

MC

AUGUST 2026

WOMEN'S MONTH

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN
BEHIND THE MUSIC

A TRIBUTE TO MARGO PRICE

AUTHENTIC, FEARLESS,
UNCOMPROMISING.



COVER FEATURE

Perseverance, creativity,
and a belief that music has
the power to make people
feel understood

MICHAEL WILSON- TROLLIP & MARK HAZE

IMPROMPTU JAM
AT PROAUDIO

GIBSON & EPIPHONE

TIMELESS TONE,
ICONIC LEGACY.

SCHOOL
of ROCK

MEET 3
ROCKING
STUDENTS

The Sound Behind the World's Greatest Performances

nord®

For arena tours and television productions to
theatres, churches, festivals and recording studios

*"A Gibson is more than an instrument.
It's a lifelong companion to every song,
every stage, and every milestone."*

AUGUST EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

August is a month of reflection, appreciation and celebration as South Africa honours the remarkable women who have shaped our nation.

This special Women's Month edition pays tribute to the artists, musicians, educators and rising talent who continue to inspire through their passion, creativity and determination. From internationally acclaimed performers to the next generation of musicians finding their voices at schools like School of Rock, each reminds us that music has the power to unite, encourage and transform lives.

Throughout this issue, you'll discover stories of exceptional artists, world-class instruments, inspiring performances and the technology that helps bring music to life. Whether you're a professional performer, an aspiring musician, an educator or simply someone who loves great music, we hope these pages leave you inspired to keep creating, learning and sharing your passion.

To every woman who has picked up a guitar, sat behind a keyboard, stepped behind a drum kit or found the courage to stand before a microphone—thank you. Your talent, resilience and creativity continue to enrich our industry and inspire future generations.

STAY LOUD. STAY INSPIRED.
Proaudio MusicGear Team

MusicGear

Proaudio (+27) 011 608 2099

DIRECTOR Joss Pack (ext. 17)

SALES MANAGER Justin Nel (ext. 14)
PRO SALES Gareth J Roberts (ext. 15)

INTERNAL SALES Ivor Pack (ext. 16)
INTERNAL SALES Matthew Huma (ext. 27)

EXTERNAL SALES Sarel Ras (ext. 20)
EXTERNAL SALES Richard Theunissen (ext. 21)
EXTERNAL SALES Graham Lowndes (ext. 12)
EXTERNAL SALES Darren Durbach (ext. 33)

ACCOUNTS Deanne Keiser (ext. 29)
ACCOUNTS Leanne Cohen (ext. 11)
ACCOUNTS Tanya Dos Santos (ext. 23)

SERVICE MANAGER Pieter Preller (ext. 13)
SPARES Brandon Schmidt (ext. 24)

RECEPTION Nathon Schmidt (ext. 12)

MARKETING Teagan Cousins (ext. 19)
MARKETING Daniel J Bungay (ext. 18)
MARKETING Shemaiah Bungay (ext. 18)



Product Library

This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

CONTENT

36

Strings, Keys & Strength

Celebrating the Women
Who Shape Music.

Margo Price

FERAL AND FREE.
ROOTED IN TRUTH.
MADE TO LAST.

46

Tribute Article

34

 MEWZO

FROM THE
REHEARSAL ROOM
TO THE BOOKING

60

YOUR **ROCK JOURNEY**
STARTS HERE 

SCHOOL OF ROCK

SANDTON & FOURWAYS

ESTEE MANDE | TSHIAMO MOLAUDI | NEOGENTLE TWALA

SCHOOL OF ROCK

“From the first note to the live stage, growth happens when you move beyond learning alone and start creating with others.”

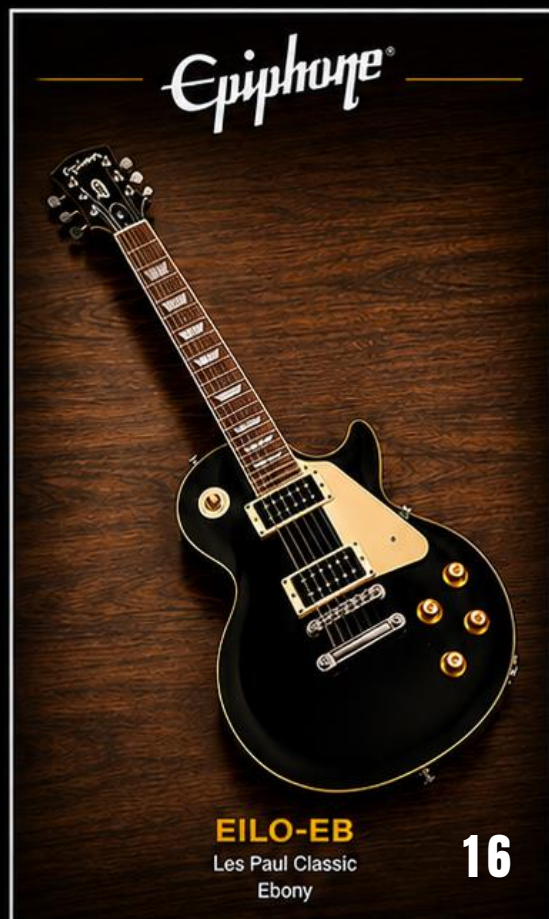


Gibson

30
LPS500-HY
Les Paul Std 50s Figured Top
Honey Amber

42
LPS600-BB
Les Paul Standard 60s
Bourbon Burst

52
LPST01-EB
Les Paul Studio
Ebony



Epiphone

EILO-EB
Les Paul Classic
Ebony

16



nord
stage 4

**The Sound Behind
the World's Greatest
Performances**

nord stage 4

6



Mark Haze
The Voice and Soul of Epiphone

10



SWIFF AUDIO

56



Michael-Wilson Trollip
Mastering
Every
Performance

13

nord[®]

stage 4

The Sound Behind the World's Greatest Performances



Walk onto some of the world's biggest stages and you'll notice a familiar splash of red. From arena tours and television productions to theatres, churches, festivals and recording studios, the **Nord Stage 4** has become the instrument trusted by professional keyboardists who demand exceptional sound, reliability and performance.

As the latest generation of Nord's flagship Stage series, the Nord Stage 4 raises the bar once again. Featuring an intuitive new panel design, a premium triple-sensor keybed, dedicated effect sections for every layer, and significant enhancements to its acclaimed piano, organ and synthesizer engines, it delivers a level of expression and flexibility designed specifically for the modern performing musician.

What has always set Nord apart is its philosophy. Rather than overwhelming musicians with complicated menus, every control is designed for immediate access during a live performance. Whether you're switching between grand piano, Hammond organ, lush pads or soaring synth leads, every sound is only a button or fader away, allowing performers to stay focused on the music instead of the technology.

The Stage 4 further enhances this approach with dedicated LED faders for each layer, powerful effects for every sound engine, and expanded sonic capabilities that inspire creativity on stage.



Photo Credits – Jenna Stoch

The result is an instrument that has earned the confidence of musicians across the globe. From intimate venues to the world's most prestigious concert stages, the Nord Stage 4 has become synonymous with professional performance, exceptional sound quality, and unwavering reliability. It is more than a keyboard—it's a centrepiece of modern live production.

