

# ARTIST BIO



Nicole Karmine, a South African-born singer-songwriter began her artistic journey at a tender age, with a deep love for the medium of poetry and prose which laid the foundation for her musical career.

Now a global traveler with her soul-dog Gracie, her creative spirit and entrepreneurial endeavors have become her mission of sharing stories through sound - touching hearts, healing spaces, and connecting a global artistic community.

## Early years and education

Nicole's early years were marked by a profound love for storytelling and she was known to entertain friends and family with hours of singing and dancing, immersing herself in her imagination at any opportunity and indulging in the beauty of language through creative writing.

At the age of 7, she joined the school choir, however, after a move to a new school coupled with a few rejected choir auditions later, Nicole focused her attention on other activities.

Leaving her vocal passions behind, music was never a considered career pursuit but rather reserved for music jam sessions with her family and mobile therapy - on the dance floor and in the car.

Nicole pursued her studies in finance and accounting and an athletics scholarship at the University of Cape Town and one degree later, discovered her love for the softer side of business. She added an Honors in Psychology and certifications in Executive Coaching and Criminal Justice to her mix and led a successful 10-year career in financial crime investigation with her last corporate gig in cryptocurrency fraud.

## Journey back to the heart

During her 20's, Nicole found herself grappling with the complexities of life and it was only within her early 30's that she emerged from this turbulent time. It was the ending of a long romantic relationship that propelled her to rediscover her connection to creativity, understand her voice and find renewal and healing in the self-expression of songwriting.

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## **Journey to New York City**

At the end of 2022, two months after being transferred to New York City to further her then full time career in financial crime investigation, a mass regional layoff left her without a job. Nicole took this as a sign to embark on a new chapter and got onto a train to Los Angeles.

With an expiring visa looming in the distance, she co-created alongside talented artists and producers in the United States as much as was financially and physically possible.

One year and one dark night of the soul later, with a deepened sense of self and a variety of new songs, Nicole and her co-adventuring soul-dog Gracie took the flight from New York City to Paris.

Now, living in France and furthering her dreams, she is uncovering her creations to the world.

## **Sonic Style**

Nicole's voice has a fragility, sensuousness, and siren-esque quality that is hypnotic." (Joe Sparrow) and as a songwriter, she is known for being "an artist in the truest sense of the word.

Although her genres span Classical, Jazz, Folk, Pop, and Indie styles, Nicole's music defies categorization as she embraces a multifaceted approach to her artistry and "creates her own unique musical world that all begins with her lyrics dripped in poetry" and it is her sense of emotional storytelling that guides the light in collaborations, providing a strong foundation" (Joe Sparrow) for each composition to not just be a song but a profound story.

Her "lyrics already come from a soulful place and she always brings fresh ideas to the table, adding that essential unique touch and using her incredible gift for crafting words that speak from the heart." (Ettienne Lane)

## **Living in a state of song**

Nicole has unveiled her debut single "kaal kind", intimate duet "Soete Wierook" performed with the talented Jan-Hendrik Fourie and her latest single Supanova Daisy, offering a glimpse into her poetic style and showcasing her beautiful home language, Afrikaans, to the world.

She is set to release her jazz-pop-poetic vibe EP soon and working on her dream to live in a state of song - capturing the sounds and stories of every country in the world - through song.

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## Changing the creative landscape

Nicole's latest ventures are testament to her being "not just a creative thinker but a fearless explorer, constantly seeking new experiences and pushing the limits of what's possible." Her projects require both creativity and courage". (Amanda Luyt)

As the founder of Swartkat Studios, Nicole is focused on empowering and enabling authentic art in the world, changing the creative landscape and the way in which we exchange energy.

She is also the co-founder of the non-profit organisation The Bridge Children's Home based in Cape Town and the wellness and working professional community, Friday Feels, which celebrates authentic connection and showcases raw and real conversations through the podcast Your Happy Hour.

As Nicole continues to evolve as an artist, she remains committed to authenticity, freedom and transformation, creating a space in which stories are shared and inviting her audience to embrace authenticity, self-discovery and expression.

## Connect

Whether over a cup of coffee, a glass of wine, or the microphone, she is always open to co-creative connections.

To get in touch and for more information, please visit: [nicolekarmine.com](http://nicolekarmine.com).

For press inquiries or bookings, please contact Swartkat Studios at: [hello@swartkatstudios.com](mailto:hello@swartkatstudios.com)