The Death of Radio: The Life, Work, and Demise of a Ugandan Pop Music Superstar

On February 1, 2018, musician Moses Ssekibogo died from injuries he sustained in a bar brawl in Entebbe, Uganda. Also known as Mozey Radio, Ssekibogo was one half the Ugandan popular music duo "Radio and Weasel." Radio and Weasel are one of the biggest acts in Ugandan pop music history and one of the few Ugandan groups to get attention beyond the continent of Africa. Ssekibogo was a noted singer and behind the scenes, a prolific pop songwriter. His tragic death left a huge hole in the Ugandan music industry and sent the nation in a period of mourning. His struggles as an artist and circumstances around his death dramatize the larger issues that musicians in Uganda as a whole face as they try to live from their art. While Uganda's music industry has been rapidly professionalizing, there is still a ways to go and there are many gaps. It was into one of these gaps that Radio fell and his death may prove to be a catalyzing force that the industry needs in order to continue its rapid growth.

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Berkman Recital Hall, Fuller Music Center