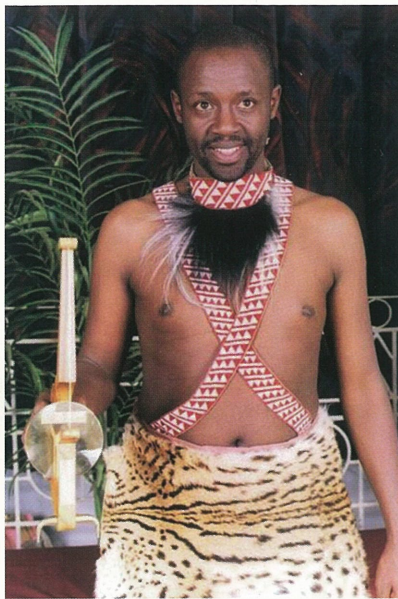


Samputu

A close-up portrait of a Black man with short hair and a light beard. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. His right hand is raised, with his fingers resting against his cheek and eye. The background is dark and textured. The entire image is framed by a decorative border consisting of a repeating triangular pattern in a dark red or maroon color.

Testimony
from Rwanda



Samputu at the 2003 Kora Awards ceremony accepting the award for Most Promising African Male Artist. He was also nominated for Best Traditional Artist.

Samputu's recordings are steeped in the many rich traditions of Rwandan music and dance, and include influences from other parts of Africa including Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi and the Congo, as well as pygmy voices and traditions within Rwanda. This deep and fertile mix of songs, instruments, and dances is embodied in Samputu's many talents. Samputu sings in six languages (Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Lingala, Luganda, French and English), and in styles ranging from soukous, rumba, and reggae, to traditional Rwandan 5/8, Afrobeat, pygmy, highlife, and gospel. He combines unique musical traditions from all regions of Rwanda, among them, *intwatwa*, *umushayayo*, *imparamba*, and *ikinimba*. His dance technique and style demonstrates why UNESCO officially

declared Rwandan national dance one of the world's Unique Cultural Heritages.

Born in Rwanda in 1962, Jean Paul Samputu was raised by his mother and father in the small town of Butare Ngoma, 180 kilometers south of the capital, Kigali. From his earliest years, he remembers singing in church and enjoying the variety of traditional and contemporary music in his community, as well as the sounds of Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, Lionel Ritchie and Jimmy Cliff.

In 1982, Samputu helped to form a group called NYAMPINGA which eventually went on to record three albums that contained early hit songs like *Suzuki* (after the Japanese motorcycle), *Crayon No Shimboke*

(referring to a new style of dress in Rwanda), and *Ingendo Yabeza* (Walk of Beauty).

Samputu left NYAMPINGA to record his first solo album, *Tegeka Isi* (Govern the World), which included the hit song *Ni Kuki?* (Why?). During this same time, he founded a new orchestral and singing troupe, INGELI, a name that reflects Rwanda's love of nature, and particularly the people's reverence for cows (inka). Ingeli means "the most beautiful of all the inka." Samputu's songs, *Migabo* and *Rwanda Rwiza* (Beautiful Rwanda), have received Calabash of Peace awards.

INGELI has toured Uganda, Burundi, Congo and Kenya. Samputu has toured Uganda with the great Rwandan singer Cecile Kayirebwa.

Songs

All songs written and composed by Jean Paul Samputu, except English lyrics for Karame Mwana & Ten Years Remembering by Glenn Hawkes, and Kinyarwanda lyrics by Mugengana Wellars for Migabo and Bernard Michaud for Tamara.

All music and lyrics ©2004 Jean Paul Samputu (SOCAN)

1. Karame Mwana 4:48 (Cherish the Children)

Children are all the same
Children need a chance
A chance for the future
A chance to be somebody
All the children are the children of all
Hold them so tight
Don't let them fall
All the children are the children of all

A special thanks to W.E.B Dubois

2. Singizwa (Praise Be To God) 2:41

This is African gospel, with pygmy vocalizations, at its most intimate. The amayogi (ankle bells) keep the rhythm in Rwanda's unique 5/8 beat.

3. Rehema 3:55 (Falling In Love with a Muslim Girl)

A song about a Christian boy who falls in love with a Muslim girl and despairs that he cannot be with her. He decides to convert so that he can marry her.

4. Ten Years Remembering 4:15 *Written in early April 2004, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda.*

Ten years of suffering
Ten years of wondering
Ten years remembering

5. Rwanda Rwiza (Beautiful Rwanda) 5:02

Samputu's dedication to Rwanda, its beauty, the mountains (Sabyinyo volcano and Muhabura), the lakes, the plains, its wildlife. He asks for God's blessing on his country.

6. Twararutashye (Coming Home) 4:17

A song about returning refugees after the genocide.

7. Aliokoka (He Is Saved) 4:47

Samputu sings to his friends and family about being saved.

8. Mana Wari Uri He? 4:38 (God, Where Were You?)

Written after the genocide, this is the question Samputu and so many Rwandans asked themselves over and over, in disbelief that such a thing could happen in their country.

