOGRAPHY

Happy to be Yours – Single Release (2011)

Matilda an Acoustic – Single Release
(2014)/Online distribution (2015)

Let It Out EP – EP Release (2015)/Online
distribution (2018)

- Music Is My Life
- Matilda an Acoustic (*CD Version*)
- Rise Above My Weakness
- Break of Dawn ft. Victor Peace
- Dancing to the Beat of the Drums
- Where I Wanna Be (*CD Version*)

Let It Out Album – Album Release
(2018)/Boomplay Release (2019)

- Music Is My Life
- Rise Above My Weakness
- Matilda an Acoustic
- Love Song I Wrote
- Living On The Rainbow (*CD Version*)
- Beautiful Monster
- Dead Inside (*CD Version*)

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist



Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com

- Misplaced Tears
- Sleepy Child (*CD Version*)
- Duty Calls
- Break of Dawn ft. Victor Peace
- Where I Wanna Be
- Ready to Go (*CD Version*)
- Dancing to the Beat of the Drums
- Memories (*CD Version*)
- D Song (*CD Version*)

Dancing to the Beat of the Drums – Radio Release (2019)

Where I Wanna Be – Radio Release (2019)

Beautiful Monster – Single Release (2019)

Duty Calls – Single Release (2019)

God's Son Album by Thomas Hype – Collaboration (2020)

- Hold On
- Survivor ft Al-Faisal, MCee Yoda
- Kanyaga
- You Remind Me

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

5th Annual ONGEA Eastern Africa Summit (2020) –
Main Stage

Together at Home Virtual Concert (2020) – A
Covid-19 awareness campaign

Pawa Café with Mari – Pawa 254 (2019)

Embassy of Spain's Residence Kenya (2018)

ShinaFest 2nd edition (2018)

Permanent Presidential Music Commission
Workshop – Mombasa Beach Hotel (2017)

Kenya Music Week (2015)

Qaliza Sanaa - Strathmore University (2011)

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist



Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com

RECOGNITION

2021 Rampage Music Awards Nominee

- Best Male Vocalist – Pop Category
- Entertainer of the Year – Multi-Genre Category (based on live performances)

Rehegoo Music Group signing – Online Marketing & Distribution deal (2019)

9th National Youth Talent Development Programme in Music and Dance - Permanent Presidential Music Commission (2017)

- Mari was among 80 select artists chosen nationwide (Kenya) to participate in a 2-week music workshop on talent development.

Soundtrack for M-net featured Kenyan Movie 'Flowers & Bricks' – **Break of Dawn** (2014)

- “Break of Dawn” off Mari’s debut EP, “Let It Out EP”, was selected as the soundtrack for the movie ‘Flowers & Bricks’. The movie aired on M-net, one of Africa’s largest TV networks

Digilive Records Talent Search – Recording Deal (2012)

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



CHARTS

Indie Rampage Music Chart Top 10 Pop songs

Digital DJ Pool Charts Top 100 Songs

Boomplay Charts Kenya Top 50 Pop Songs

Boomplay Charts Senegal Top 50 Pop Songs

Boomplay Charts Cote d'Ivoire Top 50 Pop Songs

Boomplay Charts Guinea Top 50 Pop Songs

PRESS

Blogs

"...his music sneaks into your heart, his lyrics sip into your soul..."

– [Indie Music Reviews](#)

"...a young passionate Kenyan musician attracting international attention..."

- [Kenyan Musik](#)

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist



Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com

"...is definitely an artist to watch out for..."

– [Boombuzz Kenya](#)

Celebvibestar blog feature

Magazines

Pulse Magazine – Album feature (collaboration on “God’s Son” album by Thomas Hype)

Governors Magazine Feature – Artist feature interview

Sunday Nation Buzz – Performance at Qalizaa Sanaa Poetry show, Strathmore University

TV

Live Interview & Performance on popular morning show “*KTN Life & Style*” (2018)

Feature on Zuku Tv’s “*Raw Sessions*” – Live Recording & Interview (2014)

- The show featured Mari as one of the outstanding talents to keep an eye on. It aired throughout 2014 and 2015 in several countries across the Eastern and Southern Africa on the popular Zuku TV networks.

