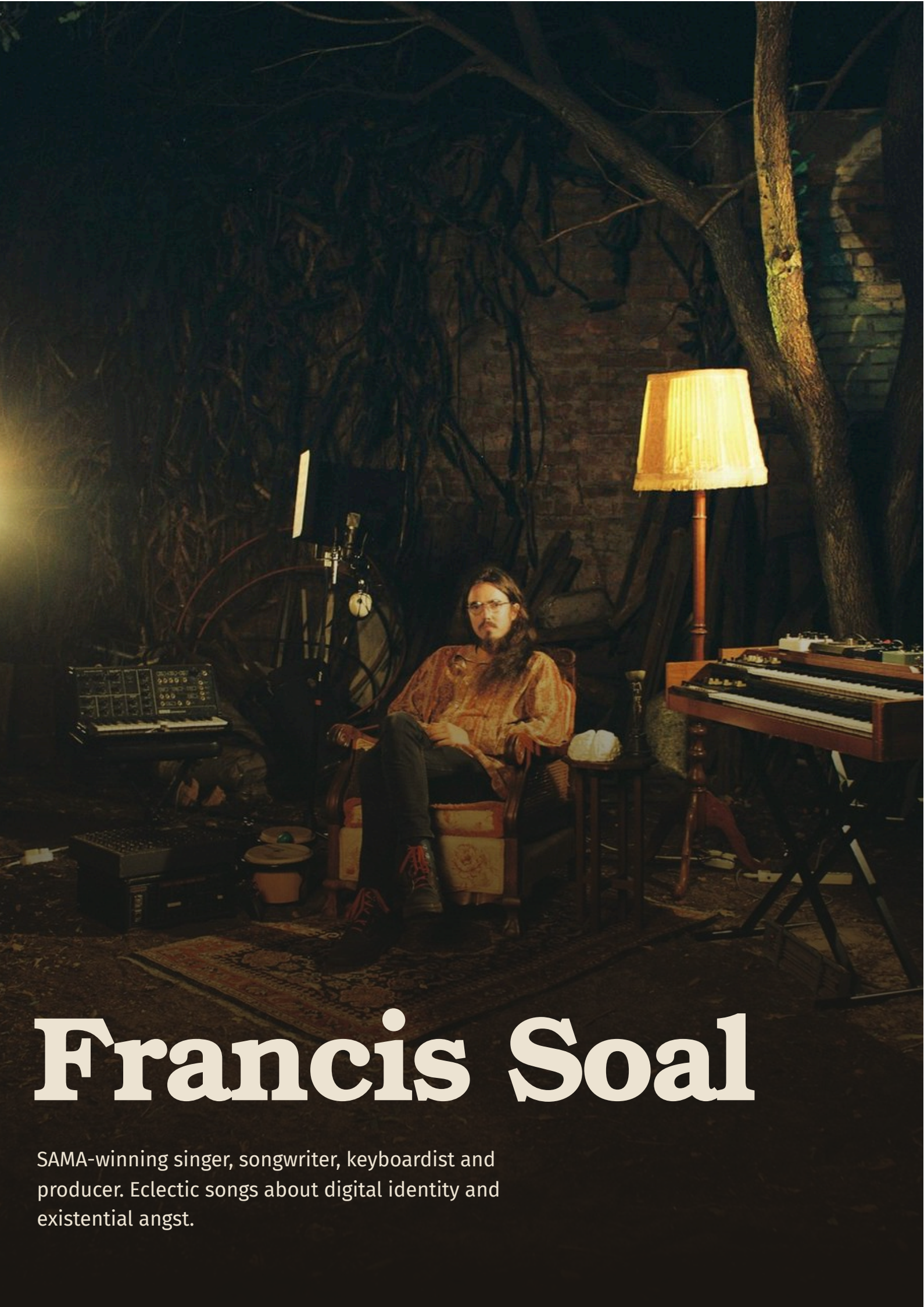

Francis Soal

SAMA-winning singer, songwriter, keyboardist and producer. Eclectic songs about digital identity and existential angst.

Listen and watch

Full album: open.spotify.com/album/4FKS0vSRdCJczDBCuElxwU

Calcium, music video: youtube.com/watch?v=-TXszDS43Qw

René, solo live performance: youtube.com/watch?v=S7ElraAYpaM

Press kit online: francissoal.co.za/epk

About

> Winner, Best Alternative Album, 31st South African Music Awards (2025)



Photo: Josh Stein

Francis Soal is the digital alter ego of Benjy de Kock, a Cape Town-based keyboard player, songwriter, vocalist and producer. Francis Soal's music examines what digital life does to people, and he lives that out in his practice: no social media, just the music and the stage.

