

Music of life

Corneille is a singer, now based in Montreal, who has created his own R'n'B, celebrating his new life after the horrific conflict and genocide in his homeland of Rwanda in Africa. These are some of the words of one of his songs on the album *Parce qu'on vient de loin* (Because we come from far away).

Alone in the world

People often say that I look as if I have
Everything I want, but they don't know about
The ghosts which haunt me and
The requiems which I sing to myself.
I pretend to be tough every day which goes by
But the stones of every wall
Will break one day.
Perhaps I am the rock which people think I am
But I'm more fragile than you think.
Mother said to me before she left,
'Don't ever show your weaknesses
And if the worst comes to the worst,
Be strong and swallow your tears
Because your pride will be your best weapon.'
So I know how to laugh when I have to
But you mustn't think I fall apart when no-one's looking .
I walk tall so that I don't bend
And I sing often
In order not to cry.
When I think of my life,
I face my nights.
Each day which dawns I say to myself that

I'm alone in the world
There's nothing I can do about it
I'm alone in the world
I can't stay silent about it any longer
I'm alone in the world
I feel lonely in the world.

Extract from song written and performed by Corneille

English translation of *Seul au monde* C/A: Corneille © Level Music Inc by kind permission of UNIVERSAL MUSIC PUBLISHING, France.