Michael Rumbi, known artistically as M. Rumbi, is a Nairobi-based multidisciplinary musician whose work has unfolded as a continuous act of reinvention — moving between indie, jazz, neo-soul, and folk textures while staying anchored in warmth, introspection, and emotional honesty.

He introduced himself in November 2020 with "Not All That," a four-track debut EP that took listeners through a rollercoaster of lyricism before settling into raw emotion and polished production, earning him early recognition across music blogs and magazines on the continent. That era also saw him build some of his most enduring creative partnerships, including early collaborations with Wendy Kay and Monique Burger, vocalists who would go on to feature across multiple projects.

In 2021, M. Rumbi pulled back from the brighter, more produced sound of his debut and turned inward, toward slower, sparer arrangements he described as a return to where he started. That shift surfaced first on the single "Daima," a collaboration with Monique Burger, and then on the EP "Weakdays," both quietly confirming that the stripped-down version of his sound carried just as much weight as the fuller one.

The years that followed brought some of his most significant milestones. As one half of the duo BasicCity, he performed at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, South Africa, and was honored with a Standard Bank Ovation Award, recognition that placed his work alongside some of the continent's standout live acts. Around the same period, his collaborative single "Days Go By," featuring Wendy Kay, found its way onto the soundtrack of "Sincerely Daisy," the first Kenyan film to premiere on Netflix, carrying his sound to an audience well beyond Nairobi.

2023 became a defining year of discipline and output: a self-imposed commitment to release new music every two weeks, sustained across the full year. Within that same stretch, he released "Re-Imagined," a remix EP revisiting earlier songs from his catalogue and doubling as a tribute to the vocalists who had shaped his sound — among them Monique Burger, Nawekulo, Elza Tsaiger, Alexis Muriithi, and Wendy Kay — and to BasicCity, his ongoing creative partnership.

In 2024, that period of relentless output gave way to a more deliberate, focused statement with "Whispers of the Soul," a four-track EP that distilled his indie-jazz sensibility into its most cohesive form yet. The momentum continued into 2025, as he opened a new creative chapter through a run of collaborations with vocalist Zawadi Mukami, including "Jua Tua" and "Shida Inanibeba," pairing his production instincts with a fresh vocal partnership. That same year brought "The Water Wells. The Heart Swells," a standalone single exploring quieter, more reflective territory.

His most recent work, "Just a Broken Man" (feat. Attara), arrived in June 2026, leaning into indie and folk textures and continuing what has become the throughline of his career: an artist who treats every project, whether a remix, a collaboration, or a single, as another step in an ongoing exploration of vulnerability and craft.