His debut album, *Hindsight 2020*, won Best Alternative Album at the 31st South African Music Awards. Built as one continuous 12-track piece, it moves through prog-rock, soul, blues and jazz to explore themes of digital identity, alienation and existential dread. The album was recorded at Concept Records from 2020 to 2024, and its sound is shaped by a dub-inspired analogue approach to using tape delays and effects pedals.

Live, Francis Soal is a four-piece band featuring Ben Jamieson (bass), Tyler Higgins (drums) and Milan Ehrhardt (guitar), reuniting the line-up of TexasRadio, the blues-rock band Benjy co-founded in high school. In 2026 the band played the ACCES showcase in Johannesburg, alongside Sylent Nqo (Zimbabwe) and Kelly Bado (Canada), and the Music Imbizo in Durban, alongside Boskasie, Alidekki Brian (Uganda) and Dussey Wavey.

Benjy also performs with his new live project COWBELLE and with Cape Town reggae band The Rudimentals. He co-founded Concept Records, a studio and label that has recorded dozens of albums and EPs with local independent artists since 2019. Francis Soal is signed to Concept Records, and a new single is due in mid-2027.

Live

Recent shows

Oct 2026	**ACCES 2026 showcase**, Johannesburg With Sylent Nqo (Zimbabwe) and Kelly Bado (Canada)
Oct 2026	**The Alma Cafe**, Cape Town
Aug 2026	**Music Imbizo 2026**, Durban With Boskasie, Alidekki Brian (Uganda) and Dussey Wavey
Oct/Nov 2024	***Hindsight 2020* launch shows**, Cape Town The Alma Cafe, The Commons, Trenchtown (with Kujenga) and Gorgeous George

The band

Benjy de Kock	Lead vocals, keys, acoustic guitar
Ben Jamieson	Bass, backing vocals
Tyler Higgins	Drums
Milan Ehrhardt	Electric guitar

Tech rider and stage plot



Hindsight 2020 launch, Gorgeous George, Cape Town. Photo: Gary van Wyk

Hindsight 2020

Twelve tracks, written to be heard as one continuous piece. Released 1 November 2024 through Concept Records.

1. Stretch
2. 15 Leaps
3. Leave
4. Organasm
5. Turnaround Strategy
6. God Song
7. Night Away
8. René
9. Calcium
10. Fix
11. Phyvate
12. Stretch (Reprise)

Songwriting	Benjy de Kock
Recording and production	Benjy de Kock and Ben Jamieson at Concept Records
Mixing	Ben Jamieson
Mastering	DJ Simbad
Core band	Ray Morgan (drums, percussion), Ben Jamieson (bass), Juan Khan (guitar)
Cover art	Maeve Fourie



Cover art: Maeve Fourie

Contact

Benjy de Kock

Artist and bookings

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+27 78 498 6572

Francis Soal is signed to Concept Records, Cape Town. Shows are announced on Concept Records' Instagram, @concept_records.

Press

“An undeniably delicious body of work.”

Sivuyile Genu, Verve Magazine

“One of the more interesting local albums of the past year.”

Saien Benjamin, The Cape Creative Collective

“A colourful and unpredictable debut.”

Texx and the City

In conversation with Benjy de Kock VOW FM 88.1, Area Code, radio interview before ACCES, Oct 2026

Looking back at *Hindsight 2020* Verve Magazine, interview by Sivuyile Genu, Feb 2026

Francis Soal: *Hindsight 2020* The Cape Creative Collective, review, Nov 2024

Francis Soal makes a colourful and unpredictable debut with *Hindsight 2020* Texx and the City, review, Nov 2024

Full list of winners: music’s finest honoured at SAMA31 TimesLIVE, Dec 2025

First batch of artists to watch live at ACCES 2026 Music In Africa, Aug 2026

Behind the Fifth Wall LitNet, feature by Carsten Rasch with Benjy de Kock on the idea behind the album, Jun 2019

Photos

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Josh Stein


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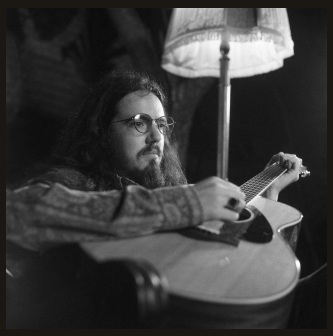
Josh Stein


Josh Stein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Josh Stein


Gary van Wyk, live


Gary van Wyk, live


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Gary van Wyk, live


Gary van Wyk, live



Album cover, Maeve Fourie