

On December 5, 2018, the Haitian music industry was rocked by the announcement: Dener Ceide, a distinguished composer and accomplished musician who has contributed his talents to Tabou Combo and accompanied the singer Lauryn Hill, and Reginald Cangé, a prominent figure in the Haitian music scene with groups like Zenglen and Fasil, are set to establish their own musical group. Two giants of contemporary Haitian music merge their talents, promising a tidal wave of musical innovation.

The idea of creating this group has been brewing for several years. In fact, the Zafèm project was conceived, refined, and carefully brought to fruition. Dener and Reginald, music enthusiasts hungry for new melodies, have known each other since childhood. Their mutual respect has deepened through years of collaboration, and their distinct artistic paths have woven a tapestry of diverse experiences —a richness they now distill into their own musical creation.

On March 29, 2019, Zafèm officially steps into the spotlight. In addition to their undeniable talent, Dener Ceide and Reginald Cangé aimed to present a profound artistic philosophy with this group. Their ambition is to promote Haiti, delving into its history as a people, its rich culture, language, and the contemporary Haitian reality. Zafèm aspires to serve as a platform that not only highlights the Haitian people's past, but also offers a realistic assessment of the present while exploring future prospects, all while showcasing the splendor of the Creole language.

Zafèm's very first composition, "Savalou," was presented to the public on October 17, 2019. The song fulfilled the promise of the group's founders to bring a new sound. Their second single, "Ala de ka," released on December 5, 2020, maintained the high standard. However, the coronavirus pandemic interrupted the group's momentum. Their grand debut, celebrated virtually on July 3, 2020, nonetheless left no doubt about the musicians' talent and versatility. The ultimate recognition came when, on July 8, 2023, music enthusiasts could finally experience Zafèm's unique sound in person at the Melrose Ballroom in New York, the group's stronghold. Equipped with their debut album released on May 5, 2023, Zafèm offered its audience an unprecedented musical journey.



Zafèm

Featuring 16 tracks with a total duration of 1 hour and 27 minutes, the album "LAS," including standout songs such as "Le plein," "Lalin ak solèy," and "Dlo Dous," has achieved immediate success. Zafèm's sound, a Caribbean fusion, explores various Haitian musical rhythms, with nods to traditional music and other regional beats. The nuanced brass arrangements evoke the golden era of Nemours' compas, a sound that has long fascinated Dener, intertwined with the composer's unwavering passion for Haitian poetry, consistently at the core of his work.

The themes explored on "LAS" are well-balanced, addressing social issues related to education, local customs, and morals, while also delving into sensuality. The listener is given ample room for interpretation, allowing them to perceive these carefully chosen and melodiously expressed lyrics crafted by the best in our industry. While "Savalou" (2019) traced the entire history of social strife in our society, Dener, as a recognized composer, acknowledges that life sometimes calls for a touch of lightness. This levity is evident in compositions like "Dlo dous," "Abracadabra," "Bradsou Bradsa," and "Le plein." Even in the midst of poverty, frustration, and despair, love consistently serves as the balancing force.

During their performances, Zafèm seamlessly blends their original compositions with Haitian classics, presenting a vibrant tribute to those who paved the way and ensuring an enjoyable experience for fans of Haitian music at large. On stage, Reginald Cangé is a whirlwind of energy, ceaselessly singing, dancing, and miming—all in perfect communion with the audience, who often spontaneously becomes the group's third singer. Dener takes the lead when necessary, consistently displaying mastery. However, Zafèm extends beyond this distinguished duo; it aspires to serve as a platform for young talents, a space where both seasoned and novice musicians coexist and thrive.

The power of this remarkable team lies in the subtle blend of naturalness and spontaneity on stage. Zafèm is not just a performance; it is a genuine, organic creation—a quiet force forged through patience, silence, and hard work—a powerful energy that uplifts collective consciousness. And, above all, Zafèm is the promise of exceptional music.