When the Nord Stage 4 is paired with an **Epiphone** guitar, the energy on stage reaches another level. Rich keyboard textures blend effortlessly with powerful guitar tones to create a dynamic live performance that captivates audiences from the first note to the final encore.



Photo Credits – Jenna Stoch

South African audiences have witnessed this chemistry firsthand through performances by **Michael Wilson-Trollip** on the Nord Stage 4 alongside **Mark Haze** on Epiphone guitar. Together, they demonstrate how exceptional musicianship, combined with world-class instruments, transforms a performance into something truly memorable.

The Nord delivers breathtaking piano, organ and synthesizer sounds, while the Epiphone adds warmth, character and power, creating a musical partnership that keeps audiences fully engaged.

Today's audiences expect more than simply hearing great music—they want an unforgettable live experience.

The Nord Stage 4 continues to set the benchmark for professional stage keyboards, empowering musicians to perform with confidence, creativity, and expression.

As more artists continue to choose Nord for live performance, its reputation as one of the world's most respected stage keyboards only continues to grow.



Nord stage 4

Mark Haze

The Voice and Soul of Epiphone

Renowned South African vocalist and guitarist **Mark Haze** brings unmistakable energy to every performance with his trusted **Epiphone** guitar by his side.

Known for his powerful vocals, commanding stage presence, and authentic musicianship, Mark combines classic rock influences with modern performance to create an engaging live experience.

His collaboration with Epiphone highlights the brand's rich tone, reliability, and timeless craftsmanship, proving why Epiphone continues to inspire musicians across generations.



During a recent visit to **Proaudio**, Mark reminded everyone exactly why he's regarded as one of South Africa's finest performers. Picking up an Epiphone guitar, he launched into a series of impromptu guitar solos that captivated everyone in the room.

It was a spontaneous demonstration of exceptional talent, showcasing not only the expressive sound of the instrument but also the passion and artistry that Mark brings to every performance.

Whether on stage in front of thousands or in an intimate showroom setting, Mark Haze has an incredible ability to turn every moment into a memorable musical experience.

Michael Wilson-Trolip

Mastering
Every
Performance

South African keyboardist **Michael Wilson-Trollip** is a musician whose passion, technical excellence, and expressive playing perfectly complement the capabilities of the **Nord Stage 4**.

Whether delivering rich piano performances, soaring synth textures, or classic organ sounds, Michael demonstrates the incredible versatility of the instrument with confidence and precision.

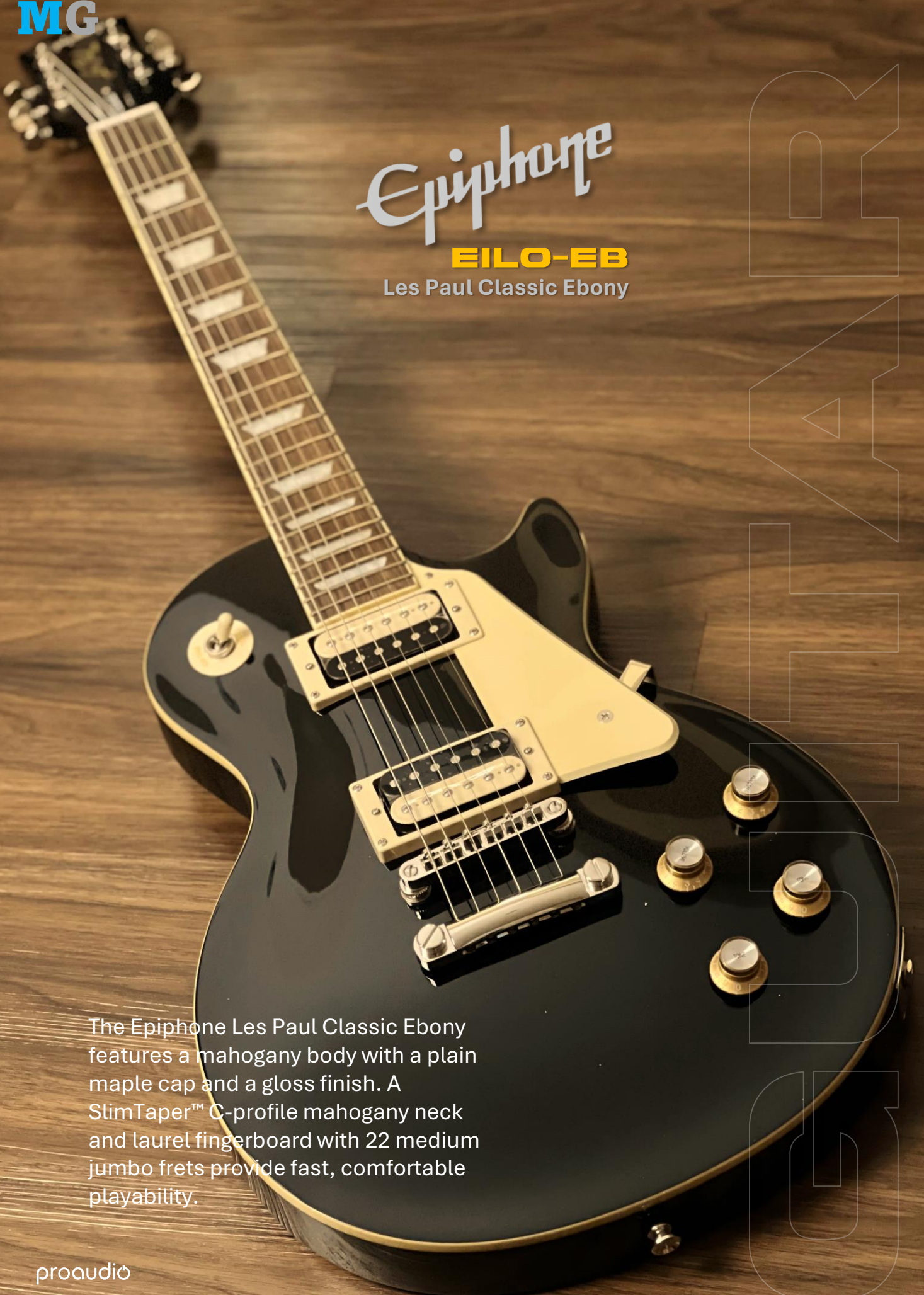
His performances showcase not only the power of the Nord Stage 4 but also the artistry that comes from years of dedication to live music.



During a recent visit to **Proaudio**, Michael teamed up with **Mark Haze** for an impromptu live performance that quickly became one of the highlights of the day.

With Michael behind the Nord Stage 4 and Mark on his Epiphone guitar, the pair delivered an unforgettable jam session that perfectly showcased the chemistry between two exceptional musicians.

Their spontaneous performance demonstrated how world-class instruments, combined with outstanding talent, can transform even an informal moment into an inspiring live music experience.

A high-quality photograph of an Epiphone ELO-EB Les Paul Classic Ebony electric guitar. The guitar is positioned diagonally across the frame, resting on a dark wood surface. It features a black body with a glossy finish, a cream-colored pickguard, and two humbucker pickups. The neck is made of mahogany with a laurel fingerboard and 22 medium jumbo frets. The headstock is also mahogany with a black finish. The overall aesthetic is classic and professional.

