

Lila Iké | Biography

Lila Ike (pronounced Lee-lah Eye-kay) is on the brink of stardom. The 26-year-old Jamaican songbird has an edge and ease in her voice that creates an immediate gravitational pull with her listener, fusing contemporary reggae with elements of soul, hip-hop and dancehall. The free-spirited, easy-going singer has already released a handful of velvety smooth songs through In.Digg.Nation Collective, a record label and talent pool for Jamaican creatives, founded by reggae star Protoje.

The ExPerience will be Lila Iké's debut EP for Six Course/RCA Records in a new partnership with In.Digg.Nation Collective. She breathes a delicate testimony of love, infatuation, and spiritual guidance in the 7-track release out this Spring. The EP is padded with previously-released songs such as "Where I'm Coming From" and "Second Chance." Pivoting from the singles that earned her international acclaim in 2018 and 2019, Lila Iké unveils playful seduction on "I Spy," her first release of 2020 produced by Izy Beats (the hitmaker behind Koffee's "Toast"). Beckoning with innocent flirtation over soft guitar licks, Lila in a sweet falsetto sings, *"I spy I spy, that you see something you might like. Won't you come over if you really mean it."* The layers to Lila are in full bloom as she opens up about the daily pressures she faces through her interaction with people and wanting peace of mind in "Solitude" — . On "Stars Align," Lila flips the instrumental from Protoje's "Bout Noon" into an anthem about falling in love through the metaphor of making music. *The ExPerience* gets under the skin, treading blissful and melancholy moods that are true to life's peaks and valleys.

Born Alecia Grey, Lila Iké grew up in the cool hills of Manchester, Jamaica. She and her three sisters were raised in a single parent household by her mother. As the second eldest child, she had a drive and responsibility to push forward and provide for her family. She first developed her love for music in high school, where she would create jingles on the spot for class projects and get caught freestyling in class with her friends. She found her calling after winning the "best talent" award in her high school pageant and writing her class' graduation song. While attending Northern Caribbean University, she signed up for open mics.

Upon Lila's relocation to Kingston, Jamaica's capital city, the ambitious singer connected with artists like Jah9, Kabaka Pyramid and Protoje — leaders in what's been called the reggae revival — each of whom she now considers her advisors. After appearing as a featured guest on tracks by Protoje ("Flight Plans"), Royal Blu ("Believe") and Koro Fyah ("Got it For You," "Raggamuffin") and on mixtapes by Addis Pablo and Yaadcore, she began building her own catalog of impressive solo material.

Channelling familiar melodies and universal themes are sewn into the blueprint for Lila Ike's current fusion of vintage and contemporary music. She wrote from a personal point of view on her debut single "Biggest Fan" (2017), a tribute to her mother who was originally skeptical of Lila's musical career choice until she had a change of heart. On her second single "Gotti Gotti," she addressed a problematic issue of her generation's predilection for greed, while floating on a classic beat inspired by Sly & Robbie's 1981 riddim for Black Uhuru's "Sponji Reggae." "Second Chance," which was released in 2018, has steadily grown to become a crowd favorite in the dancehalls, parties and clubs. She tapped into the past, revealing a sound that is bold and all her own. The heavy drum and bass borrows from "Promise Land" by reggae icon Dennis Brown. Iké gives the rhythm a fresh coat, delivering a rub-a-dub love song for the ages.

Iké also was an x-factor on Protoje's latest single "Not Another Word," a power collaboration with Agent Sasco, released April 2019. The single has been featured on Spotify playlists "Dancehall Queen" and "Dancehall Official," as well as on the iTunes Reggae A-List, premiering at number 2. Iké's breakout single "Where I'm Coming From" has her voice sitting on an reggae trap beat as she reflects on her journey thus far, acknowledging her humble beginnings and expressing gratitude for the blessings she has received. The single was released June 7th 2019 via In.Digg.Nation Collective/Easy Star Records. Accolades from The FADER, Billboard, FLAUNT Magazine, ExtraTV, EBRO Darden's Apple Music Beats1 show, BBC Radio 1Xtra began to roll in.

Her song "Sweet Inspiration" followed in December and is part of the riddim compilation *Rock & Groove* co-produced by Protoje. In addition to Lila, the all-female riddim features Jamaica's leading ladies including Sevana, Naomi Cowan and Jaz Elise.

Whether she was flying solo or rolling with Protoje, Lila has been tearing up stages across the globe. She embarked on her very first solo tour throughout Europe during the summer. She was booked on all the major reggae festivals, including a main stage slot at 2019 Rototom Sunsplash (Benicassim, Spain), the genre's largest festival worldwide. Her and labelmate Sevana also joined Protoje on his sets at Reggae Sumfest (Montego Bay, Jamaica) and BRIC's Celebrate Brooklyn! (NYC, USA). Shortly after, she opened for Protoje on his U.S. tour along the West Coast. Lila recently collaborated with PUMA Middle East and performed on their stage in Dubai at Sole DXB Festival 2019 in December. The lineup boasted Wu-Tang Clan, Burna Boy, Koffee, Protoje, Sevana, Dave East, YBN Cordae and more.

2020 is a promising year for Lila Iké. Already on "Artists To Watch" lists from BBC 1xtra's Hot for 2020, RELIX Magazine and COMPLEX, the singer is poised and ready to let you know who she is and where she is coming from. Get ready for *The ExPerience*.