

# T BENVOX

The right kind of music is that which has the capability to pierce through your soul, and transition you through an unending bliss of melody. Fusing jazz, hip-hop, reggae, funk & dancehall, talented 27 year old music artist extraordinaire is dedicated to creating some sweet legato that will lead the world to a soothing place of inevitable pleasure.

Born June 7, 1993 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; Etienne Benedict Akpan popularly known by his stage name "Tben" has been in the craft of music almost his whole life. At age 5, he was already a veteran in playing the Piano, and not long after, he had become a pro in playing several other musical instruments such as the box & bass guitar, drums, recorder, and even the local Bongo drum and Conga were not left out. Honing these skills were made possible with the help of his father who was his mentor and greatest inspiration, as he himself was a melophile. Little wonder where little Tben got his exceptional talents from.

Born and raised a Roman Catholic, Tben got his primary education at Christ the King Int'l Nur/Pry school, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State where he joined the school band group and became a drummer boy as a result of his unquenchable love for musical instruments. At age 11, he started his secondary education at Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, but was transferred to Bright Future College, Uyo after 3 years due to the incessant bullying he faced.

At Bright Future College, Tben did not hesitate to joining the school band group ones again as a drummer boy and a recorder player. During school vacations, he volunteered in church to play the keyboard or bass guitar for the church choir. Like Ernesto de la Cruz in the movie "Coco", Tben was always seizing his every music moment.

In March 2009, 16 year old Tben lost his father to Cancer. This was a really traumatizing period for him as he described his father in his tribute as his mentor, inspiration and a rare gem as far as music was concerned. He

stated that he wasn't sure he could conquer the world of music without his father.

In 2011, Tben gained admission into Akwa Ibom State University to study Agricultural Engineering. It did not take long for him to find his music voice as he was surrounded by folks who shared similar enthusiasm for music. His passion grew stronger and stronger; as a result, he was propelled to composing different original tunes using the guitar he inherited from his father. Tben had not just found his voice, he had also found his words. These were evident through the original lyrics he had written at the time. Truly, the pen is an extension of the soul.

Consumed with the undying thirst to explore the world of music, Tben made the bravest move of his life by visiting a studio for the very first time. There, he met one of Akwa Ibom's finest music producers, Chillingz now known as Ice-beat. For the first time the young rising star felt a sense of purpose as he worked hand in hand with his newest producer who believed so much in his passion and talent, and was ready to help him soar in his music career.

However, things took a different turn as Tben's producer; Ice-beat had to move to Lagos, the commercial city in 2013 for business purposes. Once again, Tben was left with no one to put him through as he struggled to make waves with his new found voice.

Between the years 2013 to 2016, Tben soon became quite a popular figure within his school's environs due to his several musical performances in school shows and events. He was not only brilliant with the mic; but he also discovered an innate flair in pencil artistry. Guy was just a box load of talents.

Juggling music and school soon became a rather tedious task for this young multi-instrumentalist, and his grades began to suffer. He soon found himself in a dilemma no gifted person like himself would ever want to be in. Quit school or quit music. Tben being a smart and determined young fellow decided to simmer down a bit in his music career in order to be able to

meet up with school demands.

After graduation in 2017, the then 24 years old upcoming star made a conscious decision to dwell solely on the business of entertainment, so as to pave a solid way for his music career to sky rocket. His decision however did not sit well with his mother, as he appeared to be rebelling against the family's every principle by constantly keeping late nights and sleeping outside his home. According to Tben, he did all of that in the quest of self-discovery.

During this period of conscious transition, Tben had dropped a lot of friends and acquaintances and was left with only a few circle whom he believed were more serious minded, trusted and supported his dream to create music in its realest and truest form. He also used this period to further develop his skills, network, and learn more about his chosen music genre "Afro fusion". He listened a lot to some established and very outstanding musicians such as: Burnaboy, Bob Marley, Stone boy, and the likes.

In 2018, lines began to fall in pleasant places for this ingenious young artist. His creativity and aptitude got him a management team from the Air cover media, and they were determined to help him build, garner relevance, and put some value to his craft. With the help of his management team, Tben began to put out official singles on digital platforms like Sound clouds & iTunes. YouTube also saw his first music video from one of his singles titled "Wa'aguan".

Interestingly, Tben's box load of talents was not devoid of a spicy Nollywood flavor as he for the first time starred in a film titled "On the beat" by the air cover media production in Akwa Ibom state. Tben described this as being "a great leap forward" for him, since he got to not just feature as a cast, but also a crew member working specifically as the set designer for the film. Although the film "On the Beat" did not get as much reach as expected, it at least put the young rising star in the spot light as his creative prowess earned him a job as the set and props manager for one of Nollywood's hit movie titled "Love or Quest", starring popular nollywood

actors such as Alex Ekubo, Sophie Alakija and Eddie Watson.

In a bid to appreciate his growing fans and everyone who had supported and still ever ready to support him through his journey into relevancy in the entertainment industry, Tben hosted a listening party where he performed live with his band, **"D'bensky Band"** a name he inherited from his late father's band. The turn up for this event was extremely encouraging as well as gratifying especially as the adroit young artist is still trying to find his big break in the industry. Friends, loved one and fans were amazed and mostly thrilled as Tben led them through a world of bliss and euphonious danceable melody.

Currently, the multi-instrumentalist who is still being managed by Air cover media is looking to dropping his first EP titled **"Blunt"**, still in the people's favorite genre, **"Afro-fusion"**. The talented Akwa Ibom finest has worked so hard in the past years, and believes his vision of serenading lives through this EP will usher the Tbenvox brand the tremendous break he so yearns in the entertainment industry not just in Nigeria, but all over the globe by God's grace.

When asked why creating music is so important to him, Tben had this to say:

**"For me, creating music is not just about fusing certain tunes that sound pleasing to the ears. It's more about igniting a pleasant light in the lives of my listeners, indulging their every concern, and taking them to a place where peace alone prevails through my story. This is what is most important to me, and I am more than willing to give this through my music".**

No doubt, Tben is definitely one Nigerian entertainer the world should watch out for.

