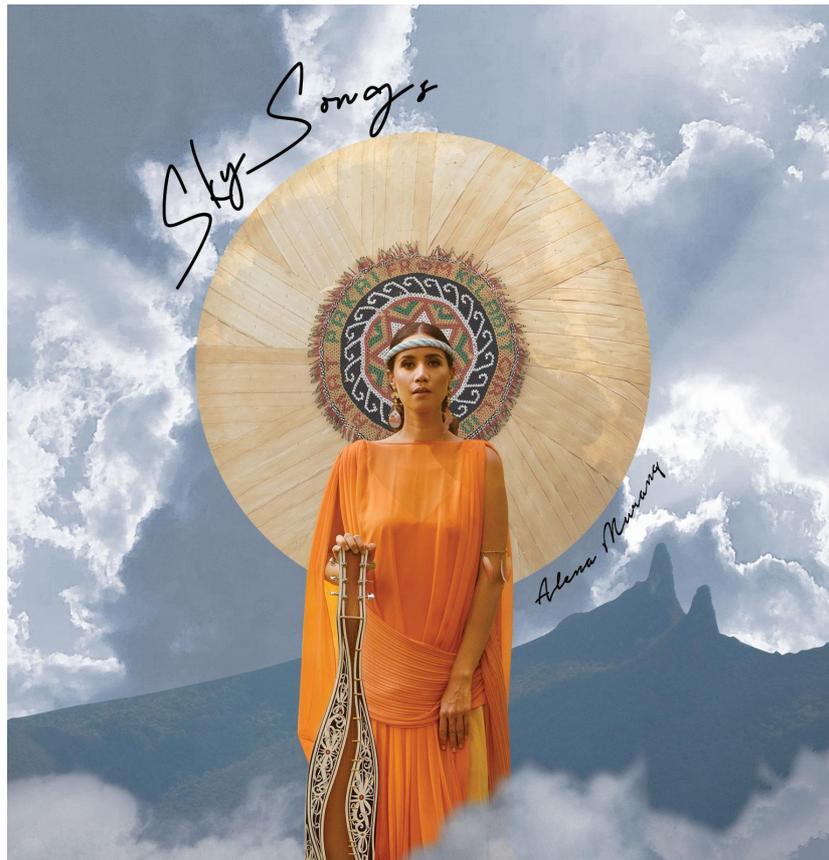


Sape' Songstress Alena Murang Releases Latest Album Entitled Sky Songs on May 27, 2021

Wind Music International Corporation exclusive globally digital release.



Since her debut album *Flight* in 2016, sape' songstress Alena Murang brings a new sound in her latest eight-track album entitled *Sky Songs*.

Inspired by the stories of her ancestors that lived in the skies and on Earth, the album is a journey of song through the cosmos; a song for the warriors that watch the mist rise on the morning of battle; a song of watching the clouds to tell of a good time to migrate; a song with lamentations of thunder and the moon.

Alena recently released two (2) singles, *Gitu'an* and *Meno'*, which are from this album. In this album *Sky Songs*, there are two (2) instrumentals, one (1) song in Kenyah language, four (4) in Kelabit language, and for the first time, a song in English. Kenyah and Kelabit are two out of many endangered languages in Malaysia.

For more information, images, interview or music, please contact:
Managers: Peiti Huang peiti@windmusic.com.tw
Sarah Hsu sarah@windmusic.com.tw

Speaking on the release of her latest album, Alena said, “The album is called Sky Songs because it is a representation of our ancestors and how sacred our lives on Earth are. There are stories of our great ancestors who used to live in the skies and travelled to earth through a waterfall. And now, when we look up to the skies and see graceful white clouds, or bright sparkly stars, or darkness, and it reminds us to stay grounded and live like a community with all living things as we depend on each other. Our ancestors had a special relationship with the universe, from the sun to the sky, the trees and all living things. They said that the sky was like a “big sunhat dome” and all earthly creation lay beneath. And because of that too, I chose to sing in Kenyah and Kelabit language because I want to keep them alive. Language represents a myriad of things you see in life – your people and the community, as well as your perception towards life and realities. Therefore, this album is my way of preserving our beautiful heritage in hope that it is still there for our children and the future generations to accept and appreciate.”

“I am very excited for the launch of this album. Thank you to everyone who is involved in the production of the album - my band - and especially to Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (KKMM) for supporting the local artists through its Dana Kandungan Digital (DKD), as well as the Dayak Cultural Foundation Sarawak.”

Alena, who is also part of the Roads To Our Heritage project alongside two (2) other local bands, Estranged and Stonebay, aim to reach out and tell the stories of the natives of Sabah and Sarawak, specifically the traditional music craftsmen. By sharing these stories told by the native heritage caretakers, they hope that this could generate interest as well as a part of the preservation efforts on East Malaysian culture and shared across all ages, both locally and internationally.

Her band has grown in members and sound over the years, delivering a new sound with different influences, in a genre that is difficult to define, though perhaps the closest being folk pop, folk rock and world music. Produced by her cousin Joshua Maran, the musicians that play on the album are Jonathan Wong Ketshin, Herman Ramanado, Jimmy Chong, Derrick Siow and Niko Coyez.

The instruments on the album are instruments native to Borneo, including Sape’, Tubong, Pagang, rattan mat, as well as other cultural instruments like taiko drums, cowbells and other more common instruments like guitars, bass guitar, drum kit and concert flute.

The Sky Songs physical album comes with a booklet of lyrics with English translations of the songs, stories and photos of the highland skies.

The production of the album is supported by the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia and the Dayak Cultural Foundation Sarawak.

For more information, images, interview or music, please contact:
Managers: Peiti Huang peiti@windmusic.com.tw
Sarah Hsu sarah@windmusic.com.tw

About Alena Murang

Alena Murang is a singer-song writer, the first professional female sape' player, The sape' is a stringed lute instrument from Borneo. She receives songs, music and stories from her Kelabit and Kenyah elders, and presents them in contemporary ways; also writing original songs. Alena was part of the revival movement of the sape', 20 years ago, in the first batch of students from sape' master & living heritage Mathew Ngau Jau. Now, she travels to festivals across the world sharing the music of her people.

Alena received a special recognition award (Pengiktirafan Khas) from the Sarawak State Government in March 2021.

Gitu'an MV link: https://youtu.be/si_oZUIHHmY

Meno' MV link: <https://youtu.be/Y4QOsQJunO8>