

Siama Matuzungidi

Congolese composer / acoustic guitarist / mbira and balafon player with a spirited singing style

AWARDS/HONORS:

- 2018: MSAB Community Partners grant (concert and teach library workshops in Grand Marais)
2016-17: Midwest Regional Council Next Step grant (original children's CD: "The Land of Yangalele")
2017: Joined COMPAS Roster of Teaching Artists (teach African singing and spontaneous songwriting)
2016: MSAB Arts Learning grant (teach songwriting residency: Woodland Hills-Duluth)
2015-6: MSAB Artist Initiative grant (original CD: "Rivers-from the Congo to the Mississippi")
2014-15 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians
2009: African Global Roots Award

Musical styles: Soukous, Rumba, Traditional Congolese Music and Central African blues
Languages: Kikongo, Lingala, French, Swahili, English

2018 PROJECTS

- Celebrations and media for new original kids' CD, "The Land of Yangalele"
- Songwriting Workshops and Private Lessons
- Interactive African singing programs and Instrument Petting Zoo for kids and families
- Composing new thumb piano and balafon songs for CD recording session in May 2018
- Composed/recorded jingle for "Radioactive Kids" radio program
- Performances: 50+ MN libraries, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Ordway/Flint Hill Family Fest, Pilgrimage Festival-Nashville, TN, school programs in Birmingham, AL, Riversong Festival-Hutchinson, Lanesboro Arts Festival, Channel 6, Cedar Cultural Center, Hook and Ladder, MSP Airport, In the Heart of the Beast Theater, Reif Center-Grand Rapids, Arrowhead Performance Theater-Grand Marais and many more

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2017: **TPT/PBS "Lowertown Line"**: 30-minute special program featuring original songs, aired nationwide
Released original CD: "The Land of Yangalele"
Artist's Residency to compose new music at Tofte Lake Center-Ely, MN
Taught Songwriting/Singing Class at Huge Improv Theater, Minneapolis
CD ("Rivers") chosen for MN Spin (Hennepin County Library digital streaming program)
Key Performances: Minneapolis Institute of Art, Ordway/Flint Hills Family Fest, Global Market, Open Streets, several libraries, Women's March, Augsburg College, Parkway Theater, St. Paul Saints, Pantages Theater, Central Park-Red Wing, Off the Page-Winona, Bayfront Reggae Festival-Duluth, Selby Jazz Fest, several Twin Cities festivals and park events, Change Makers Ball, Tofte Lake Center-Ely and more
Media Appearances: TPT/PBS, KFAI, KBEM, Baby Blue Arts
- 2016: **Songwriting residency** with young men of Woodland Hills Academy in Duluth
Summer residency for Minneapolis Institute of Art's monthly Family Art Days
Joined **COMPAS'** roster of teaching artists (singing and music-making programs for children)
Released original CD ("Rivers-from the Congo to the Mississippi"): with a "**Song of the Day**" on The Current
Composed music for an acrobatics routine with aerial and horses
Key Performances: Como Conservatory, Lowertown Guitar Fest, Loring Folk Fest, Bedlam Theatre, Rhythm in Rice, Austin Art Works Fest, Pangea World Theatre, First Step Initiative, Ordway/Flint Hills Children's Fest, Z Puppet's event, Open Streets, Bridging Fest, Wee Wednesdays at Global Market, MacPhail Center for Music, Intermedia Arts, Banyan Community, Southside Nurturing Center
Media Appearances & features: KFAI, KBEM, Songlines Magazine, MPR, WPR, BBC, Afropop Worldwide, WNYC, Star Tribune, The Current, KBEM, KFAI, Paradigms and more
- 2015: **Met with 50 people whose role intersects with music, to learn how to proceed with new solo career**
Key Performances: Ordway/Flynt Hills Children's Fest, Children's Hospital, Open Streets, Target Field, Afrik TV, Midtown Farmer's Market, Global Market, Hosmer Library World Music, Patrick's Cabaret, International Fest-Worthington, Rhubarb Fest-Duluth, appearances on KFAI, MTN, Composer Quest
- 2014: Change Maker's Ball, Family Day at MIA, received McKnight Fellowship, launched solo career
- 2012: Guest appearance with Playing for Change at the Ordway Theatre for the Performing Arts
- 2011: National Folk Festival in Nashville-Samba Mapangala, Cedar Cultural Center-Nirmala Rajasekar, Brass Kings
- 2010: Musical Director for Mixed Blood Theatre's production, "Ruined"
- 2010: Cedar Cultural Center with Samba Mapangala
- 2007: Walker Arts Center performance with renowned Congolese choreographer Faustin Linyekula
- 1998: Winnipeg Folk Festival with Kanda Bongo Man