Epiphone

EILO-EB

Les Paul Classic Ebony

The Epiphone Les Paul Classic Ebony features a mahogany body with a plain maple cap and a gloss finish. A SlimTaper™ C-profile mahogany neck and laurel fingerboard with 22 medium jumbo frets provide fast, comfortable playability.

WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Epiphone Les Paul Classic Ebony combines timeless Les Paul styling with modern tonal flexibility. Premium electronics, quality hardware, and versatile switching options make it an excellent choice for players seeking authentic Les Paul performance at exceptional value.

The Epiphone Les Paul Classic Ebony features a mahogany body with a plain maple cap and a gloss finish. A SlimTaper™ C-profile mahogany neck and laurel fingerboard with 22 medium jumbo frets provide fast, comfortable playability.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

Its versatile Alnico Classic PRO™ pickups make it well suited to rock, blues, hard rock, classic rock, country, jazz, and alternative music.

The push/pull controls provide a wide range of tones, from warm humbucker sounds to brighter single-coil-style textures.



Epiphone





“The Epiphone Les Paul Classic Ebony blends timeless Les Paul tone with modern versatility, delivering premium performance for today's guitarist.”





From the stages of KKNK to the streets of Berlin, Dani Villé has built a career defined by honesty, resilience, and a genuine passion for connecting with people through music.

Since taking the leap into music full-time, the Paarl-based singer-songwriter has continued to evolve, embracing independence, exploring new creative horizons, and crafting a sound that blends alternative pop with subtle rock influences. Now, with new music on the horizon and an acting debut in the South African film *Madam*, Dani's journey is entering an exciting new chapter.

In this edition of MusicGear Magazine, Dani reflects on the moments that shaped her career, the lessons she's learned as an independent artist, and why authenticity remains at the heart of everything she creates.

Her story is one of perseverance, creativity, and a belief that music has the power to make people feel understood—no matter where they come from.





Welcome Dani! For anyone who may be discovering your music for the first time, who is Dani Villé, and how would you describe your sound and the artist you've become today?



Thank you and thank you for the opportunity! I'm Dani Villé, a singer-songwriter living in the beautiful Paarl.

Music has always been the way I make sense of the world and everything I've experienced within it, and that's reflected in the songs I write. I'm someone who loves colour, storytelling, and creating genuine connections with people, whether that's on stage or through a song.

My sound is alternative pop with a little bit of rock influences, but at the heart of it, it's always honest. My music is about the beautiful parts of life that we all experience.

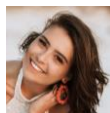
Over the years, I've grown into an artist who's become much more comfortable embracing who I am instead of trying to fit into a certain mould.

And now, I've realised that people connect with authenticity, so that's something I try to bring into every performance and every release. I hope when people listen to my music, they feel understood, or at least know they're not alone in what they're feeling.





You've said that the moment you stepped on stage, you knew music was your calling. Can you take us back to that moment, and tell us what first inspired you to pursue music professionally?



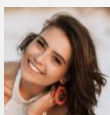
Yes! Growing up in a very musical family, I always had all the support in the world from them. I still remember the exact moment I realised that music is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

It was 2015, when I performed at KKNK for the very first time and 15 years old. All thanks to my mom who applied for me to sing there. It was the first time I experienced the “life of a travelling musician”.

Being surrounded by so many big artists, watching them perform live, and moving in those circles at such a young age, I was super lucky to have experienced.

I made so many friends within the industry who inspired me and still do. Being able to perform on those big stages at such a young age at that time, was when I knew this is my purpose and future.

MG proaudio You've released an EP, rebranded your music, and continued to release original songs over the years. How has your songwriting and artistic identity evolved since you first started?



I released my first EP in 2020, signed at a label company at that time. All those songs were written by me, but because I was so young and still new in the industry, I didn't really know what sound I exactly aimed for.

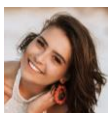
Moving away from the label in 2021 and becoming an independent artist, I decided to go study Music Business at COPA (Campus of Performing Arts) in Cape Town. And from then was when my knowledge about my music grew, changed, and expanded.

I lived in Cape Town for 5 years, and once I started performing at all the live venues there, was when my music started changing. I was exposed to such a big world and realised how important it is to stay open to different genres and styles of music.

One of the biggest influences in my music, was when I travelled to Berlin in Germany for 3 months for my music. The music industry there opened my eyes to everything that you can do. You don't have to live in a box, and learning the music there, it really influenced the music that I make today.



MG From performing at festivals like KKNK to taking your music to Berlin and now starring in the South African film "Madam," you've experienced some incredible milestones. Which moment has had the biggest impact on your career, and why?



I've had so many incredible moments, it's difficult to choose only one. I would have to say that being in Berlin in 2023, was a whole career highlight and a lot of big moments in that time.

I've had moments while I performed there, where I really felt like everyone was invested in my music, even if they didn't know who I was. And that's how all artists should be treated, no matter how big or small your music is. Bein in Berlin pushed me completely out of my comfort zone.

I was performing for people from all over the world, many of whom had never heard my music before, so I couldn't rely on familiarity, had to rely on the music and the connection I was able to create in the moment.

Of course, performing at festivals like KKNK is an incredible milestone too. It opened new doors and introduced me to different audiences, but Berlin really changed me as an artist. It taught me to trust myself, embrace vulnerability, and realise that music truly is a universal language.

That's something I've carried with me into every performance since!



As an independent artist balancing live performances, songwriting, recording, and now acting, what does a typical week look like for you, and what keeps you motivated?



I get bored very easily, so I make sure that my day-to-day isn't. Whenever I have time off from performing, I like to work on my set lists and write new songs. Not having music in my every day, I would not be able to function.

Otherwise, you'll find me on a run somewhere, or spending time with my close friends and family, or reading. I also teach piano and singing lessons to little ones during the week, and it surely keeps me on my toes!



As a woman making your mark in the music industry, what has your experience been like, and what advice would you give to other young women who aspire to build a career in music?



It's an industry that requires resilience. There are incredible opportunities, but there are also moments where you must work twice as hard to be taken seriously, especially as a woman who's managing not just the creative side, but often the business side as well.

For me, one of the biggest lessons has been learning to trust my instincts and stay true to who I am. I've found that the more authentic I've become, the more meaningful the connections with my audience have been. My advice to young women would be to back yourself, and keep learning, keep creating, and don't be afraid to take up space.

Build genuine relationships, be professional, and remember that your voice and your perspective are valuable. Success doesn't happen overnight, but consistency, authenticity, and believing in your own vision can take you a long way.

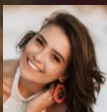
Also, what I would also recommend for every artist, is to expand their knowledge on the business side of the music industry. Studying music business was one of the best decisions I could make for my career. I had so much knowledge to back myself wherever I went.

Lastly - make sure that you have a good support system, because those are the people you will need in your career peaks, as well as your career lows.





Whether you're performing at an intimate venue, a festival, or busking on the streets of Berlin, you seem to connect effortlessly with your audience. What do you think creates that connection, and what do you hope people take away from your performances?



