Ivan Mucavel

Mozambican mbira on stage



Short biography

Ivan Mucavel is a Mozambican mbira player, percussionist and instrument maker based in Marracuene. Rooted in the musical traditions of Mozambique and shaped by exchanges across Southern Africa and Brazil, his work connects performance, research and the transmission of musical knowledge. At Atelier Mukhambira, he builds instruments and leads workshops in mbira making and playing.

At a glance

Based in Marracuene, Mozambique. Four mbiras and voice, with percussion and bass in the live trio. Concerts, cultural exchanges and mbira workshops. Performance history across Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Brazil.

A living musical tradition

Ivan Mucavel is a Mozambican mbira player, percussionist and instrument maker whose work brings the musical traditions of Mozambique into conversation with other cultures. He has performed in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Brazil.

His journey with the mbira began in the late 1990s alongside musician and ethnomusicologist Luka Mukhavele. In Zimbabwe, he deepened his practice through learning from mbira masters and encounters with artists including Albert Chimedza, Chiwoniso Maraire, Ephat Mujuru and Andy Brown.

At Atelier Mukhambira in Marracuene, he combines performance with research, instrument building and teaching. He has developed his own mbira design, bringing together characteristics of the nyunganyunga and dzavadzimu to explore new melodic and rhythmic possibilities.

In Salvador da Bahia, he performed with the Mbira Brasil collective for Africa Day, with a special appearance by percussionist Anderson Sousa, son of Neguinho do Samba. Musical exchanges at Residência DNA do Samba Reggae connected his work with Afro-Brazilian traditions.

Alongside his concerts, Ivan leads workshops in mbira construction and playing, sharing knowledge with new generations in Mozambique and Brazil. In May 2026, he led the Mbiras do Brasil workshop series at the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia in Salvador.

Listen & watch

Bandcamp: Acoustic Moto M’djindja - Volume 1

YouTube: listen and watch

Selected coverage

Jornal Notícias, 29 April 2026: workshops in Brazil

Revista da ABEM, 2022: research on mbira teaching at Mukhambira

Bookings & production

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