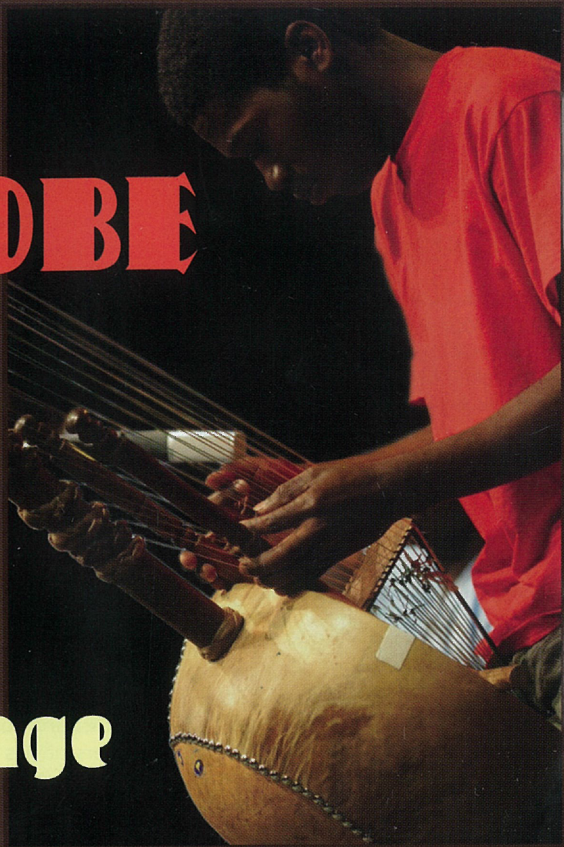


KINOBE

**Soul
Language**



Kinobe is a young singer, songwriter, musician, and instrument maker from Uganda who is already receiving acclaim throughout Africa and Europe. This is his world premier recording and reflects his acoustic traditional roots in Uganda, as well as some of his own compositions blending other traditions that have influenced him.

These tracks were recorded in Uganda and Europe, where he was accompanied by several musical friends. First and foremost is his collaborator in his band **Kinobe & Soul Beat Africa**, Michael Ouma. Ouma, a young, superb guitar player, and traditional instrumentalist, provides wonderful backup singing, percussion, and is a leading talent in his own right. Kinobe calls him his "right hand." Also working with him on this new CD is Allan Okia on Bass and Richard Sewagudde on percussion, both superb accompanists.

Starting early in 2007, Kinobe & Soul Beat Africa, will be touring 16 African countries through June 2007. The band plays a fusion of world music traditions, from East and West, but with Ugandan

and African music at its core. There are plans for a "live" CD and a DVD to come from these concerts. Watch for news of these new releases at www.multiculturalmedia.com.

Kinobe was born July 19th, 1983 in Bugerere, Uganda, about 50 km from Kampala, near the shores of Lake Victoria and River Nile. This is the heart of the Buganda region which was incorporated into Uganda. Kinobe grew up near the Buganda Royal Palace where music was played daily. This was his early introduction to drumming and music. Like many young African men, a drum was his first instrument. He says drums are "the center of rhythm" and describes how everyone he knew had drums in their houses, for music and for communication. Kinobe makes many of his own instruments, some pictured in this booklet.

Starting his musical education at the age of 5, by the time he was 10, he was touring with musical groups throughout Africa and Europe, and for the last 13 years, he has visited, played and studied with musicians from almost every African country. He has recently

studied Kora in Mali with Toumani Diabate and stayed at Baaba Maal's home in Senegal sharing music with him. He has played alongside African superstars such as Youssou N'dour and Salif Keita, among others. He has also led many workshops on Ugandan and other African music and instruments from the Netherlands to Zanzibar.

Kinobe, in his own words:

"When I began to make music, I never looked at it commercially, I looked at it as a language born in me; to live and grow in me, with me. And my desire to discover more grows more through traveling and exchange. I have seen and tasted the beauty of life through this soul language which unites the world."



Performers

Kinobe – Vocals, Guitar, Kora, Adungu (Ugandan Harp), Agogo/Kalimba Thumb Piano), Endongo (bow lyre), Endingidi (tube fiddle), Endere (Buganda Flute)

Michael Ouma – Vocals, Guitar, Percussion, Agogo/Kalimba Thumb Piano) Adungu (Ugandan Harp)

Allan Okia – Bass

Richard Sewagudde – Percussion



All tracks traditional except tracks 4, 9 and 11 © 2007 Kinobe, Nomad Roots Publishing. Tracks 1, 2, 7 and 12 are traditional songs with new melodies composed by Kinobe.

Tracks

1. Kamungolo 4:09

In one village there was an old man who always walked with the same bag and took the same route every time. He was friendly to everyone and people always offered him food, water and other necessities as he couldn't afford anything on his own. Eventually he was given the nickname "kamungolo" and a song was written about him

2. Bamunanika 6:46

Bamunanika is a name of a village in Buganda Kingdom and in this village is a hill where one of the king's palaces is built. Because this land is known for its fertility, and farming is one of the main activities in the kingdom of Buganda, Bamunanika has attracted many people from far and near to live and farm there.