For me, it's about creating a moment where people feel something, but I also want to feel connected to the music, the lyrics, and the other musicians around me on stage when I'm performing. Whether I'm performing for twenty people in a small venue, a festival crowd, or busking on the streets of Berlin, I try to be completely present. I think audiences can tell when you're being genuine, and that's where the connection starts.

I believe that music is made to bring people together. During the performances, everyone is sharing the same experience, and I think that's special. I hope people leave my performances feeling a little lighter, a little more inspired, or simply having forgotten about whatever they were worrying about for a while.

My heart gets warm with happiness when I see big smiles of enjoyment on the people's faces when I perform, and that's part of my purpose as an artist. If someone walks away feeling seen, encouraged, or with a song that stays with them long after the performance, then I've done what I set out to do.





You've already achieved so much, with new music, your acting debut, and international performances under your belt. What's next for Dani Villé, and what can your fans look forward to over the coming months?



I feel like I'm still at the beginning of my journey, even though so much has happened already over the past years in my career. I continue to write songs to be released. What I would really love is to work on a few songs so that I can potentially release an album or EP.

Another thing on my list, is to do a collab with another artist. Other than that, I keep on focusing on upcoming performance and doing what I love!



"Berlin really changed me as an artist. It taught me to trust myself, embrace vulnerability, and realise that music truly is a universal language."





Gibson

LPS500-HY

Les Paul Std 50s Figured Top Honey Amber

GUITAR

WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Gibson Les Paul Standard '50s Figured Top Honey Amber delivers the authentic look, feel, and tone of a classic Les Paul. With premium tonewoods, vintage-inspired electronics, and high-quality hardware, it offers exceptional craftsmanship, reliability, and the legendary performance that has made the Les Paul an enduring favourite among guitarists.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

Its warm, dynamic tone and impressive sustain make it an excellent choice for classic rock, blues, hard rock, jazz, country, and modern rock.

The versatile Burstbucker™ pickups provide the clarity and responsiveness needed for everything from expressive clean passages to rich, overdriven lead tones.

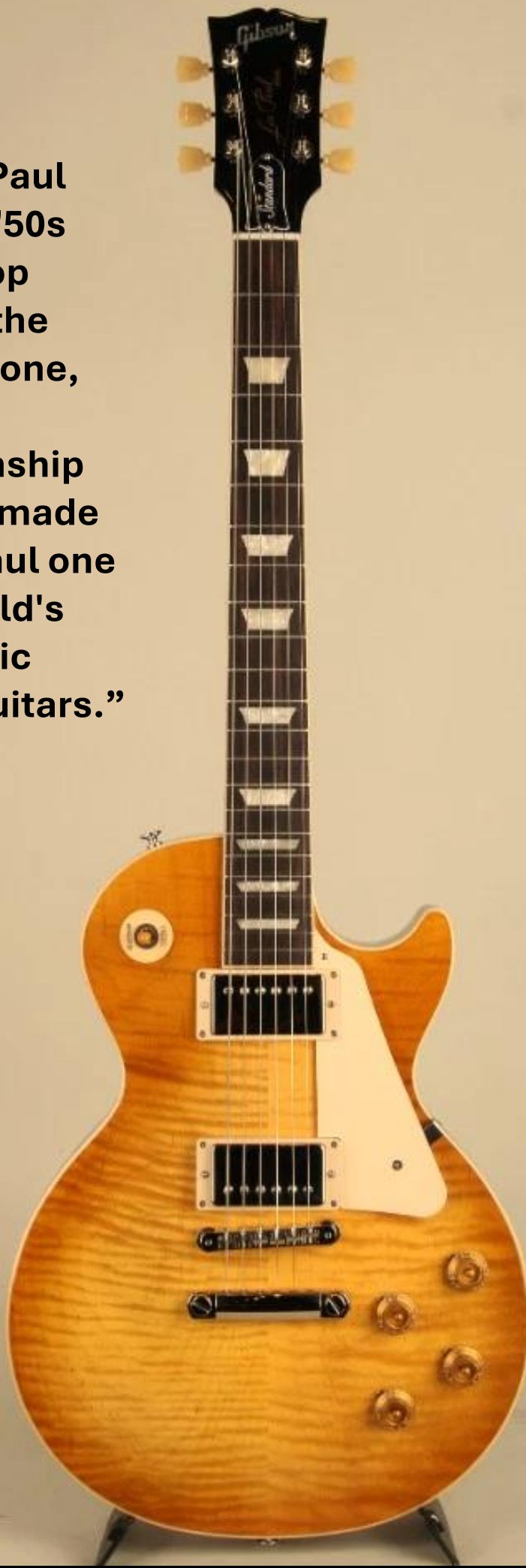


WHO WOULD USE IT?

The Gibson Les Paul Standard '50s Figured Top Honey Amber is ideal for professional musicians, touring performers, studio players, and enthusiasts seeking authentic vintage Les Paul tone and craftsmanship.

Its classic design and versatile sound make it equally at home on stage, in the studio, or as the centrepiece of a premium guitar collection.

“The Les Paul Standard '50s Figured Top captures the timeless tone, feel, and craftsmanship that have made the Les Paul one of the world's most iconic electric guitars.”





MEWZO

What makes a musician truly bookable?

A memorable performance may capture an audience, but building a successful music career also requires visibility, professionalism and a simple booking process.

FROM THE REHEARSAL ROOM TO THE BOOKING

For many musicians, opportunities are scattered across WhatsApp groups, social media and personal recommendations. Enquiries become buried in messages, important information is difficult to find, and payments are handled separately.

Social media helps musicians share their work, but being visible does not always make them easy to book. Clients need to understand an artist's sound, experience, location, availability and suitability for different events.

TALENT ATTRACTS ATTENTION. PROFESSIONALISM SECURES BOOKINGS.

A professional musician communicates clearly, arrives prepared and understands that a restaurant residency, wedding, festival or corporate event may require a different repertoire or performance format.

A strong artist profile brings photographs, recordings, performance clips and essential booking information together. It should also make clear whether the act is a solo artist, duo or full band.