9. Migabo (Courageous Warrior) 4:19

A song about a courageous warrior whose mission is to serve and guide his people.

10. Ngarambe 5:05

A man who is given everything and refuses it all. What he really wants is to find happiness; another of Samputu's 5/8 rhythm dance songs.

11. Tamara 4:05

A lullaby about a beautiful baby girl just born to a friend.

12. Tuzagera 6:00

This song asks God, when are we coming to heaven?

13. Ten Years Remembering 4:19 (a capella version)



Jordan Mensah

Samputu's Thanks and Blessings

Thank you to God the Father; Once again, Lord, I could not have done it without you.

Thank you for my parents in heaven, and all my brothers and sisters

Thank you for my wife Henriette and my children Willy, Claudia, Igor and Shema — I love you all so much

I would like to thank Stephen McArthur, from the bottom of my heart for being such a great producer-manager and friend. Thank you for helping promote Rwanda and its culture. God Bless You.

I would like to thank: Mr. Valens Kajeguhakwa who taught me when I was young how to learn and preserve Rwandan culture and with his help to found the Ingeli Troupe; Glenn Hawkes who helped me come to the United States, who has been such a wonderful friend and host, and who works all the time for Rwanda; and Aron Niyitunga and Jordan Mensah for being in the studio with me and bringing their talents and friendship to this recording.

My thanks also to: Kayihura, Tesi and Rudahigwa; Mme Gasasira; Dr. Anna Gasasira (*Ndabakumbuye Cyane*); Pastor Paul Gitwaza; Bishop Isaac W. Atembo; Pastor Prosper; Pastor Philemon (*Namwe Bakozzi B'Immana Mwese*); Arthemon Rurangwa; Floriane and Rode, and Wendy; Andre Gihanza; Priscilla Uwimana; Radha White; Dedelli; Jacqueline Birolli; Francine & Leonard; Iyakaremye & Angelique; Bayingana and Assumpta; Rachel Kayinamura; Adelit Rukomangana; Jacques Bonnaval, Claude Condo, Mutumishi, Oliver Kamanzi, and Mohammed Majyambere.

Stephen McArthur wishes to thank Rickey Gard Diamond, wife and partner, for her love and support.

Credits

Produced by Stephen McArthur

Engineered by Stephen McArthur and John Ryan

Mixed by Stephen McArthur, Samputu, and John Ryan

Recorded on the Dog River, Montpelier, Vermont

April-July 2004

Design – Tim Newcomb, Montpelier, VT

Photography – Andrew Kline, After Image, Montpelier, VT

Mastering – Geoff Brumbaugh,

Common Ground Audio, Montpelier, VT

Liner Notes – Stephen McArthur

Jean Paul Samputu – Vocals

Aron Niyitunga – Stringed Instruments, Keyboards, Bass, and Vocals

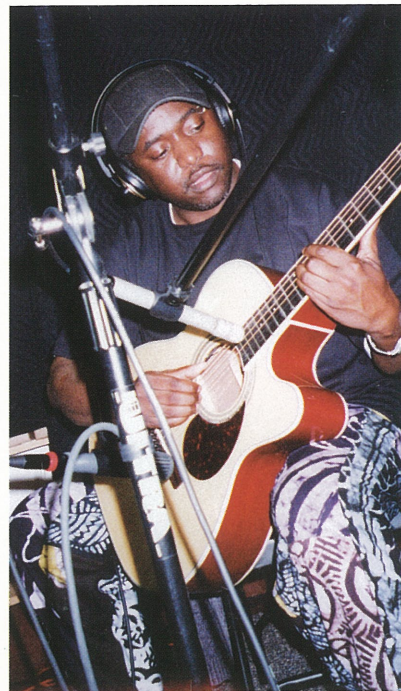
Jordan Mensah – Traditional Hand Drums and Percussion

Gale Harris – Backup Vocals on *Karame Mwana* & *Ten Years Remembering*

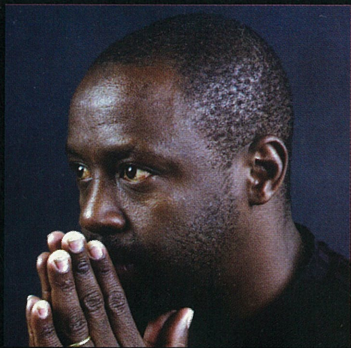
For information about bookings and interviews,
contact: 802-223-5149, info@multiculturalmedia.com

For wholesale orders in the USA contact:
City Hall, 415-457-9080, orders@cityhallrecords.com

Part of the proceeds of this album go to
Rwandans & Americans in Partnership (RAP).
Contact Dr. Glenn Hawkes, 122 Ward Brook Road,
Montpelier, VT 05602; 802-229-0137,
e-mail: centers4sr@adelphia.net



Aron Niyitunga



Above: April 2004 at one of the recording sessions. From left: Aron Niyitunga, Stephen McArthur, Samputu, and Jordan Mensah.