3. Wagongolo 5:18

A song referring to the black Millipede, a slow-moving insect that curls up into a ring when it senses danger. These "wagongolo" are found in every corner of Buganda kingdom, especially in the villages and during rainy seasons when it's wet and cold. They enter houses for warmth and people always look everywhere before they go to sleep to make sure there aren't any about.

4. Empewo 7:59

"Empewo" means "wind" in the Luganda language. This song was a jam session in the studio. It was around 11pm, and the stars were shining, the moon was bright, and you could hear the sound of wind moving through the forests.... Suddenly, Kinobe picked up his kora and Michael his guitar and their hands started to pluck the strings....

5. Tumwagala Nyo 4:15

This song talks about the love people in Buganda Kingdom have for their king. The lyrics speak of how the king needs more time to rest because he always has so much work to do.

6. Bakulimba 4:16

Kinobe sings to us of never losing hope, even though the world is filled with lies and disappointments. There will always be people who will tell you all kinds of foolish things. Don't cry and don't be angry, because you still live and have the chance to make changes for the good.

7. Mubaleete 4:05

"Mubaleete" in Luganda means "Bring them". A song for all children (in English)

8. Mwana Wange 4:20

My little child, please don't cry. Your mother will be here soon and your father will bring you some food. Be as humble as a young sheep and don't cry.

9. Kikwabanga 4:22

If you are selfish and don't like to share with others, you will be like "kikwabanga" who had so much wealth but was too selfish to give or share with the poor. One day he suddenly passed away, left all his wealth behind and even today, his soul is still too sad...

10. Nakwagala Nkulaba 3:12

The pain of breaking up a relationship with someone you really love is universal...

11. Tutambula 3:08

"Tutambula" simply means "we are walking". It is a song about the herdsmen in the northeast of Uganda where it's dry, and they must always walk for long distances searching for green pastures for their cattle.

12. Lucejjera 4:44

This song talks about the period in 1946 when locusts invaded the Buganda palace and left the whole place dry. The term "Lucejjera" means "locusts". The only problem about them is that they are unpredictable, you can never know when they will come and so there is hardly any prevention. This song is sung in Luganda, my mother tongue.

Total Time 56:37

Credits

Produced by Kinobe, Gareth Sandell, and Stephen McArthur

Tracks 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12:

Recorded at Chillum Woods Sound, Uganda by Gareth Sandell

Tracks 1, 3, 6, 8:

Recorded at Nomad Roots Records, Uganda by Mugerwa Jude

Photography by Jan

Remixed and edited by John Ryan at Shabby Road Studio, Plainfield, Vermont USA

Artwork and design by Tim Newcomb

Special thanks to the musicians who played on this CD:

- Michael Ouma, co-founder of Soul Beat Africa,
- Allan Okia for his bass grooves and Richard Sewagudde

Thanks also to:

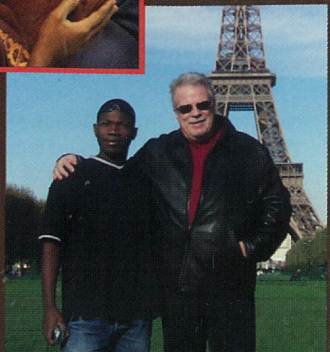
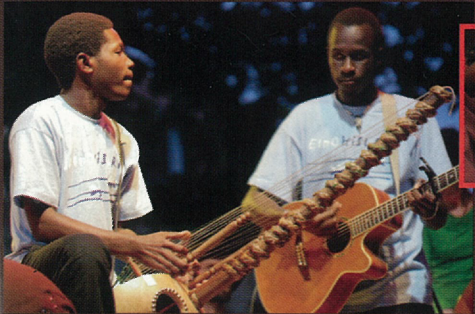
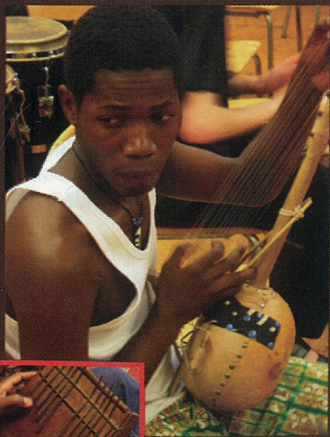
Sacha De Herder, Chillum Woods Sound, Pieter Lenaerts, Michael Waters, Cyril Ducottet, Tshila Sarah, and Richard Matovu for the help you have given me during my period as a growing artist

This CD is dedicated to my family: my parents Fred and Ruth Serunkuma, my brothers Damascus Kafumbe, Richard Sewagudde, James Kiwuuwa, my sisters Esther Ntabadde and Miriam Nakiyingi.

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*Above: Kinobe playing kora with Soul Beat Africa.
Top right: Kinobe tuning the baby kora.
Inset: Playing akogo. Right: Kinobe and producer
Stephen McArthur in Paris.*