MEWZO

A CLEARER ROUTE TO THE NEXT STAGE

Discovery • booking • payment

MG

FROM DISCOVERY TO BOOKING

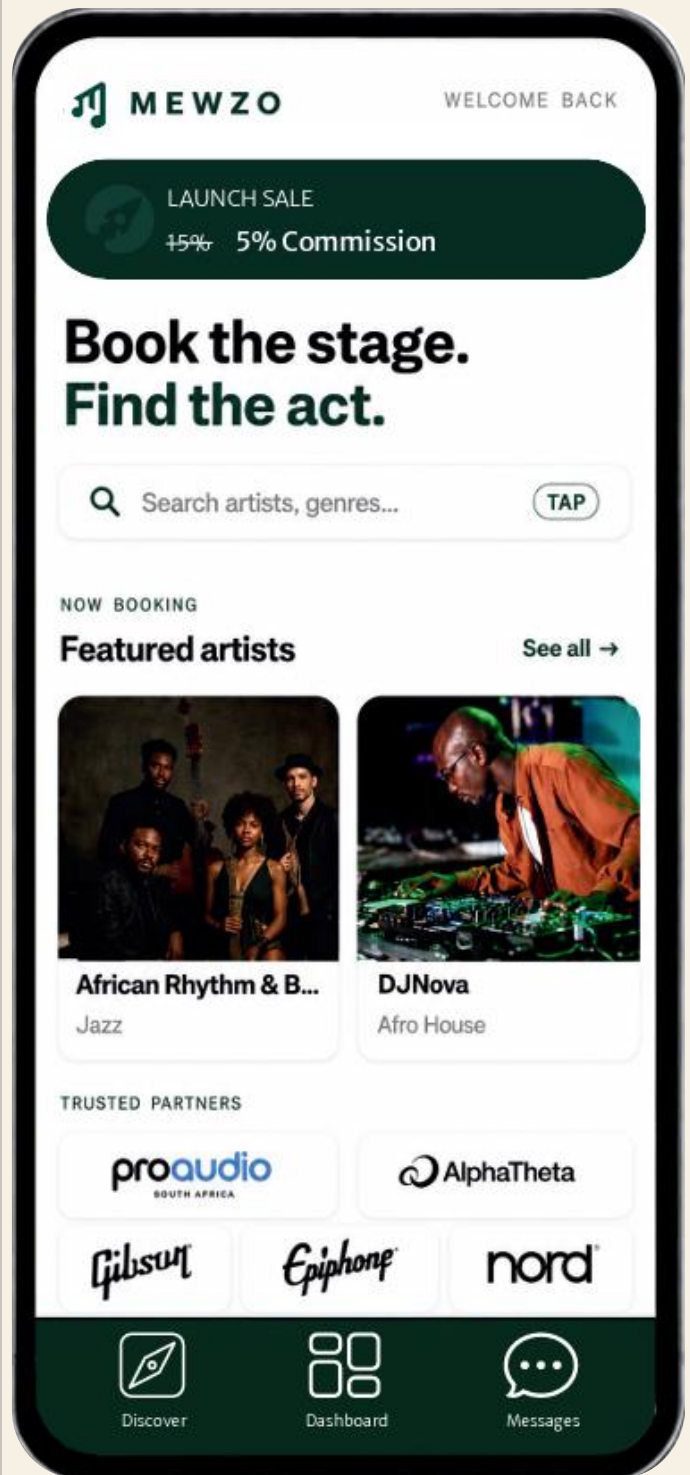
Mewzo is a South African artist-discovery and booking platform connecting clients with musicians and other performers in their area.

Through the Mewzo website and mobile app, users can browse artist profiles, communicate directly with performers and manage bookings and payments in one place.

Musicians can currently create their Mewzo profiles for free. During the launch period, Mewzo is also offering an introductory commission of only 5% on successful bookings.

BUILDING A STRONGER LOCAL MUSIC INDUSTRY

South Africa has no shortage of talented DJs. The challenge is connecting that talent with the right audiences, venues and opportunities.



A great performance may make people remember your music. Making yourself easy to discover, trust and book can help turn that moment into your next opportunity.

FREE PROFILE • 5% LAUNCH COMMISSION ON SUCCESSFUL BOOKINGS

mewzo.co.za • Mewzo app

Strings, Keys & Strength

Celebrating the Women Who Shape Music.

EVERY AUGUST, South Africa celebrates Women's Month—a time to honour the women whose courage, creativity and determination continue to inspire generations.

In music, women have reshaped every genre imaginable, proving that talent, passion and dedication know no boundaries. Whether behind a guitar, seated at a keyboard or commanding the stage, they continue to redefine what is possible.

One of today's most celebrated singer-songwriters is **Margo Price**. Known for her honest songwriting and exceptional musicianship, Price recently partnered with **Gibson** to release her signature **Margo Price J-45** acoustic guitar.

Inspired by her beloved vintage J-45, the instrument reflects her personality and artistry, while celebrating a career built on authenticity, resilience and passion.





Another artist whose influence spans generations is **Sheryl Crow**. A Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and accomplished guitarist, Crow has built a remarkable career across rock, pop, country and Americana.

As a longtime **Gibson** artist, she has inspired countless musicians with timeless songs, expressive guitar playing and a career defined by authenticity and musical excellence.

Rock music has its own trailblazer in **Lizzy Hale**, frontwoman of Halestorm and one of Gibson's most recognisable ambassadors.

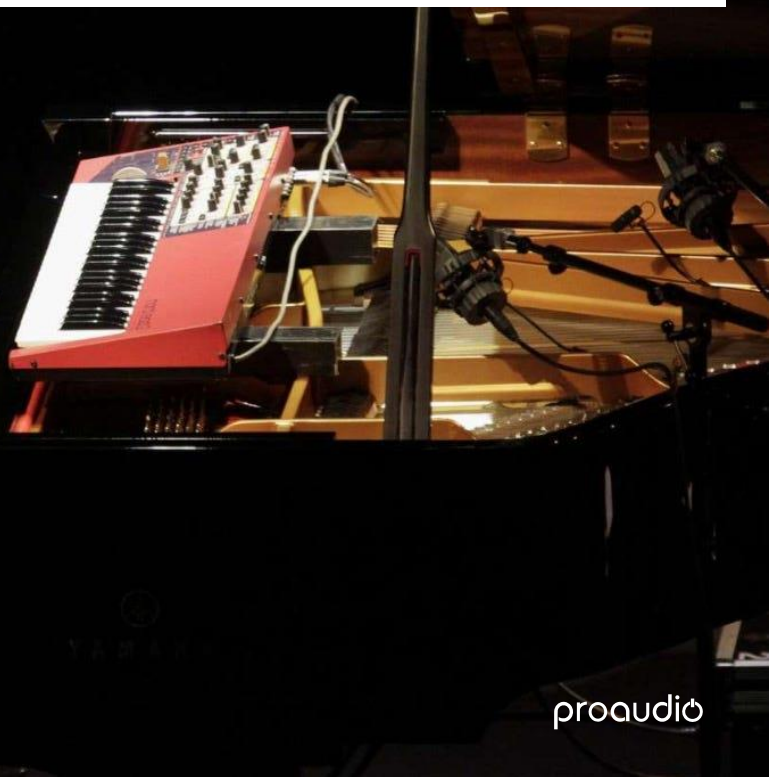
Her commanding guitar work, powerful vocals and electrifying stage presence have made her an inspiration to aspiring female guitarists worldwide, proving that confidence and technical excellence go hand in hand.



Joan Jett has spent decades proving that rock and roll knows no boundaries. With her unmistakable Gibson guitar, powerful stage presence and uncompromising attitude, she has inspired generations of musicians to pick up a guitar and make their voices heard. From I Love Rock 'n' Roll to her enduring influence on female rock artists, Jett remains one of the most iconic guitarists in modern music and a true pioneer for women in the industry.

Representing the pinnacle of technical excellence is Japanese keyboard virtuoso Hiromi Uehara. Her breathtaking performances continue to showcase the incredible expressive possibilities of modern keyboards, making her one of the world's most respected pianists.

Artists like Hiromi demonstrate why professional performers continue to place their trust in instruments such as Nord, renowned for delivering uncompromising sound and reliability on stages around the world.





