

turningpoint

MUSIC & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2026

THE BEAT THAT BINDS US

*A Celebration of Music,
Love and
Human Connection*

CELEBRATING EMERGING ARTISTS

The Long Way Home,
the brand new collaborative
EP from 916 x YAS VW.

THE FREQUENCY THAT BINDS US

Zhivka Hristova | Conscious Success
Mentor & Founder of the Wealth
Light Codes Method

INSIDE KILIFI'S QUIET CULTURAL REVIVAL

Matthew Swallow,
Founder of
The Baobab Studios

Ronnie McNeir

The Four Tops and
Northern Soul Legend, Ronnie
McNeir's Upcoming New Album

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

MZEE TENDERE

THE SONGS THEY COULD NOT SILENCE

*Preserving the music,
memory and soul of
Kenya's coast.*



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Speaker, Facilitator

ESTHER AUSTIN

*A Very Warm Welcome to
Everyone*

I am incredibly excited to be bringing you the Autumn issue of TurningPoint: Music and Lifestyle Magazine. In this issue we've captured some beautiful stories and experiences and fundamentally what it is to be human and to respect humanity.

Therefore, at the heart beat of this issue is its theme: The Beat that Binds us: A Celebration of Music, Love and Human Connection.



The theme for this issue came to me as I've looked around my world and the world at large.

Observing people's voices, on social media, in the news, on the street, in quiet moments of personal space in café's, park spaces and there seemed to be an energy of fatigue. A fatigue of the hatred and division that's been spewed out daily and at play globally. The narrative of separation and otherness, of man's inhumanity to man. I read post after post where there was a lament of 'where is the integrity? where is the empathy, the compassion, the tolerance?' I watched the lovely Annie Lenox on Instagram, grieve into the world we are in, however as an activist of humanity and love, she always ended her posts with that plea to our personal humanity, a reminder of who she felt we truly were and reminder that it was a place we could get back to.

What came out of all this was a push back by those who simply wanted to hold onto their peace and joy, and this is where the message of music and its beautiful essence to create peace, happiness, and more so to unify came into play. The Biopic Michael was one of those moments where I saw humanity coming together. I watched as audiences globally left cinemas, dancing and forming into flash mobs to celebrate a music icon. An act that not only incited union through movement, expression and celebration but a union through laughter, hugs, joy, tears. A global and sometimes silent understanding crossing barriers and pent up emotions, and in those moments, something richer, deeper and more powerful happened. The power of love and human connection fully cemented themselves as anecdotes to the narrative of those bottom feeders whose world revolved around their own personal hatred, to which they want to infect the world with. Music has the capacity to intercept.

Therefore, in this issue I celebrate that human connection with those featured. Each individual in the following pages reflect that faith in humanity. In something bigger than themselves, to lead, to guide, that offers the pathway to love. To strive to become the change they wish see to see in the world. It's not easy, but those who choose to champion this path through their body of work, who choose to hold at their very core something tangibly authentic, to walk in their purpose and faith, organically become messengers of change, because they understand the assignment of using their gifts to touch the lives of others.

We hear from R&B Grammy Award Winning, Multi Platinum R&B Group Blackstreet whose deep unwavering faith in God has given them a rich outpouring of meaning which translates into their songs and music. We also get to hear from Alan Gerber, who once was a member of the rock band Rhinoceros who has a wonderful outlook on life, which we get to experience through his latest album 'The Well'. We pay tribute to Motown Legend, Janie Bradford who was an American songwriter, who passed away on 21st August 2026. With Berry Gordy, she co-wrote "Money", a song that was originally recorded by Barrett Strong, then by The Beatles on their second album With The Beatles. "Money" is also on The Rolling Stones' first UK EP.

It's not easy to become the change we wish to see, however, I feel by reading the pages of this magazine, someone's story will encourage you to become that change, and to hold onto the dignity of authentic love and that the fire of desire to respect human connection will empower you to champion us all into a better world.

