

# JEANGU MACROOY: BIOGRAPHY



The seeds for Jeangu Macrooy's musical journey (Paramaribo, 1993) are planted when he receives a guitar from his parents at age thirteen. Shortly thereafter, a musical duo is formed with his twin brother Xillan. However, Jeangu's musical ambitions turn out to transcend the music scene in his native Suriname, leading him to move to the Netherlands in 2014. There, he enters into a musical collaboration with producer/composer *Perquisite*, 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*, performs as the supporting act for 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 Best New Artist at the *Edison Pop Awards* (Dutch Grammys).

Jeangu's soulful debut album **High On You (2017)** features very personal songs: a collection of honest stories of struggle, gratitude, hope and leaps of faith. The record is nominated for Best New Album at the *Edison Pop Awards*, taking Jeangu and his band to major live slots at *Lowlands Festival* and the *North Sea Jazz Festival*. A homecoming show in Jeangu's native Suriname follows, after his single *High On You* has held the number one position in the Surinamese music charts for seven consecutive weeks. Upon returning to the Netherlands, Jeangu plays the character of Judas in the TV production of *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, not afraid to dream big. 'I want to avoid repetition,' he says. 'As soon as I started to see recurring patterns in my songwriting, I stopped and tried to find different ways to go about it.'

In early 2020, Jeangu Macrooy was selected to represent the Netherlands at the *Eurovision Song Contest* in May 2020. Unfortunately Eurovision, as well as Jeangu's scheduled theater tour, were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the lead-up to Eurovision was an amazing journey in itself. Upon release the song **Grow (2020)** - having 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 directly entered in the Dutch charts.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, exactly one year after the release of *Grow*, Jeangu's new song for Eurovision, **Birth Of A New Age (2021)**, was released. Jeangu: 'This song is an ode to anyone who stands up for themselves and dares to celebrate the power of their authenticity'. Though the song didn't win the contest, it received many positive reactions, both in and outside the Netherlands. The video, directed by Kevin Osepa and partly shot in the *Rijksmuseum*, has been watched more than 1.5 million times on YouTube. On top of cover interviews with publications including *Volkscrant Magazine* and *Algemeen Dagblad*, the song also got attention from *The New York Times*. Currently Jeangu is working on his third studio album, which is set for release in the first half of 2022.

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