

Siamu grew up in Bas Congo, the western region of DR Congo, where music is a big part of life and everyone joins in the fun. Siamu and Dallas made these songs hoping you'll sing and play along, just like he used to do when he was young.

**BAS CONGO**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

FILE UNDER KIDS, FAMILY, AFRICAN, WORLD

## Yangalele (yawn-gaw-lay-lay) means “Happiness” in Kikongo

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Discover more and download a fun coloring page of the cover illustration at [siamamusic.com](http://siamamusic.com).

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Siamamusic on



Balafon from Ghana



Mbira from Zimbabwe



Shakers in Mama's basket



Rumba Box from Jamaica



Acoustic Guitar



THE LAND OF YANGALELE | Papa Siamu with Auntie Dallas



## Welcome to The Land of Yangalele

Siamu's family loves to sit outside after dinner, telling stories and making music together under the stars. As you take this journey with us, we hope our music makes your heart sing!

This CD is dedicated with Love to Mama and her family. Mama always encouraged Siamu to do things that make him happy because happiness is a wonderful gift to share with the world.



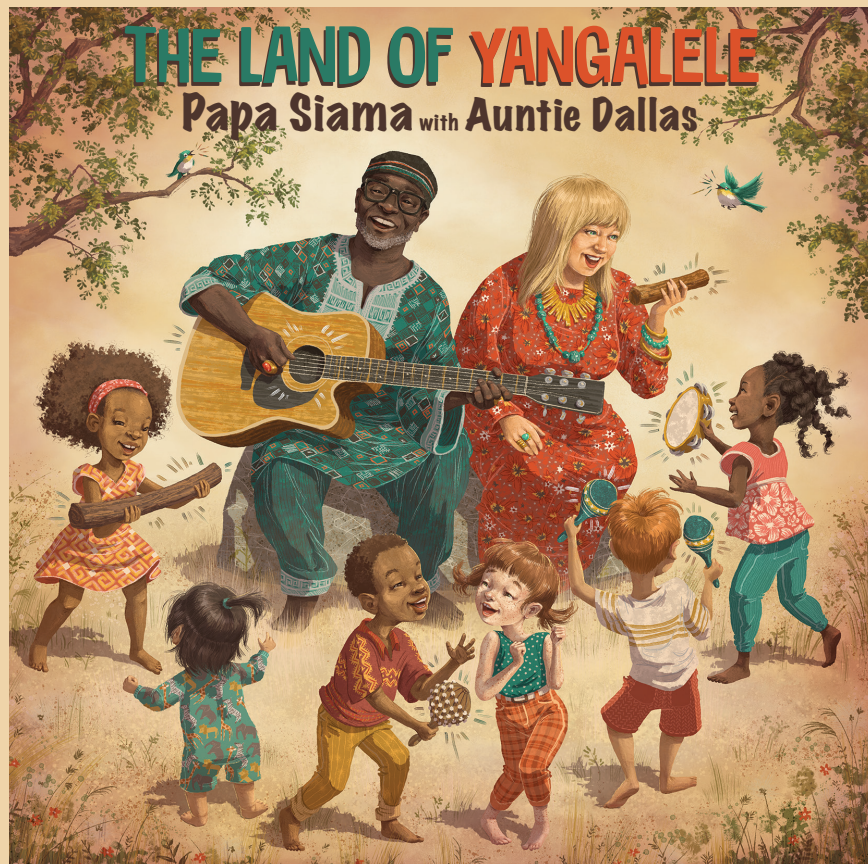
## A Fun Quiz for You

1. How do you say, "Happiness" in Kikongo?
2. In the song, "Monkey Game", what lesson did the children learn?
3. Can you name a word that rhymes with, "song"?
4. What are three things you love about water?
5. What does, "Maza" mean in Kikongo?
6. How many continents are there in the world?
7. How do you greet someone in Lingala?
8. In "Auntie's Song", Tantine teaches her neighbors happy songs. What else makes her a great neighbor?
9. What three things would make our world the most wonderful place you can imagine?
10. In, "Nalingi Bosembo (Peace Lullaby)", where does peace begin?

