



## What People Are Saying About "The Land of Yangalele"

with Papa Siam with Auntie Dallas

"The Land of Yangalele" is a

**Parents' Choice Award-Winner! Parents' Choice Approved!**

*"When we listen to Siam's Land of Yangalele we hear home, Mama Africa.  
This is very beautiful music that everyone can enjoy."*

~Ladysmith Black Mambazo

*"We dig it! A great addition to the family music mosaic!  
Outstanding rhythms and performances."*

~ Joe and Justin - The Okee Dokee Brothers

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### MEDIA

Interview with Papa Siam

~[Kidskintha](#)

*"Siam's infectious catchy rhythms are **instantly engaging** and make it  
**impossible to avoid dancing and singing along!**"*

~Lindsay Kimball, Minnesota Public Radio / [The Current's Rock the Cradle](#)

*"...gentle, happy rumba songs with traditional African instruments and harmonies  
in English, Swahili, Lingala and Kikongo."*

~[Minnesota Parent](#)

*"THE LAND OF YANGALELE demonstrates why Siam has ably showcased his talents  
in Minnesota since the 1990s. Perhaps 2018 is his opportunity to truly go worldwide and influence a new  
generation with his music and story. "*

~[Mr Jeff 2000](#)

*"...**this amazing new CD**...brought me back to my childhood from the very first track  
...celebrate a child's power to create and learn.*

~[Biracial Bookworm](#)

*"Yangalele" means happiness in Kikongo, and it is a great title for the album, as it is sure to leave you in a  
good mood. The songs are positive and upbeat, and are very pleasant to listen along to.*

***As a parent, it is a win-win when I can enjoy an album along with my kids!***

~[A Nation of Moms](#)

*"The lively tracks evoke the unparalleled joy of an all-ages sing-along...a choice pick for both personal and  
public library children's world music collections, **highly recommended.**"*

~[Midwest Book Review](#)

*“...introduces children to African culture, rhythms and music. ...they host interactive African music programs for young children. Kids love their “Instrument Petting Zoo” (a hands-on music experience) and they teach workshops on Songwriting and African Singing.”*

~[Globe Trottin’ Kids](#)

**“This music is fun and lively and I really recommend this one for younger children!**

*They will enjoy dancing to this CD!”*

~[SoCal City Kids](#)

*“...features songs in English and Kikongo. In fact, Yangalele means “Happiness” in Kikongo and **this album is sure to add some into your family’s day.** “*

~[Cool Mom Picks](#)

*“An easy way to nurture a peaceful home is to play relaxing music. Music is such a great way to set the mood...As soon as I hit play the very first time we listened to this album, I could feel an instant change in the air. Suddenly I was more relaxed, and the kids were, too.”*

~[All Done Monkey](#)

**“Siana’s deep vocals and Dallas’ strong female tones bounce off each other with harmony and love,** and the lively sounding instruments run the gamut from acoustic guitar to the thumb piano, to the Jamaican rumba box, and even penny whistle and conga drums.”

~ [The Creators.com](#)

*“I was lucky enough to receive the album and **it’s great** – both Gradie and I **cannot get enough.**”*

~[Africa’s Blog](#)

*“...an explosion of fusions...**Hit play on his new CD, close your eyes, and be transported to the beautiful continent of Africa...**the Bakongo Chant is my favorite! My son loves Monkey Game!”*

~[Discovering The World Through My Son’s Eyes](#)

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**“...plenty to learn about vibrant African culture through their rich and exotic yet homey music.”**

~ [Kids Home Library \(Creators Syndicate\)](#)

*“Siana is a renowned artist originally from the Congo and **these songs evoke family sing-alongs he remembers from when he was a child.**”*

~[Mom Does Reviews](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

*“The album liner notes offer **excellent teaching tools**... the immediacy of a family sing-along... **amazing album**... Your **kids will be dancing and having a blast** while learning about other cultures!”*

~[Mommy Makes Time](#)

*“Yangalele means “Happiness” in Kikongo and this album is sure to add some into your family’s day.”*

~[Cool Mom Picks](#)

*“...**you will feel happy after listening** to this album...Papa Siama’s voice is one to celebrate. When I listen to him, I feel like I’m in the middle of Africa...wonderful album to use as bedtime routine enhancement.”*

*~[Family Fun Twin Cities](#)*

*“The album is lyrically imbued with calming empowering songs that **encourage children to play, find joy, and honor their journey as they grow.** Additionally, the album also has a **strong educational bend**...It is a fantastic way to transport your family into new sonic experiences.”*

*~[Eat the Marshmallow](#)*

*“The music is **lively and relaxing at the same time**...This CD can be used for relaxation, meditation, for learning... Bakongo Chant is my favorite! My son loves the Monkey Game!”*

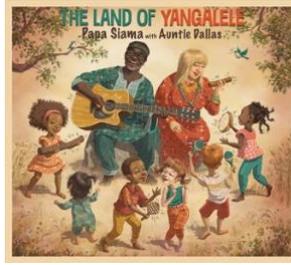
*[Discovering the World through My Son’s Eyes](#)*

*“The album is **fun and high-energy**, introducing kids and families to African culture.”*

