

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Soul from Leuven, Belgium

NEW SINGLE

SAME TIME, NEXT CHRISTMAS

Out 19 November 2026

THE SINGLE

Everyone knows the summer romance. But what about a Christmas one? *Same time, next Christmas* is the first English-language single from Leuven soul singer Izzy Van Aelst, recording as Izzy. It's a bittersweet soul song about two people who find their way back to each other every Christmas, for as long as they're both single.

Produced by Hans Francken and cut live at Galaxy Studios with a small army of top Belgian players, it's all horns, backing vocals and warm vintage sound, in the tradition of Amy Winehouse and Jalen Ngonda. A Christmas song made in Belgium, with a hook that won't let go.

RELEASE	19 November 2026
GENRE	Soul, Christmas
LANGUAGE	English
FOR FANS OF	Amy Winehouse, Jalen Ngonda, Leon Bridges



BIOGRAPHY

Izzy is a soul singer and songwriter with a story like no other. They say a cat has nine lives; Izzy is trying to fit them all into one. Born in Congo in 1982, adopted to Belgium at the age of two and raised in Leuven, he has been a footballer, a law graduate, a politician, a marketer, a TV face, an entrepreneur, an author and, today, a strategy director. Through every one of those lives runs a single constant: music.

It started at the Leuven conservatory and in the choir of the Heilige-Drievuldigheidscollege. Years in different bands followed, crossing genres along the way. He opened for Flemish acts Mama's Jasje and Kommil Foo and played festivals such as Rock Zottegem, Suikerrock and Beleuvenissen. In 2025 he and his band made the semi-finals of the Nekka competition.

The camera kept finding him too, roughly once a decade. At 19 he was a presenter on JIM TV. At 28 he competed on Idool, the Flemish Pop Idol, falling just short of the live shows. At 39 he took part in The Voice, where he picked Natalia over Mathieu, only for her to let him go a round later.

All those detours led him home to soul, with Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder, Amy Winehouse, Leon Bridges and Jalen Ngonda as his guiding lights. Today his voice lives in two projects. With Izzy & De Nachtraven he sings Dutch-language soul: warm grooves and lyrics drawn straight from life, about love, longing, happiness and doubt, sometimes hushed, sometimes exuberant.

Under his own name, Izzy, he explores his English-language songs. The first, *Same time, next Christmas*, arrives in November 2026: a bittersweet Christmas story recorded live at Galaxy Studios with a small army of top Belgian musicians and produced by Hans Francken.

Izzy is as much at home on stage as he is in front of a camera or in a boardroom. Alongside music, he works in strategy and transformation, and he wrote the book *De Roeibootorganisatie* (*The Rowboat Organisation*). The two worlds are closer than you'd think: a great company is like a great band, where real virtuosity only happens when everyone plays together.

His motto? Life is long enough to do everything you want to do.

Izzy









CREDITS

VOCALS, MUSIC & LYRICS
Izzy Van Aelst

PRODUCER
Hans Francken

RECORDING
Wilfried Van Baele, Galaxy Studios

MIX & MASTER
Andres Algaba

HORN ARRANGEMENT
Dree Peremans

LABEL
Independent

MUSICIANS

DRUMS & PERCUSSION
Jordi Geuens

BASS
Roberto Mercurio

GUITAR
Lukas Somers

KEYS
David Thomaere

TRUMPET
Nico Schepers

SAXOPHONE
Frank Deruyter, Jan Eggermont

TROMBONE
Dree Peremans

BACKING VOCALS
Nina Babet, Ibernice McBean

LISTEN & FOLLOW

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