**ANSWERS** (Some of the questions have simple answers, others will make you think.)

1. Yangalele 2. If you go out to play, get home before dark. 3. There are lots, for example, belong and strong. Can you think of more? 4. There are so many things to love about water. What are *your* three favorite things? 5. Water 6. Seven 7. Sangonini 8. She greets everyone in different languages to make them feel welcome. What else makes her a great neighbor? 9. Can you think of three more? 10. Peace begins within each of us.

We'd like to thank everyone who played a part in creating this music, especially the kids who inspire us.



## Bakongo Chant (Welcome)

*Siam and Dallas chanting / Siam balafon, mbira, guitar, bass, keyboard / David drums*  
Guitar chords: C Am G

Welcome to Bas Congo!...Land of yangalele, smiles, games, dancing and music...

## Monkey Game

*Siam singing, guitar, mbira / Dallas singing, toy piano / David drums*  
Guitar chords: D A  
*The middle section (sung in Kikongo) is a traditional children's song. Dallas wrote the story in English so you can sing along.*

Monkey Game, Monkey Game. Do ya wanna play Monkey Game? (repeat)  
One day three children in the Bas Congo went to play Monkey Game in the jungle.  
Laughing, swinging, jumping all around, they didn't notice when the sun went down. Tralalalala.  
Didn't notice when the sun went down.  
Singin' Monkey Game, Monkey Game. Do ya wanna play Monkey Game? (repeat)  
The jungle is scary when tis dark and you're a kid but'cha gotta keep your head together and that's what they did.  
They followed a trail that the cows had laid. Got to home to eat the dinner Mama made. Tralalalala.  
Got to home to eat the dinner Mama made.  
Yangalele. Yangalele. Yangalele, Mama! Yangalele. Yangalele, Mama! (repeat)  
Monkey Game, Monkey Game. Do ya wanna play Monkey Game? (repeat)  
Lumbu kimosi bana batatu, bele muyimbila nzebo. Bubele nzila yibavilakene.  
Kuma kubua mpimpa, tralalalala. Buba kotele mu mampuya ma ngombe.  
Mampuya ma ngombe o nitu yiyangalele mama.  
Yangalele. Yangalele. Yangalele, Mama! (repeat)  
Monkey Game, Monkey Game. Do ya wanna play Monkey Game? (repeat)  
The next day three children in the Bas Congo went to play Monkey Game in the jungle.  
Laughing, swinging, jumping all around, they went home before the sun went down. Tralalalala.  
They went home before the sun went down.  
Singin' Yangalele. Yangalele. Yangalele, Mama! (repeat)  
Monkey Game, Monkey Game. Do ya wanna play Monkey Game? (repeat)



## Can you find?

- |                             |                      |                   |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a checker board          | 4. an mbira          | 7. a tea cup      |
| 2. shakers in Mama's basket | 5. a guitar          | 8. two tall drums |
| 3. a ukulele                | 6. Siam's eyeglasses | 9. ankle shakers  |



## When We're Free

*Siam singing, mbira, guitar, bass / Dallas singing harmony, shaker, chimes / David drums*  
*Guitar chords: D G A D*

When we're free, when we're free, not a care in the world when we're free.  
When we're free, when we're free, it's smooth sailin' for you and me.  
Anything is possible. We can do it, you will see, 'cause we are unstoppable.  
Everybody wants to be free.  
When we're free, when we're free, not a care in the world when we're free.  
When we're free, when we're free, it's smooth sailin' for you and me.  
Smooth sailin', smooth sailin', smooth sailin' for you and me. (repeat)  
We'll use our imagination to be who we want to be. We are all one nation.  
Everybody wants to be free.  
When we're free, when we're free, not a care in the world when we're free.  
When we're free, when we're free, it's smooth sailin' for you and me.  
Smooth sailin', smooth sailin', smooth sailin' for you and me. (repeat)

*This song includes inspiration by the young men of Woodland Hills in Duluth, MN.*



## Nalingi Bosesembo (Peace Lullaby)

*Dallas singing, shaker / Siam singing harmony, guitar*  
*This song is sung first in Lingala, then Swahili, then English.*

