

# JEANGU MACROOY: BIOGRAPHY



The seeds for the musical journey of Jeangu Macrooy (Paramaribo, 1993) are planted when he receives a guitar at age thirteen from his parents. Shortly after, a musical duo is formed with twin brother Xillan. However, Jeangu's musical ambition turns out to be bigger than the music scene in his native Suriname, leading to his move to The Netherlands in 2014. There a musical collaboration with producer/composer *Perquisite* takes off, who signs him to his label *Unexpected Records* and becomes his producer and manager. His debut EP ***Brave Enough* (2016)** is released in

April 2016 and from that moment on, Jeangu's career finds itself on the fast track. He is named *3FM Talent*, supports *Blaudzun* and *Selah Sue*, is a recurring guest on Dutch national television talk show *De Wereld Draait Door*, plays at *Eurosonic Noorderslag* and is nominated for an *Edison Pop Award* (Dutch Grammy) in the category Best New Artist.

Jeangu's soulful debut album ***High On You* (2017)** consists of highly personal songs - a collection of honest stories of struggle, gratitude, hope and leaps of faith that come with navigating young adulthood in different contexts. The record is nominated for the *Edison Pop Award* 'Best Album', and brings Jeangu and his band to major live slots at *Lowlands Festival* and *North Sea Jazz*. A homecoming show in Jeangu's native Suriname follows, after his single *High On You* has held the no. 1 position in the Surinamese music charts for seven weeks straight. Upon returning to The Netherlands, Jeangu personifies the character of Judas in TV production *The Passion*, viewed by 3.5 million people, and does support shows for *Curtis Harding* and *Ayo* on their German tours. On his second album ***Horizon* (2019)**, Jeangu presents himself with his head held high. The searching youngster has evolved into a confident artist, exploring the world, driven by curiosity and a lust for life, unafraid to dream big. 'I want to avoid repetitions, he says. 'As soon as I recognized certain pre-existing patterns in my song writing, I stopped and tried to figure out whether there were alternative ways of going about it.'

Early 2020 it was announced that Jeangu Macrooy was selected to represent The Netherlands at the *Eurovision Song Contest* in May 2020. Unfortunately *Eurovision*, as well as Jeangu's planned theatre tour throughout The Netherlands, were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the lead up to *Eurovision*, although cancelled, was an amazing journey in itself. Upon release on March 4th 2020, the song ***Grow* (2020)** - premiered on Dutch national television - received a sea of critical acclaim, including placements in Spotify's *New Music Friday* playlists in twelve countries, coverage on all major Dutch media platforms, millions of streams and views, and an entry place in the Dutch charts. In light of the impossibility of live music gatherings during the lockdown months, Jeangu and his team instead decided to release two live recordings of the track, one of them being an acoustic piano-accompanied version recorded at The Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

At the moment Jeangu is preparing with his team for his participation in *Eurovision 2021* with his new song 'Birth Of A New Age', that was released on March 4th 2021. It tells a story of resilience, overcoming the struggles of oppression and the dawn of a new age: an age of equal treatment for all. The part in the Surinamese language was inspired by an old Odo (proverb). Within the context of the song, the Odo is used as a mantra of empowerment and perseverance. 'Birth Of A New Age' was written and produced by Jeangu Macrooy and Perquisite.

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