

# DENER CEIDE

A versatile artist, Dener Ceide showcases an array of talents as a multi-instrumentalist, author, composer, producer, and singer. Hailing proudly from southern Haiti, he consistently underscores his roots, having been born in Chérette, within the 7th communal section of Saint-Louis du Sud, on November 21, 1979.

Dener Ceide's journey into music began within the walls of the church, nurtured under the watchful and somewhat stern eye of his mother, a dedicated chapel director deeply immersed in religious music. Dener lent his voice to worship at the Altagrâce church in Cherette, participated in school theater groups, and even took to reciting poetry in public. Among the diverse performing arts that ignited his curiosity, it was music that truly won his heart. He explored various instruments, including the drum and bass, before ultimately selecting the guitar as his instrument of choice.

For several years, the church served as his primary stage, as his mother, though supportive of his passion for music, prohibited him from joining musical groups. However, upon returning to Port-au-Prince, Dener, an artist at heart, rebelled against these restrictions. He began seriously contemplating the prospect of a career in the music industry. Driven by curiosity, pragmatism, and a pursuit of perfection, he delved deeper into music, consciously immersing himself in its study. The discoveries he made were compelling, marking the beginning of a beautiful adventure that continues to unfold.

Dener Ceide initiated his professional musical journey with evangelical groups Livingstones Music and Alabanza. Upon his arrival in the United States in 2000, he continued his career in the religious sphere, initially performing at churches. Gradually, he expanded his musical horizons, venturing into jazz and R&B, gracing stages in clubs, and reaching out to an entirely new audience.

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Dener ventured onto the international stage, initially joining “Miami Live,” a group that had shared the platform with international artists such as Trina, Rickross, Damian Marley, and later the Jamaican reggae group Inner Circle. He also had the privilege of accompanying globally renowned singers Lauryn Hill and Yolanda Adams. While his career flourished, the sounds of his homeland lingered in the former guitarist of Tabou Combo, who conscientiously maintained his connection with Haitian music through collaborations. A complete return to his roots eventually became an unavoidable destiny.

Dener Initially captured the hearts of the Haitian people as a songwriter. His inaugural success as a lyricist and co-composer came with the song “Deception,” featured on Nickenson Prud’homme’s debut solo album. Subsequently, he solidified his position as an outstanding compas composer, serving as the lyricist and composer behind recent hits like “Lajan Sere” (Klass), “Rezilta” (Zenglen), “Cheri m dirèk” (Mass Konpa), “San manti” (Disip), and “Jere m” (Harmonk).

Dener Ceide’s reputation as a lyricist preceded him, yet he aspired for more. Fueled by an intense need for self-expression, he recognized that writing for others wouldn’t enable him to convey the messages he yearned to share. Only his own group could provide the freedom he craved. Taking a bold step, he decided to dive into this journey, and Reginald Cangé, a singer with whom he had collaborated in the past, proved to be the perfect partner. Aligned in their artistic goals and bonded by their love for Haitian culture, they introduced Zafem in 2018, representing a beautiful promise within the Haitian Music Industry (HMI). The group’s debut album, “LAS,” served as confirmation that the fusion of these two styles injected new vitality into Haitian music.

Through Zafem, Dener Ceide can finally express his artistic freedom without the burden of commercial expectations. His prior collaborations with various artists and groups have proven instrumental, allowing him to refine his talent and subtly connect with the subconscious of Haitian music enthusiasts. The audience has become accustomed to his distinctive touch manifested in both his lyrics and melodies. Dener, an exceptional lyricist and versatile musician, has no intention of bringing his creative journey to a halt anytime soon!

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