Nalingi bosesembo na mokili. Nasengi bolamu, naba mama.  
Bana balala, malamum, baliya malamum, mayi miso ezalate.  
Yoka losambo nanga oyo, to koma kuna pe to tikala kuna endenge wana.  
Kimia ezala namokili, pe ebanda nangai.  
Nataka amani duniyani. Namtakia kila mama wema.  
Watoto walele vizuri wakiwa wa mesheba na macho yawu bila machozi.  
Sikia maombi yangu, kwamba tuta fika kule natuache vile vile.  
Amani ifike duniyani na ianze na mimi.  
I want peace in the world. I want every mother to breathe a sigh.  
That her babies are asleep with their bellies full and their eyes dry.  
Hear my prayer and my plea that we'll get there and then just let it be.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

**This song is dedicated to  
Suzanne Nystrom.**



## Bakongo Chant (Your Journey)

*Siam and Dallas chanting / Siam balafon, mbira, guitar, bass, keyboard / David drums*

I hope you enjoyed your journey to The Land of Yangalele. Keep making music!

## It's So Easy to Make a Song

*Siam and Dallas singing / Siam guitar, mbira, bass / Dallas shaker / David drums*  
*Guitar chords: D F C D*

Doo doot doot doot doot di doo (Ahh-ahh-ahh)  
It's so easy to make a song. Just play a rhythm and sing along.  
Just have fun. Hear what I say. All ya gotta do is play play play!  
Doo doot doot doot doot di doo (Ahh-ahh-ahh) repeat  
It's so easy to make a song. Just try it. Ya can't go wrong.  
Don't be shy. You got somethin' ta say! All ya gotta do is play, play, play.  
Doo doot doot doot doot di doo (Ahh-ahh-ahh)  
Sing together, sing together sing; Oh, sing together, sing together, sing. (repeat)  
*To the right, to the right. To the left, to the left.*  
*Now reach, reach to the left. And reach, reach to the right.*  
*Now turn around, turn around. Other way. Turn around, turn around.*  
*To the right, that's right. To the left, reach down.*  
*To the right, that's right. To the left, reach down.*  
*Let's turn around, turn around. Lean into it, turn around.*  
*Other way now, move those hips. Turn around. Turn around.*  
Doo doot doot doot doot di doo...(repeat 1st verse and chorus)

## Sweet Water (Maza ni Luzingu)

*Siam singing, guitar, mbira, bass / Dallas chanting, rainstick, shaker / David drums*  
*"Maza ni Luzingu" (Maw-zaw nee loo-zeen-goo) means "Water is Life" in Kikongo.*  
*Guitar chords: D G D A*

Plants and trees, roots and leaves need sweet water.  
Birds and bees, chimpanzees need sweet water.  
Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water.  
Grab a cup and drink it up, oh, sweet water.  
Jump in the tub, scrub a dub, oh, sweet water.  
Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water.  
Love the water like a mother. Love the water like a father.  
Rain coming down giving the ground, oh, sweet water.  
Jumping in puddles, blowing bubbles, oh, sweet water.  
Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water.  
Maza, maza ni luzingu. Maza, maza ni luzingu.  
Plants and trees, roots and leaves need sweet water.  
Birds and bees, chimpanzees need sweet water.  
Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water. Sweet water.  
Maza, maza ni luzingu. Maza, maza ni luzingu.  
Love the water like a mother. Love the water like a father.

**This song is dedicated to  
Sharon Day and Sandy Spieler.**



## ABCD

*Siam singing, mbira, guitar / Dallas singing harmony / David drums*  
*Guitar chords: D A*

ABCD, Mommy. ABCD tomorrow, Daddy. ABCD, my teacher said, ABCD we have to learn.  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Oh, Daddy, I want to go to school.  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Oh, Daddy, to learn more, to learn more.  
"OK, it's time to learn!  
You have to tell me how many continents, how many there are on the map. Raise your hand.  
You have to tell me how many countries, how many there are in Africa. Raise your hand."  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Go! Oh, Daddy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Go!  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Oh, Daddy, to learn more, to learn more.  
ABCD, Mommy. ABCD tomorrow, Daddy. ABCD, my teacher said, ABCD we have to learn.  
We need to learn more and more. Learn more. (repeat)  
We need teachers. Learn more. We need doctors. Learn more. We need pilots. Learn more.  
Anything you learn is good for you.  
Oh, mama, ye, learn more, learn more. (repeat)  
ABCD, Mommy. ABCD tomorrow, Daddy. ABCD, my teacher said, ABCD we have to learn. (repeat)  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Go! Oh, Daddy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Go!  
Oh, Mommy, I want to go to school. Go! Go! Oh, Daddy, to learn more, to learn more.  
ABCD, Mommy. ABCD tomorrow, Daddy. ABCD, my teacher said, ABCD we have to learn. (repeat)

