

MOKOOMBA

THE ROLLERCOASTER OF
AFRO SOUNDS FROM SIMBABWE



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LUYANDO

new album out
march 2017

Mokoomba, the future of afro sound

Zimbabwe's most celebrated young band Mokoomba is back with a new offering: Luyando. 'Luyando' means "mother's love" in Tonga, a language that is spoken by the original inhabitants of the Zambezi Valley of Southern Africa. But beyond the dictionary definition, Luyando goes to the heart of Mokoomba's music. Lyrical and beautifully breezy, Luyando is also a spiritual journey into the heart of Zimbabwean society, culture and tradition.

On Luyando, Mokoomba modified their rock-band oriented line-up to record a more raw, acoustic album. The songs are rooted in the local traditions and life in their hometown of Victoria Falls, a town on the Zambezi River named after the spectacular waterfall. The Zambezi River touches 5 African countries, and serves as a melting pot for diverse cultures as visitors from all around the world come to see Victoria Falls. The word mokoomba means deep respect for the river; thus the name chosen for this group of energetic young musicians, whose shows reflect that energy in contagiously joyful performances. When they first hit the music scene their blend of traditional rhythms and contemporary Zimrock took the world by storm. Mokoomba brought a unique flavour to a scene that was dominated by sungura, reggae and dancehall, urban and afro jazz bands at that time.

On Luyando, Mokoomba digs even deeper into their heritage, taking us on a journey into the disappearing world of cultural traditions that used to be at the heart of Tonga and Luvale society. There are the cautionary and instructive tracks like Njawane, which advises young hunters how to act when faced with a dangerous lion. The haunting Kumukanda is inspired by a Tonga initiation ceremony that the band experienced together as teens; and Mabemba speaks about the traditional values of the Tonga people. But the album also offers some lighter, playful songs like Nyaradzo, a song of cheeky courtship. Love of family and country are carried deep in the work of Mokoomba, thus Kulindiswe is a personal lament on the time spent away from family, and Kambowa builds a melody and a structure based on

traditional drumming and singing that develops into a powerful articulation of the pain of loss and longing for home. One of the most beautiful songs on the new album is Mokole. Mokole means water in Ndebele, and speaks to not only the beauty of Victoria Falls but also to the importance of the river and its water as a life giving force.

While Tonga dominates as a language of composition and the native language of most members of the group, the songs are sung in at least three other languages: Shona, Luvale and Ndebele. Most members of the group are ethnically Tonga, one of Zimbabwe's (and Zambia's) smallest ethnic groups. The history of the Tonga is crucial to Luyando and central to this album is their song Kambowa that speaks of a key moment in Tonga history, the traumatic displacement of the Tonga from their ancestral lands to make way for the Kariba Dam. By this act the Tonga were stripped of their homeland and cut off from their ancestors. The state never paid reparations and ironically today most Tonga still live in poor rural areas waiting to be connected to electricity.

While broadly accessible and engaging, the songs in Luyando are also deeply responsive to today's Zimbabwe. This album is a quest for the wisdom of tradition and history as well as insight and solace amid contemporary crisis. At present Zimbabwe is polarised in a state of uncertainty and turmoil, with poverty on the rise. Political battles pit long time president Robert Mugabe and his supporters against a growing opposition, in the process wreaking havoc with the lives of the most vulnerable instead of providing much needed solutions. At such a time, Luyando becomes a space for sanity and reflection that Mokoomba as a band and as citizens are creating for themselves, a place that everyone who aspires for a better future is welcome.

NEW ALBUM
Luyando

Mokoomba – 'Luyando'

'Luyando'

(OH 030) out on Outhere Records **10th march 2017**

Single **"Mokole"** out **28. feb 2017**



Listen !! <https://soundcloud.com/outhererecords/sets/mokoomba-luyando-pre-listen/s-1AryQ>

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Biographie

Mokoomba is based in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The band's six members, Mathias Muzaza (lead vocals), Ndaba Coster Moyo (drums, backing vocals), Trustworth Samende (lead guitar, backing vocals), Donald Moyo, (keyboards, backing vocals), Miti Mugande, (percussion & backing vocals) and Abundance Mutori (bass, backing vocals) grew up as friends in the Chinotimba township.

While the majority of Zimbabweans are part of the dominant Shona ethnic group or the large Ndebele minority, the members of Mokoomba hail from a variety of different ethnic groups represented in this border town, including the Luvale, Nyanja, and Tonga peoples; and it was the Tonga who gave mighty Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall, its original name: "Mosi-oa-Tunya" (the smoke that thunders).

Living in a border city that attracts tourists from all over the world gave Mokoomba's music an international perspective from the beginning, incorporating everything from soukous to ska and salsa along with local musical traditions.

The members of Mokoomba started playing music as teenagers, with the help of a local bandleader, the late Alfred Mijimba, who gave the young musicians the experience they needed by hiring them to play local concerts with his band. Even though he was never an international star, Mijimba was a respected local musician, and the members of Mokoomba gained substantial experience under his direction.