*[Motherhood Moment](#)*

*“This is a **rich, beautiful addition to anyone’s music library**...They designed this album to encourage singing and playing along. In fact, the liner notes not only include the lyrics to all the songs but the guitar chords as well. If you’re new to world music this is a great place to start. You’ll quickly see how accessible the music is and how universal the themes.”*

*~[Cherry Blossoms/The Blog](#)*



## More About "The Land of Yangalele" with Papa Siam with Auntie Dallas

"The Land of Yangalele" is a  
[Parents' Choice Award-Winner! Parents' Choice Approved](#)

Minneapolis – With their lively interactive world music concerts and “instrument petting zoos”, Congolese-American artist “Papa Siam” Matuzungidi and singer/storyteller “Auntie Dallas” Johnson are introducing children to African culture, rhythms and music. Inspired by happy experiences with their growing young fan base, Siam and Dallas released an album of new songs and rhythms called *The Land of Yangalele*.

As Siam and Dallas like to say, “Welcome to Bas Congo, land of *yangalele*, smiles, games, dancing and music.” These original tracks capture the feeling of all-ages sing-alongs like the ones Siam remembers from his childhood in a village in Zaire (now DR Congo). After dinner, generations would sit outside under the stars to share songs and stories together. Congolese guitarman Siam (“see-AH-mah”) enjoyed a prolific *soukous* career in Africa during the 1970s and ‘80s and over his two decades in the US, Siam has emerged as one of Minnesota’s foremost voices of global roots music. His intricate guitar style, spirited vocals and feel-good music make him a crowd favorite. Dallas Johnson’s background in singing and storytelling make their all-ages shows distinctly educational as well as entertaining.

Using traditional instruments and lyrics in English, Swahili, Lingala and Kikongo, these songs provide listeners an opportunity to learn about a vibrant African culture through engaging music. Dallas’ strong female voice adds rich harmony to Siam’s deep vocals. David Tullis drives the rhythmic drums and the instrumental backdrop includes fun instruments like mbira, shakers, penny whistle and even a toy piano. Audience participation is expected from the first track, “Welcome Bakongo Chant,” and continues with “Monkey Game” and “Ko Yimbi Ko” (No Hawk, No). “It’s So Easy to Make a Song” and “ABCD” celebrates creativity and learning. A love for the natural world is evident in “Sweet Water,” and a yearning for peace and freedom shines in the last two tracks, “When We’re Free” and “Nalingi Bosembo.”

The colorful album liner notes include lyrics, a glossary (“Yangalele” means happiness in Kikongo), a map, pictures of instruments, and a fun quiz to enhance the educational fun relating to these 10 tracks. Discover more and download the lyrics and a coloring page by award-winning cover illustrator Kayla Harren at [SiamMusic.com](http://SiamMusic.com).

*Land of Yangalele* is available directly from [www.SiamMusic.com](http://www.SiamMusic.com), from Electric Fetus in Minneapolis and numerous online outlets (like iTunes, Amazon and more more). Watch for them at family concerts, libraries and community venues.

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# Land of Yangalele - Track listing

Stream “The Land of Yangalele” at: <https://siamamusic.com/music>

Watch a special PBS/TPT’s “Lowertown Line” episode about Siama’s life and music on [YouTube](#)

Check out [SiamaMusic on YouTube](#).

More information: [www.siamamusic.com](http://www.siamamusic.com)

1. Bakongo Chant (Welcome)
2. Monkey Game
3. It’s So Easy to Make a Song
4. Sweet Water
5. ABCD
6. Ko Yimbi Ko
7. Auntie’s Song (Yangalele)
8. When We’re Free
9. Nalingi Bosembo (Peace Lullaby)
10. Bakongo Chant (Your Journey)

## More about Siama and Dallas

As a prolific composer and guitarist from DR Congo (later Uganda, Kenya, Dubai and Japan) Siama performed with many of the greats and was a sought-after studio musician, recording hundreds of popular songs during the golden era of *soukous* music (1970s and ‘80s). His signature sound and commitment to innovation helped to fuel the popularization of *soukous* (aka "the sound of happiness"), which remains ubiquitous on dance floors the world over. Upon landing in Minneapolis in the 1990s, Siama performed with numerous groups until adopting an acoustic format in 2014 to explore the traditional music of his Kikongo heritage. His new sound resonates with grown-ups and children alike and has won him an esteemed McKnight Fellowship and numerous grants and a special feature on Twin Cities Public TV’s “Lowertown Line”.

Dallas M. Johnson has been singing and composing all her life, with two independently-released CDs available on iTunes, Amazon, etc. Studying classical vocal music as a teen sparked her passion for singing in different languages and her musical journey has covered reggae, soul, rock, new wave, folk, jazz, jazz-funk, bossa nova, neo soul, Central American protest songs and now Siama’s music. She’s also a neighborhood community arts organizer, presenting kids’ arts activities and an annual festival.

Siama and Dallas perform concerts, present engaging, educational African music programs for kids and students, they have an, ‘Instrument Petting Zoo’ and they teach workshops and lessons on African Singing, Guitar and Songwriting.

Learn more and listen/download the album via <http://www.siamamusic.com/Music>

*“It’s truly inspiring to see Siama work with children. He not only shares his great musical talent with them, but also generously provides the opportunity to creatively express themselves through music.”*

– Dayna Martinez **ORDWAY CENTER for the PERFORMING ARTS**