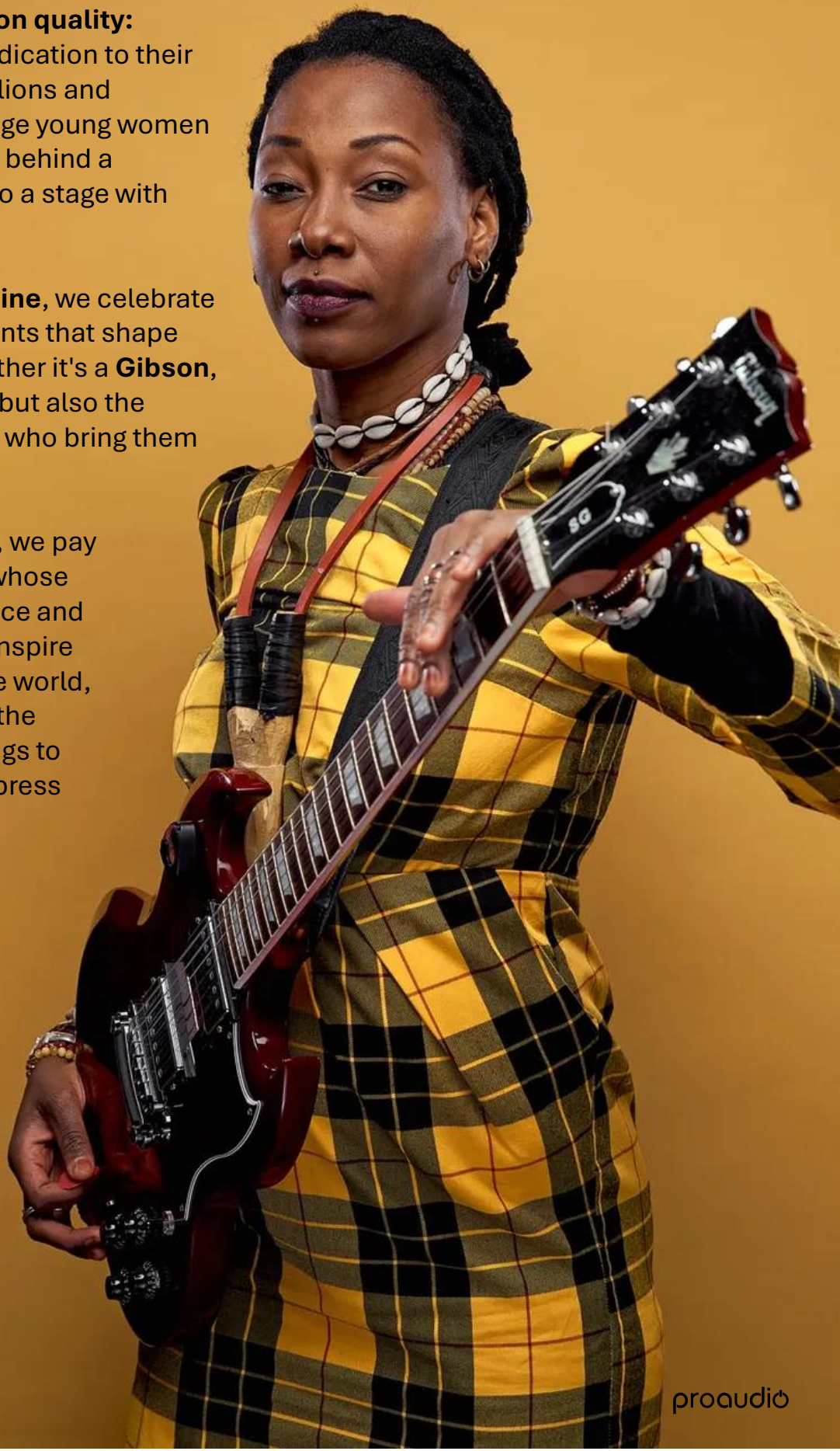
Australian guitarist Orianthi has earned worldwide recognition for her exceptional technique, expressive playing and electrifying live performances. A longtime Gibson artist, she has shared stages with some of the biggest names in music while inspiring a new generation of guitarists through her virtuosity and passion. Her career is a testament to the power of dedication, proving that technical brilliance and musical expression can exist in perfect harmony.

While each of these remarkable artists has forged a unique path, they all share one common quality:

authenticity. Their dedication to their craft has inspired millions and continues to encourage young women to pick up a guitar, sit behind a keyboard, or step onto a stage with confidence.

At **MusicGear Magazine**, we celebrate not only the instruments that shape modern music—whether it's a **Gibson**, **Epiphone**, or **Nord**—but also the extraordinary women who bring them to life.

This Women's Month, we pay tribute to the artists whose creativity, perseverance and passion continue to inspire musicians around the world, reminding us all that the future of music belongs to those who dare to express themselves.





Gibson®

LPS600-B8

Les Paul Standard 60s Bourbon Burst

WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s Bourbon Burst combines iconic Les Paul heritage with premium craftsmanship and vintage-inspired appointments.

Its SlimTaper™ neck offers a faster playing feel, while the Burstbucker™ 61 pickups deliver the clarity, power, and versatility that have made this model a favourite among generations of guitarists.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

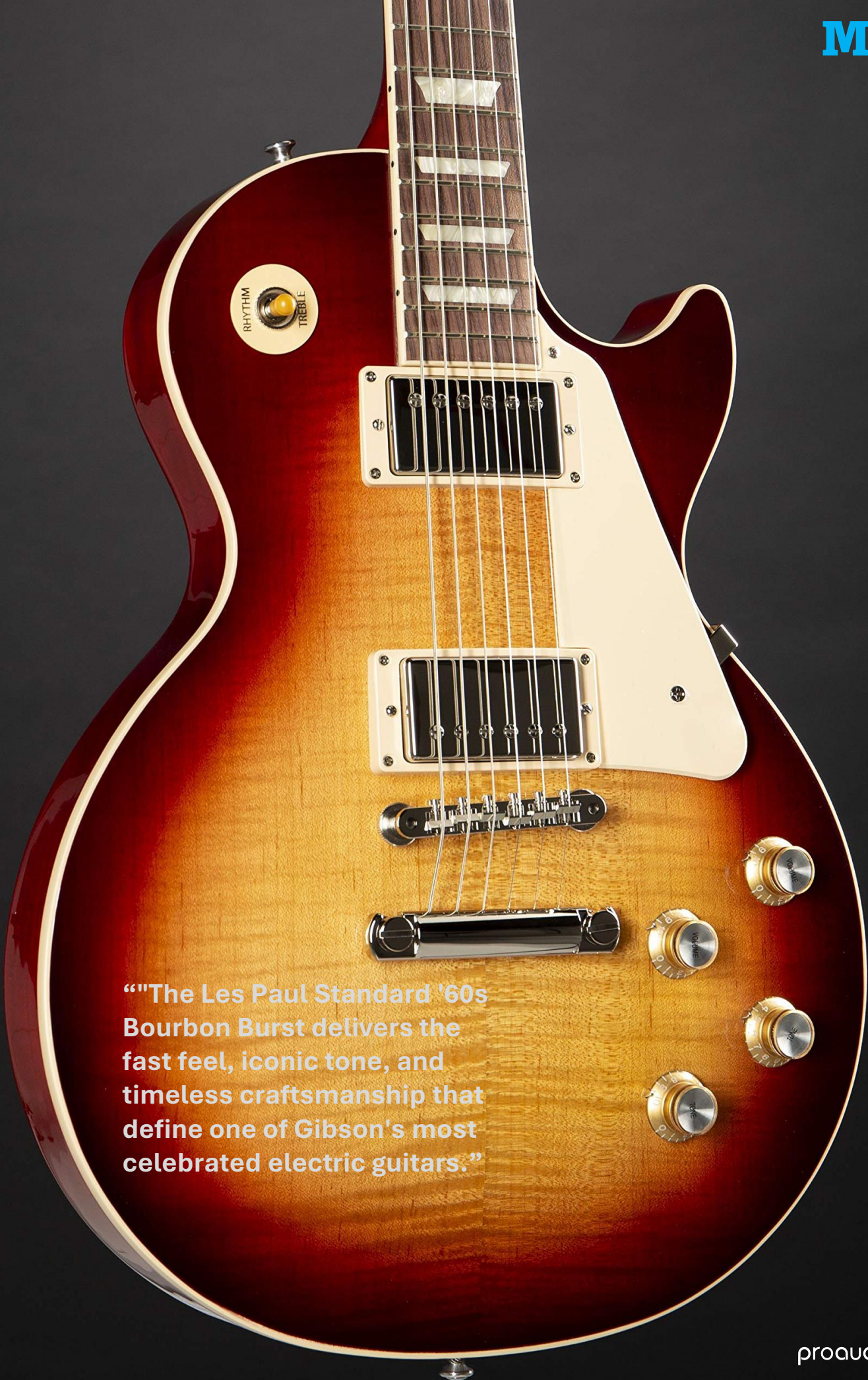
The Les Paul Standard '60s excels across classic rock, blues, hard rock, modern rock, country, jazz, and alternative styles.