The group's members began playing together in 2001, and Mokoomba was officially formed in 2008. Their first major success came that same year, when they won the Music Crossroads Inter-Regional Festival Competition in Malawi.

In 2009 Mokoomba recorded its first album, *Kweseka — Drifting Ahead*, produced by Dutch DJ Gregor Salto, as part of the Stand UP anti-poverty campaign funded by AfricaUnsigned. The album generated a local hit "Messe Messe", and the group's first European tour. Mokoomba recorded a second EP, *Umvundla*, with Salto in 2011. But their big break came in 2012, when the band released *Rising Tide*, produced by pioneering Ivorian bassist Manou Gallo (Zap Mama, Kiyi M'Bock).

The success of *Rising Tide* led Mokoomba to tour over 40 countries worldwide in 2012, 2013 and 2014, including performances at Denmark's Roskilde festival, the UK's WOMAD festival, Belgium's Couleur Cafe' festival, Sziget festival in Hungary and Morocco's Gnawa festival.



Mokoomba has become one of Zimbabwe's most popular bands, playing with such icons as Hugh Masekela and Baba Maal at Zimbabwe's annual Harare International Festival of the Arts.

Mokoomba was the subject of a documentary called *Mokoomba: From One River Bank to Another*, by Frank Dalmat and Francis Ducat. The film tells the

group's story in the context of the relationship between culture and economic development in the global south.

In 2015 and 2016 Mokoomba recorded its self-produced third album Luyando polished by Jay Rutledge from Outhere Records. "Luyando" is a stripped down, mostly acoustic album that balances the group's love of pan-African and international sounds with the local and traditional sounds they also grew up listening to.

Luyando translates as "Mother's Love" and takes its inspiration from the Makishi masquerade ritual practiced in parts of Zimbabwe and nearby Zambia, which the members of Mokoomba participated in as boys.

The Makishi masquerade is performed at the end of the Mukanda, an initiation ritual for boys between the ages of eight and twelve, when young boys leave their homes and live for one to three months at a bush camp away from their villages. It's a fundamental and often lonely time in a boy's life, when they learn the self-assurance required of young men in their community, while still often yearning for the tenderness of their mother's love. The end of the Mukanda is marked by a joyous graduation ceremony called Chilende, full of colorful masks, music and dancing.



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Band members

Mathias Muzaza: lead vocals, backing vocals & percussions

Trustworth Samende: electric, nylon guitars & backing vocals

Abundance Mutori: bass & backing vocals

Donald Moyo: keyboards, backing vocals

Miti Mugande: percussion & backing vocals

Ndaba Coster Moyo: drums, backing vocals



Live Footage:

FULL SHOW POLE POLE 2016

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-D4F6sV1Eic&feature=youtu.be

ACCOUSTIC SHOW

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gsEwliKziY

NIMUNKONDA

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBBA1gBpGg&t=8s

NJOKA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpHS6lZDzHU>

MASANGANGO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJc_BoMczkM

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Feb 2017 Club Album Tour EU

09.02 Munich

10.02 Stein

11.02 Innsbruck

12.02 Zurich

17.02 Copenhagen

18.02 Malmö

23.02 Rotterdam

24.02 Brussels

NA: 26.04 Marlboro 28.04 New Orleans | 29-30.04 Lafayette |
11-13.05 Asheville | 18.05 Portsmouth | 19.05 Boston
more dates coming soon

4. June – 10. July EU dates tba

11. July – 12. August USA tba

14. August – 05 Sept EU dates tba

20. Sept – End of Oct EU dates tba

MOKOOMBA PAST TOURDATES

2015

USA March 2015 & October , 25.06 Graz Afrika Festival A, 08.07 Krakow PL, 09.07 Afrika Festival Wassertüderingen D, 10.07 Den Haag Afrika Festival NL, 15.07 Asphalt Festival Düsseldorf D, 16.07 Kasumama Festival A, 22.07 Pole Pole BE, 23.07 Czerema PL, 30.07 Schwäbisch Hall D, 05.08 Treibhaus Innsbruck A, 06.08 Bergbühne Empelde D, 07.08 Afrika Festival Emmendingen D, 10.08 Kammgarn A, 11.08. UK London Club 100, 12.08 UK Boomtown Festival, 13.08 UK Manchester Bands on the Wall, 17 - 21.08 Zomer von Antwerpen

Summer Tour 2013 :