Much love

Esther Austin

P.S

If you have any comments, or suggestions about TurningPoint: Music and Lifestyle Magazine I would love to hear from you. Email me at: esther@estheraustinglobal.com

www.turningpointmagazine.com

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DOUBLE COVER PHOTO CREDITS

Mzee Tendere, born Joseph Mwaborn Joseph Mwagandi Kiponda is a multi faceted artist, cultural steward and prominent figure within the Mijikenda community of Kenya. Master Percussionist, Vocalist, Composer and Kaya Elder

PHOTO CREDIT: *Kathomi Maorwe*

GRAMMY Award winning, Multi Platinum R&B Group BLACKSTREET

PHOTO CREDIT: *Blackstreet: Lee Dear Mobile Photo Lab TM*

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HOPE, INTEGRITY, HUMANITY

It's not what's on the other side of the rainbow that only counts and matters
Nor in the beauty and symbiotic hues and range of colours, that give breath to
creativity's imaginary magic

It's not about waiting for dreams to happen to us, but rather, for us to become
the breath of the dream

It's not for us to bury love, hope, laughter and the freedom of dance,
within the coffin of our adulthood

Nor to lose hope that your neighbour, your brother, your sister

A Stranger, will not sacrifice their integrity to themselves
to deny your very existence because their darkness has kissed
the underbelly of constant validation at the expense of their own humanity
to humanity

Like, Subscribe, Share. Selfie Like, Subscribe, Share. .Selfie

So I dare you to embed the essence of your own humanity
and authenticity within the chambers of your heart

Drench yourself in love with love

Protect your space, your mind, your world

Become like the Owl. Become the Eagle of perception
and tippy-toe with child-like lightness and fervour through life
allowing your feet to sometimes sink, beneath the clouds

And trust that everything will be

OK



ESTHER AUSTIN

On the Sofa with Esther Talk Show
Can be found at *Esther Austin Global Youtube*

EXCLUSIVE

Mzee Tendere

THE SONGS THEY COULD NOT SILENCE

As a traditional musician, what does it mean to carry the music, knowledge and cultural memory of your ancestors into the present day?

Carrying this knowledge is not a passive act of storage; it is a living responsibility.

To us, the music is our library, our philosophy, and our spiritual compass. Carrying the music of our ancestors means acting as a bridge across time ensuring that the rhythms forged hundreds of years ago continue to vibrate in the chests of our youth today. When I pick up an instrument or lead a chant, I am not performing from memory alone; I am stepping into a continuous, unbroken chain of African consciousness.

It means ensuring our people never forget who they are, where they came from, and how they survived. To MADCA, it means we are achieving one of our key objectives. To me personally, it means carrying on my fathers' and their fathers' legacy to the present and into the future.

You are leading an extraordinary effort to record and preserve 64 traditional music genres from Kenya's coast. What inspired you to take on this responsibility, and what does the project mean to you personally?

The spark came from an urgent realization: our elders, the living archives who carry the full depth of these 64 genres and others that won't be able to be documented at this phase, are passing on very fast especially due to new health challenges and the ongoing elderly killings problem in Kilifi county supposedly because of witchcraft.

If we did not document this wealth now, centuries of sacred tuning, polyrhythms, and oral history would vanish into the air.

As a member of MADCA, this is fulfilling more than 20 years' ever elusive quest to properly document this rich heritage which started in 2005, up until recently this dream is becoming a reality.

Personally, the Lutsaga project is the fulfilment of a lifelong duty. Collaborating with Baobab Studios through MADCA (Malindi District Cultural Association) to systematically capture the vast landscape of Mijikenda sound is historic. It is my life's work realized. A testament that our coastal heritage is as vast, complex, and deserving of global preservation as any classical tradition in the world.

EXCLUSIVE



PHOTO CREDIT: *Kathomi Maorwe*