Its Burstbucker™ 61 pickups provide articulate cleans, rich overdrive, and singing sustain, making it equally suited to rhythm and lead playing.



WHO WOULD USE IT?

This guitar is ideal for professional musicians, touring artists, studio players, and serious enthusiasts looking for the performance and feel of a classic 1960s Les Paul. Its versatility and premium construction make it suitable for live performance, recording, and long-term ownership.



“The Les Paul Standard '60s Bourbon Burst delivers the fast feel, iconic tone, and timeless craftsmanship that define one of Gibson's most celebrated electric guitars.”



A Fearless Voice Worth Celebrating

A Women's Month Tribute

Every August, South Africa celebrates the women who have shaped industries, challenged expectations, and inspired others through their determination and talent. Few modern artists embody that spirit quite like **Margo Price**.

Born in Illinois and now one of Nashville's most respected singer-songwriters, Price built her career through perseverance. Before international recognition, she balanced everyday jobs while writing songs and performing, refusing to compromise her artistic vision. That determination laid the foundation for a career that continues to inspire musicians around the world.

Her breakthrough came in 2016 with *Midwest Farmer's Daughter*, recorded in just three days at the legendary Sun Studio. Blending country, rock, honky-tonk and Americana, the album established Price as one of the genre's most authentic voices. Since then, she has released multiple acclaimed albums, earned a Grammy nomination, toured internationally, and collaborated with some of music's biggest names.



A Gibson Signature with Meaning

One of the latest milestones in Price's career is her partnership with **Gibson**, resulting in the **Gibson Margo Price J-45** signature acoustic guitar. Handcrafted in Bozeman, Montana, the guitar is inspired by her treasured mid-1960s J-45 and features elegant dual pickguards showcasing a symbolic red-tailed hawk design.

Price unveiled the instrument during a special performance at Nashville's Gibson Garage, where she performed several of her original songs.



Gibson

Reflecting on the collaboration, she said:

"I've been playing Gibson guitars for over two and a half decades, so it's an absolute dream come true to have a signature model."

She describes the guitar as "*strong but soft*"—a reflection of her own personality—and says the prototype has already become her trusted songwriting and touring companion.

The red-tailed hawk motif carries a deeply personal meaning, representing strength, perseverance and hope.

For Price, the bird serves as a reminder to embrace vulnerability while remaining resilient—qualities she hopes every musician will experience when playing the instrument.



An Artist Who Continues to Inspire

Whether through her honest songwriting, captivating live performances, or dedication to meaningful storytelling, Margo Price continues to redefine what it means to be a modern artist.

Beyond music, she has served on the board of Farm Aid, published her memoir *Maybe We'll Make It*, and continues to release music that challenges, inspires and connects with audiences.



Margo Price

J-45 | HERITAGE CHERRY SUNBURST

Gibson
CUSTOM



This Women's Month, **MusicGear Magazine** celebrates Margo Price as more than an accomplished singer-songwriter and guitarist. She represents authenticity, resilience and the courage to remain true to herself—qualities that have earned her a place among today's most respected voices in music.



Gibson®

LPST01-EB

Les Paul Studio Ebony



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Gibson Les Paul Studio Ebony delivers the legendary Les Paul sound and craftsmanship in a streamlined design built for performance.

Featuring an Ultra-Modern weight-relieved mahogany body, Burstbucker Pro pickups, and premium hardware, it offers exceptional comfort, versatility, and the classic Gibson tone trusted by players worldwide.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Les Paul Studio is well suited to rock, blues, hard rock, metal, country, jazz, and alternative music. Its Burstbucker Pro pickups provide articulate clean tones, dynamic crunch, and powerful high-gain performance, making it equally capable in the studio and on stage.



WHO WOULD USE IT?

Ideal for gigging musicians, recording artists, and dedicated players, the Les Paul Studio is designed for those who want authentic Gibson performance with a focus on playability and versatility.

Its lightweight construction also makes it a comfortable choice for extended rehearsals and live performances.

“The Les Paul Studio Ebony delivers iconic Gibson tone, modern playability, and professional performance in a guitar built to inspire on stage and in the studio”



MG

WIRELESS
FREEDOM.
STUDIO
QUALITY.



WX-510

WIRELESS AUDIO SYSTEM



LOW LATENCY
ULTRA-STABLE LINK



CLEAR & NATURAL
SOUND



LONG LASTING
BATTERY



STRONG CLIP
SECURE FIT



COMPACT DESIGN
EASY TO CARRY

The SWIFF Audio WX-510 is designed to deliver a dependable wireless monitoring experience by combining stable 5.8GHz digital transmission, intuitive operation, and a compact all-in-one design that simplifies setup and transport.

Reliable in-ear monitoring has become an essential part of modern live performance, allowing musicians, vocalists, presenters, and audio professionals to hear every detail of their mix without the limitations of traditional stage wedges.





The rechargeable receivers provide up to 6 hours of continuous operation on a single charge, while the charging case extends total operating time to up to 20 hours, making the system ideal for rehearsals, live performances, and events where reliable, long-lasting wireless monitoring is essential.



When not in use, the receivers are safely stored inside the case while simultaneously recharging, ensuring they are always ready for the next performance.



It features an innovative transmitter that doubles as a protective charging and storage case, offering a convenient all-in-one solution for transport and setup.