## Ko Yimbi Ko

*Siam singing, mbira, guitar, bass / Dallas harmony, handclaps, shaker / David drums*  
*When Siam was young, sometimes a big hawk would fly overhead scaring the kids, so they'd run around, flapping their arms like a bird's wings, singing, "Ko Yimbi Ko" (KO yeembee ko) which means "No, Hawk, No!" in Kikongo.*

When a Yimbi tries to scare you say, "Ko, Yimbi, Ko!" Oh ye oh yah oh ye oh yah (repeat)  
Lumbu kimosi nsangu za kuvata ba tata ngolo zawu mu tanzi.  
Ba mama ngolo zawu mu nsengo nuni zibongele bongele nguba za nsusu ye za mama. (repeat)  
Yimbie, Yimbie. Ko, Yimbi, Ko. Yimbi tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko!  
Yimbie, Yimbie e. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! O, Yimbi tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko!  
Yimbi e e e e, O Yimbi, tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko. (repeat)  
Yimbi, Yimbi, bayaye bika bana bame. Ko Yimbi Ko! Ko! Ko! (repeat)  
O Yimbi ye, bika bana bame, bana bame bike. O Yimbi, O Yimbi, yehe, O Yimbie, bikq bana bame.  
Yimbie, Yimbie. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! Yimbie, tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko!  
Yimbie Yimbie e. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! O Yimbi tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko!  
Yimbi e e e e, O Yimbi, tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! (repeat)  
Oh, ye oh yah oh ye oh yah (repeat)  
Yimbie, Yimbie. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! Yimbi, tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko!  
Yimbie Yimbie e. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! O Yimbi tala mono buyi salanga. Ko, Yimbi, Ko! (repeat)

## Auntie's Song (Yangalele)

*Dallas singing, shaker, penny whistle / Siam whistling, rumba box, guitar, balafon / David drums*  
*Guitar chords: C F G F*

Yangalele, yangalele, yangalele, yangalele.  
When I stepped out this morning there were a lot of cars zooming by but a little bird landed on a branch right in front of me so I said, "Hey, muana ndege. Sango nini?"  
And the little bird said, "Sango te! Doo doot doo..." whistling  
On the corner, I saw a yellow school bus pulling away and there was a mom and a little kid there, waving goodbye so I said, "Hey, mtoto. Sango nini?"  
And my little neighbor said, "Sango te! Doo doot doo..." whistling  
Yangalele, yangalele, yangalele, yangalele.  
Make it a good day, a good day, oh, my Tantine say (repeat)  
As I reached the park I ran into my auntie. I call her Tantine. She always wears fun, colorful clothes and she's so happy. I said, "Mbote, Tantine! Sango nini?"  
And my Tantine said, "Sango te! Yangalele, yangalele..."  
Make it a good day, a good day, oh, my Tantine say. (repeat)  
Yangalele, Yangalele, Yangalele, Yangalele.  
Hello, Hola, Mbote, Han, Habari, Genki, Sango nini, Oli otya, Boozhoo, Bonjour, Nabad Miyaa, Nyob zoo, Whas'up? Whas'up? Whas'up? Yo! Yo! Yo!  
Oh, my Tantine say, Yangalele, yangalele, yangalele, yangalele.  
Make it a good day, Tantine say. Make it a good day, a good day, oh, my Tantine say. (repeat)

## Learning new words is FUN!

**Yangalele** (yawn-gaw-LAY-lay) means "happiness" in Kikongo.

Lingala words: **Sango nini** ("How are you?"), **Sango te** ("Doing great!"), **Tantine** (Aunt), **Muana** (child of)

Swahili words: **Ndege** (bird), **Mtoto** (child)

Greetings: **Hello** (English), **Hola** (Spanish), **Mbote** (Kikongo), **Han** (Dakota), **Habari** (Swahili), **Genki** (Japanese), **Sango nini** (Lingala), **Oli otya** (Ugandan), **Boozhoo** (Ojibwe), **Bonjour** (French), **Nyob zoo** (Hmong), **Nabad miyaa** (Somali), **Whas'up? Yo!** (American slang)

