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## Makely Ka – at the forefront of the new generation of Brazilian music

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Makely Ka | Photo courtesy of Good Music Live

Makely Ka is not your conventional musician. Brazilian to the core, yet his music unapologetically absorbs influences from many other languages and cultures, resulting in a curious amalgamation of resonances and reverberations onstage.

Playing for 'Good Music Live' on 8 August, 2013, I spoke to him about his influences, his musical background, and how he views Brazil socio-politically today.

"My music reaches deep into Brazilian folklore and culture, and is a mix of influences, from Ibero-America, Spain, and various indigenous influences," he

reveals.

"My music is a way to... feel the culture of Brazil. Folklore being the root, you don't see the roots of a growing tree, the roots are beneath the ground. You don't see the roots of my music, but they are there."

As part of Brazil's 'new generation' of poet-musicians, his influences come from closer to home, as well as far and wide.



Makely Ka onstage | Photo courtesy of Good Music Live

"We [in Brazil] have a very strong tradition of songs and musicality, and I am inspired by other songwriters, like Caetano Veloso, for example," says Makely Ka.

"The new generation of composers, they are from the heart of Brazil, mostly from Minas Gerais, a populous state in eastern Brazil, where we have influences of African and indigenous culture as well as pop music."

As a self-taught musician, Makely Ka has developed an instinctive flair for reflecting and expressing, the link between music and poetry, something

he is not afraid to experiment with onstage.

"I am a self-taught musician. I studied philosophy at university, so my music [skills] are based on intuition. But I have a very strong contact with poetry and literature, and I believe music is a great way to present poetry.

"They are a very important sign of music now, and a lot of partners and composers of mine are from there. Like Kristoff Silva, Pablo Castro, who now are finding ways to express themselves on the music scene in Brazil."

Brazil's tumultuous history and socio-political issues have not escaped Makely Ka's focus, and these subjects are aspects of being Brazilian that he is unafraid to explore both in his music and in person.



Makely Ka | Photo courtesy of Good Music Live

"We are at an interesting point in Brazil's history, we have street protests [referring to the Rio de Janeiro demonstrations as unions attempted to instigate a national strike over employment laws, health and education issues] and non-conformism, and changes... we are on the cusp of great changes in society," reflects Makely Ka.

"Artists like myself come together and serve as the voices of these protests, the new generation is on the front line.

"These are the biggest protests in the history of the country, it is very symbolic for us, because the Brazilian people are known as a peaceful people ...

yet we are a warrior nation."

Singing in Portuguese, Makely Ka is aware of the language barriers that come along with this, yet he is acutely aware that language is still more than just words.

*Artists like myself come together and serve as the voices of these protests, the new generation is on the front line.*

"I have played in Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Denmark in the last year. It's interesting for me because in Portugal the audiences understand what I'm singing. In Spain they understand a little, but in Denmark, Greece and Lithuania, I don't know what they think because of the language boundaries," he laughs.

"But, musically speaking, there are invisible meanings in the words, the words are not the main sense; the music makes a primordial link in your mind. We, as humans, all have the same cognitive senses, so we speak different languages but understand at the same time. Music is a way to express this."

Intelligent, open-minded and philosophical: there is only one way to experience Brazil through the kaleidoscope of languages and cultures that this musical nation encompasses, and that is through Makely Ka.



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