

ZIMBABWE'S AFRO-SOUL DIVA: CHIWONISO'S ALBUM REBEL WOMAN MET WITH CRITICAL ACCALAIM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

The reception to **Chiwoniso's** album **Rebel Woman** has been nothing short of incredible. In both Europe and North America critics are raving about the release and the press has been coming through with great coverage. In the first week **Rebel Woman** was released on **Cumbancha**, Chiwoniso was found on the pages and airwaves of **The New York Times, Songlines, Observer, Music Monthly, NPR, The Village Voice, Time Out NY, WNYC's Soundcheck, Billboard**, and many other influential music news sources.

Village Voice (US) - "An exhilarating new voice on the Afro-pop scene." "Evokes Marley at his best." Sept 10th, 2008.

Billboard (US) - "possesses the elegant expansiveness so typical of such African players as Hugh Masekela and West Nkosi." – Sept 2nd, 2008.

New York Times (US) - "Now a solo artist, Ms. Maraire plays acoustic, mbira-based songs that are powerfully unfamiliar; her rich, feisty vocals are mesmerizing." - September 4, 2008.

In the following weeks the press and radio continued to roll in. The **Seattle Times, Chicago Sun Times**, and **Chicago Reader** all ran glowing previews of Chiwoniso's much applauded North American tour. US radio play has been strong with **Rebel Woman** clocking in the top 3 of the **CMJ New World** chart for 4 weeks running. Currently, the album is at #2.

The Canadian press and radio are equally as receptive with a review the **Toronto Globe and Mail** that called her sound "funky, soulful and at times flat out rockin". **ChartAttack** shows **Rebel Woman** topping the World/Folk chart for the third week in a row, and **Rebel Woman** is also holding the #1 position on the international chart of both the **Earshot Canadian Campus Charts** and the **Canadian Campus Radio Chart**.

Canadian retailer Archambault registered **Rebel Woman** on the ANGLOPHONE chart at no. 30 for sales (not just the world chart).

On talk radio, Chiwoniso achieved a home run with **4 nationally syndicated pieces on National Public Radio**. After her engaging interview on the **The Story** with **Dick Gordon**, a visit to WNYC for **Soundcheck** with **John Schaefer**, and a **Global Hit** feature by **Marco Werman** of **PRI's The World**, a powerful review by **Banning Eyre** on **All Things Considered** aired in early October completing the grand slam. Eyre called Chiwoniso, "one of the most compelling young voices in today's African music," and the album **Rebel Woman**, "one of the year's best African releases."

European critics and press are also raving about **Rebel Woman**. **The Financial Times** gave **Rebel Woman** 4 stars and **The Crack** called the album "Hugely soulful".

Charlie Gillett, the influential world music DJ and writer for the **Observer Music Monthly**, weighed in early with accolades in his 4 star review writing, "There is something miraculous about this album." Large spreads ran by the **Zimbabwean, The Voice**, and the French music magazine **Vibrations** shared the story of Chiwoniso's music and her struggles in Zimbabwe. Chiwoniso is currently touring Europe and her beautiful live performances will surely gather more attention.

fRoots (UK) – 5 star review (out of five) "A real woman with a touch of the magical." "Brilliantly produced." "With all eyes on Zimbabwe's leader Robert Mugabe as he battles his way through a post-election mess, this might be just the right release at the right time." Sept, 08, 2008

The Independent (UK) - "this is a tough, engaging, and melodically rich delight." Oct, 2008
Fans of African and world music are hearing the critical success. **Rebel Woman** has reached **#1 on iTunes** world section, **#1 in Amazon's World Music - Africa** section and **#1 in Amazon's MP3 International - Africa** section. The acclaim and sales recognizes that Chiwoniso is a force to be reckoned and is one of the hottest young talents on the African music scene.