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



Brief Description

Mari offers a diverse array of engaging live performance acts ranging from acoustic to a full live band set. An acoustic set comprises of a duo between a vocalist and a guitarist whereas a live band set adds on to the set a keyboardist, bass player, lead guitarist and a drummer.

The type of music played ranges from mellow, relaxing, laid-back songs to a more upbeat and danceable tempo, borrowing from African traditional sounds and blending in to modern day, urban music. The diversity Mari offers allows for the engagement of a wide audience with music suited for all ages presented in carefully selected lyrics and captivating tunes offering a performance not easily forgotten.

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



Short Bio

Mari is a singer-songwriter based in Nairobi, Kenya who does conscious music (music with a message that relates to everyday life experiences). His career spanning from 2009 has seen him grow to perform in some of Kenya's most prestigious venues and get recognition both locally and internationally. His music has reached audiences in **over 100 countries worldwide** cutting across continents from Africa to Europe, North America to South America, Asia to Australia. **In 2020 alone**, his music was streamed in **130 countries** on major music streaming platforms globally. At the start of 2021, he was nominated in **The Rampage Music Awards** for '**Best Male Vocalist**' and '**Entertainer of the Year**' categories.

With his debut single '**Happy to be Yours**' getting featured on Africa's popular '**Channel O**' after release in 2012, Mari embarked on the journey to his debut E.P '**Let It Out EP**'. Its 1st single, '**Matilda An Acoustic**' released in 2014, saw him grow his career further, with one of the highlights being an interview feature on **Zuku Entertainment's 'Raw Sessions'** which

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



popularly aired in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions. He went on to release the E.P. in 2015, whose success climaxed with one of the singles '**Break of Dawn**' being selected as the soundtrack for **M-net's 'Flowers & Bricks' movie**.

The **complete 16-track 'Let It Out' album** was released in November 2018, with a **10-track version** released on **Boomplay** in January of 2019. The release has proved to be a success with select singles from the album currently **on rotation on several radio stations** in different countries around the world including the **US, UK, Canada, France, and Kenya**, among others. A few of the songs have also been featured on **several charts worldwide** including the top 10 pop chart on Indie Rampage Radio, top 100 chart on Digital DJ Pool, and top 50 pop charts on Boomplay in Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea.

In the course of 2019, his efforts caught the eye of international music company, **Rehegoo Music Group**. Mari is currently working in conjunction with the company to reach wider audiences for his music. He has since released two singles '**Duty Calls**' and '**Beautiful Monster**' globally through Rehegoo Music. The songs have also

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



been featured in several compilation albums released through the label.

With no releases of his own in 2020, Mari embarked on collaborative projects, featuring on four songs on **Thomas Hype's** album '**God's Son**'. The album was released in October 2020. He also performed on the main stage at the annual **ONGEA Eastern Africa Summit**, arguably the region's biggest music conference. As a strong advocate of keeping safe during the Covid-19 pandemic, Mari was among select artists chosen to perform at the "**Together at Home**" virtual concert, a Kenyan government initiative to create awareness of the spread of Covid-19. The production has been airing on local TV stations since June 2020. Mari is a member of the **International Singer-Songwriters Association**. He is also working and collaborating with several other international companies and organizations to grow his brand and propel his music career even further.

Mari's passion for music goes beyond being an artist. Having worked in the industry for over a decade, he is keen to share his experiences with other artists and help build their careers. To this end, Mari has written numerous articles on growing and advancing a music career that have

MARI

Recording & Performing Artist

Contact: Mari Gikaru

Phone: +254 770 47 27 84

Email: marigikaru@gmail.com



been published by **Music Gateway**, an international music sync company. He is also one of three hosts on the **Gatekeepers Musically Speaking Podcast**, a weekly podcast that discusses issues affecting the music and entertainment industry.

Listen to Mari's music on the platforms below.

[Boomplay](#), [Apple Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Tidal](#), [Google Play](#), [Deezer](#), [YouTube](#), [Soundcloud](#)

Interact with Mari on his social media handles to find out more on his musical journey.

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)