**Siama Matuzungidi**

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

**AWARDS/HONORS:**

**2018 “Parents’ Choice Parent Approved” & “Creative Child Preferred” awards** (CD “The Land of Yangalele”)

2018 Joined Class Notes roster of Teaching Musicians (teach African singing and culture)

**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**

* Teaching workshop for teaching musicians during Smithsonian Folkways course at St Thomas University
* Host 100+ engaging library, school programs and Instrument Petting Zoo for kids and families
* Released new original kids’ CD, “The Land of Yangalele” and working with Sugar Mountain PR on promotion
* Songwriting Workshops and Private Lessons
* New kids’ CD (“Land of Yangalele”) chosen for MNSpin (Hennepin County Library streaming program)
* 2018 Performances: 60+ MN libraries & 20 schools, Walker Arts Center, Orchestra Hall Sommerfest, Symphony Space-NYC, Tedx Talks, Mpls Institute of Art, Ordway Family Fest, Pilgrimage Fest-Nashville, TN, 14 engagements in Alabama, Riversong Fest, Lanesboro Art in the Park, Channel6, Cedar Cultural Center, Hook & Ladder, MSP Airport, In the Heart of the Beast, Reif Center-Grand Rapids, Arrowhead Theater-Grand Marais, Lowertown Guitar Fest, MNSpin & MN Refugee events, Selby Jazz Fest, Waseca Art Center and more

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

2017: **TPT/PBS “Lowertown Line”:** 30-minute special program featuring original songs, aired nationwide

**Created 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 MNSpin** (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/**Media:** 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, Bedlam Theatre, Rhythm in Rice, Austin Art

Fest, Pangea World Theatre, First Step Initiative, Ordway/Flint Hills, Children’s Fest, Z Puppets, Intermedia Arts,

Wee Wednesdays, MacPhail Center for Music, Banyan Community, Southside Nurturing Center

**Media:** KFAI, KBEM, Songlines Magazine, MPR, WPR, BBC, Afropop Worldwide, WNYC, The Current,

Star Tribune, 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/Flint 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-Mixed Blood Theatre’s, “Ruined” and Cedar Cultural Center show with Samba Mapangala

2007: Walker Arts Center performance with renowned Congolese choreographer Faustin Linyekula

1998: Winnipeg Folk Festival with Kanda Bongo Man

1970-1996: Recorded hundreds of songs and toured the world with popular soukous artists

**Dallas Matuzungidi Johnson**

*Singer/Storyteller/Songwriter/Teaching Musician/Performing Arts Director/Business Manager/Marketing Director*

PERFORMING / TEACHING / PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

***For detail on performances and classes Dallas has done with Siama since 2015 see Siama’s resume***

• 2018: SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS - Workshop Teacher (at St Thomas U, for music teachers)

• 2018: CLASS NOTES - Teaching Musician (at schools)

• 2016-18: COMPAS - Teaching Artist (at schools and libraries)

• 2018: 200+ performances and classes with Siama including ~100 kids’ shows at libraries and schools

• 2018: Co-Wrote & Co-Produced Siama’s multiple-award-winning kids’ CD, “Land of Yangalele”

• 2018: Performed solo puppet show at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre

• 2017: Helped Siama develop a kids’ program and an “Instrument Petting Zoo”

• 2017: Installed art display in a downtown window for, “Made Here” which was featured on Fox News

• 2016-17: Videotaped interview featured in a live production at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre

• 2016: Co-Produced Siama’s critically-lauded CD and concert, “Rivers – from the Congo to the Mississippi”

• 2015: Emcee (aka “Fun Ambassador”) for Blue Lady performances at Open Eye Theatre and Intermedia Arts

• 2013-2017: Performed original stories at Patrick’s Cabaret and Heidi House

• 2011: Wrote and directed a play about neighborhood activist/hero Muriel Simmons

• 2011: Founded, “Shenanigrins” and “Bridging Festival” (arts engagement programs for kids in Phillips West South Minneapolis) which received the citywide ‘FEAST” award

• 2006: Composed and Performed, “Sunday Morning” (produced by Chuck Love) on an OM Records CD

• 2006: Composed and Performed, “Feel Your Heart” on a CD by Keston and Westdal

• 2006: Composed “My Heart” and “Sunshine” for Jevetta Steele’s CD, “My Heart”

• 2004: Composed and produced original jazz CD, “Anything Can Happen”

• 2001: Composed and produced original jazz CD, “Move a Mountain”

BUSINESS & MARKETING

• Conduct marketing activities for Siama and partner with pro PR firms for CDs and special concerts

• Manage accounting activities

• 2015: Retired from ~20-year training and curriculum development role at Ameriprise Financial

• 2015-present: Freelance - promote concerts at major downtown theaters for Hennepin Theatre Trust

• 2014-2017: Wrote successful funding proposals for Siama’s MNSAB Artist Initiative grant, MRAC Next Step grant, McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians and several in-collaboration with Organizations

• Designed, built and maintain Siama’s website

• Establish and maintain Siama’s social media accounts (FB, IG, YT, SC)

• Siama’s primary photographer (images used for CDs and liner notes, marketing, website, etc.)

LIVED: ND, MN, NYC

COUNTRIES VISITED: Congo, India, Nepal, England, France, Spain, Monaco, Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, Belize