It includes two compact bodypack receivers, allowing two performers to monitor the same audio mix from a single transmitter.



Each receiver features a built-in display that provides clear status information, including battery level, signal strength, channel selection, and volume, enabling quick adjustments during rehearsals or live performances.



A convenient belt clip keeps the receiver securely attached, while the rechargeable battery delivers up to 6 hours of continuous operation for dependable performance on stage.





SCHOOL of ROCK[®]

SANDTON & PARKTOWN

With campuses in School of Rock Parktown North and School of Rock Sandton, School of Rock has become one of South Africa's leading performance-based music education institutions.

Combining private lessons with band rehearsals and live performances, the school equips students of all ages with the technical skills, confidence, and stage experience needed to grow as musicians. Its unique approach encourages students to learn by performing, while fostering creativity, teamwork, and a lifelong passion for music.

In celebration of Women's Month, MusicGear Magazine caught up with three inspiring School of Rock students—Estee Mande, Tshiamo Molalugi, and Neoentle Twala. Each has discovered her own voice through music, proving that talent, determination, and the right environment can inspire musicians at every stage of their journey.

Through these interviews, they share their musical inspirations, personal experiences, and encourage the next generation of young women to step confidently into the world of music.

SCHOOL OF ROCK

SANDTON

PLAY.
PERFORM.
BELONG.

NOW OPEN IN

SANDTON



LESSONS IN
GUITAR, BASS,
DRUMS, KEYS
& VOCALS



BAND
REHEARSALS
& LIVE
PERFORMANCES



BUILD CONFIDENCE,
MUSICIANSHIP,
CREATIVITY &
STAGE EXPERIENCE



PROGRAMS FOR
KIDS, TEENS
& ADULTS



DRUM ROOM



BAND ROOM



INSPIRED SPACES



BASS ROOM



VOCAL & KEY ROOM

★ MORE THAN MUSIC LESSONS. IT'S A MOVEMENT. ★



INSTRUMENTS. PASSION. COMMUNITY. PERFORMANCE.
THAT'S THE SCHOOL OF ROCK EXPERIENCE.





ESTEE MANDE

Inspired by her child's passion for music, Estee Mande decided it was never too late to begin her own musical journey.

Inspired by her child's passion for music, Estee Mande decided it was never too late to begin her own musical journey. Today, she is proving that determination, curiosity, and a love for rhythm can open the door to incredible personal growth.

As a drummer at School of Rock, Estee has embraced the challenge of mastering an instrument often associated with male performers, finding confidence and joy behind the kit. Inspired by legendary percussionist Sheila E., she believes music is for everyone, regardless of age or experience.

MG What instrument do you play, or do you sing?

EM My favourite female musician is Sheila E. I admire her not only because she is an incredible drummer and percussionist, but because she brings so much energy, skill, and confidence to everything she does. She has shown that women can be powerful, expressive, and completely at home behind the drums. I also love how she makes rhythm feel exciting and alive, which is something I've always been drawn to in music.

MG What is one song you would love to learn or perform one day?

EM To me, being a girl or woman in music means having the courage to find your own voice and believe that you belong there. That feels especially important in drumming and percussion, which are still often seen as male-dominated. A lot of girls and women may feel unsure about starting, but music is for everyone. I think it's inspiring when women step up, take their place behind the drums, and show that confidence can grow at any age.

MG What is your favourite thing about being part of School of Rock Sandton?

EM My favourite thing about being part of School of Rock is being able to play music with other people who share the same passion. I've loved learning more about rhythm, timing, and percussion, and it's been amazing to grow in confidence along the way. What makes it even more special is that I was inspired to start by my child, who began playing electric guitar at just 8 years old with such confidence. Seeing that gave me the encouragement I needed to try something new myself.

MG Who is a musician or band that inspires you?

EM I would say: go for it. Don't let fear or self-doubt hold you back. You do not have to be perfect to begin, and you are never too old to start. If you've ever felt drawn to the beat of a song or wanted to try drumming, trust that feeling. Music is a wonderful way to build confidence, express yourself, and discover what you're capable of. Every musician starts somewhere, and your journey is just as valid as anyone else's.



TSHIAMO MOLALUGI

For Tshiamo Molalugi, music is more than just singing—it's a way to express emotions, tell her story, and embrace her individuality.

As a vocalist at School of Rock, she has discovered a supportive environment where her confidence and creativity continue to flourish. Inspired by the authenticity of Billie Eilish, Tshiamo believes that every aspiring musician deserves the freedom to be themselves.

In this Women's Month interview, she shares her journey, the lessons she's learned through music, and why finding your own voice is one of the most rewarding experiences of all.

**What instrument do you play, or do you sing?**

My favourite female artist is Billie Eilish because she is creative and isn't afraid to be herself or be different. I am inspired by her because she writes songs that are raw and honest about her emotions, while also connecting with people and remaining true to herself. Her unique style and powerful storytelling inspire me to express myself creatively and embrace my individuality.

**What is one song you would love to learn or perform one day?**

Being a young woman in music means having the opportunity to discover and express myself while also finding my own voice. It's a space where I can share my emotions, connect with others through creativity, and, most importantly, build confidence. To me, music has become more than just making songs; it is also about telling my story, being authentic, and creating a space where people can embrace who they are without fear.

**What is your favourite thing about being part of School of Rock Sandton?**

My favourite thing about being part of School of Rock is that it has become a place where I can learn and grow in a kind and supportive environment. Everyone is very patient, kind, and encouraging, which has made it easier to develop my skills and confidence.

My vocal coach has also played a significant role in helping me find my own voice and become more confident in expressing myself as a singer. School of Rock has also exposed me to genres of music that I had never previously considered, and I've gradually come to enjoy many of them. Most importantly, it feels like a place where I belong: a place where I feel comfortable and surrounded by people who genuinely want to see you succeed.

**Who is a musician or band that inspires you?**

I would encourage her to not be afraid to start and to be patient with herself, even if the journey feels daunting and challenging at first. Learning music takes time and patience, but it is incredibly rewarding. It allows you to connect with yourself in a deeper way and discover your own voice. Music gives you the freedom to be yourself, and every step of the journey helps you grow not only as a musician but also as a person.

MG
ZT**What instrument do you play, or do you sing?**

My favorite female artist is Tyla because she is a young South African girl who has made a big difference in not only South Africa but the world.

MG
ZT**What is one song you would love to learn or perform one day?**

To me it means a female that is strong talented and brave and is ready to show case her talents and share them to the world.

MG
ZT**What is your favourite thing about being part of School of Rock Sandton?**

My favorite part about being in school of rock is getting to learn a new instrument and getting to be in a band with new people and meeting new people

MG
ZT**Who is a musician or band that inspires you?**

I would tell her to go there and just try everything until you find your instrument that speaks to your heart and go in the with an open mind and just have fun.





MG

Pioneer Dj  **AlphaTheta**

 **audio-technica** **dBTechnologies**



MIDAS



SONANCE
BEYOND SOUND

 **Turbosound®**



ENOVA

TANNOY

LAB.GRUPPEN



SOUND TOWN

Epiphone

Gibson®

KRAMER
Guitars

Proudly brought to you by

proaudio

Are you mixing with the right company?