May,14 : Espace Delvaux (Bruxelles, BE) May,16 : RASA (Utrecht, NL) May,19 : Afro-Pfingsten festival (Winterthur, CH) May,30 : Welt Musik festival (Kassel, D) May,31 : Hallenbad (Wolfsburg, D) June,01 : Summer Stage (Köln, D) June,05 : Jazz Cafe (London, UK) June,15 : Weltnacht festival (Bielefeld, D) June,18 & 19 : Oerol festival (Terschelling, NL) June,21 : Gnaoua festival (Essaouira, MA) June,23 : Africa Oyé (Liverpool, UK) June,29 : Arts Festival of North Norway (Harstad, NO) June,30 : Mundial festival (Tilburg, NL) July,04 : Roskilde festival (Roskilde, DK) July,05 : TFF festival (Rudolstadt, D) July,06 : Meyouzik festival (Luxembourg, LU) July,07 : Amsterdam Roots festival (Amsterdam, NL) July,09 : Zelt Musik festival (Freiburg, D) July, 11 : Festival les Nuits de Gignac (Gignac, FR) July,13 : Horizonte Festival (Koblenz, D) July,16 : Sommarscen Festival (Malmö, SE) July,18 : Earagail festival (Letterkenny, IE) July,23 & 24 : Paleo festival (Nyon, CH) July,26 : Bardentreffen festival (Nuremberg, D) July,27 : Cambridge Folk festival (Cambridge, UK) July,28 : WOMAD UK (Charlton Park, UK) July,31 : Maschsee festival (Hannover, D) August,01 : Helden in the Park festival (Eeklo, B) August 04 : Tollhaus (Karlsruhe, D) August,10 : Sziget festival (Budapest, HU) August,17 : Huvila tent festival (Helsinki, FI) September, 6 & 7: Gwangju festival Gwangju (Gwangju, KOR) September, 28 : Kaloobang festival (La Reunion, FR)

European Fall Tour 2012 :

October, 6 : N9 - Eeklo, BE) October, 7 : Club Bahnhof Ehrenfeld (Köln, D) October, 11 : SOAS (London, UK) October, 14 : Nancy Jazz Pulsation (Nancy, FR) October, 16 : Live show @ BBC "Later with Jools Holland (London, UK) October, 20 : Showcase @ WOMEX (Thessaloniki, GR) October, 24 : Tollhaus (Karlsruhe, D) October, 25 : Muffathalle (Munich, D) October, 26 : Moods (Zurich, CH) October, 27 : Meck (Frick, CH) October, 30 : Lager Haus (Bremen, D) November, 2 : South Bank (London, UK) November, 4 : Hootanany (London, UK) November, 8 : Passing clouds (London, UK) November, 9 : Fiddlers (Bristol, UK) November, 10 : Africa Oye (Liverpool, UK)

European Summer Tour 2012 :

May, 26 : Music meeting festival (Nijmegen, NL) May, 27 : Festival of cultures (Hannover, D) June, 6 : Das haus (Ludwigsburg, D) June, 8 : Speicher (Husum, D) June, 9 : Treibsand (Lubeck, D) June, 14 : La ferme du Biéreau (Louvain-la-Neuve, BE) June, 30 : Couleur café festival (Bruxelles, BE) July, 6 : Africa festival (Stuttgart, D) July; 7 : Lindenbrauerei (Unna, D) July, 12 : Voice of nomads (Baikal Lake, RU) July, 17 : Polé Polé festival (Gent, BE) July, 19 : Babel sound fest (Balaton lake, HU) July, 20 : Fest Afrika (Tampere, FI)

European Tour 2010 :

June ,24 : Melkweg (Amsterdam, NL) June, 27 : Couleur Café festival (Bruxelles, BE) June, 29 : Festival Musicale del Mediterraneo (Genoa, I) July, 3 : MeyouZik festival (Luxembourg, LU) July, 4 : Program Rock um Knuedler (Luxembourg, LU) July, 9 : Moulin fantôme (Tubize, BE) July, 10 : Afrikafestival (Hertme, NL) July, 14 : Etnomusic festival (San Marino, I) July, 17 : Colours of Ostrava festival (Ostrava, CZ) July, 22 : Pirineos Sur festival (Huesca, ES) July 31 & Aug 01 : Imagine festival (Trondheim, NO)

What the world thinks about “MOKOOMBA” !

“Rising Tide is testimony of the bands undeniable depth and creative potential. It intimates that the outfit will continue delivering good music in the future in order to claim its rightful place as stars on the world stage.”

(Newsday, Zimbabwe, May 2012)

“Mokoomba is quite simply the most impressive band Zimbabwe has produced in recent memory. The sheer density of ideas in this session is impressive, but it never feels like the musicians are merely checking off stylistic boxes. This is an A+ international debut from a band nobody saw coming. Reports are they are even better onstage. In all, Mokoomba, riding their own rising tide, are the best news we have heard out of Zimbabwe in years. People need to hear this CD!”

(Banning Eyre, Afropop Worldwide, USA, August 2012)

“Their new CD, Rising Tide is a splendid document. The music is strong, modern, rooted in Africa & spiked with the spice of Latin, soukous, reggae, palm wine and other influences. The production too is superb.

Manou Gallo becomes one of that rare breed in music, a woman who produces an album for a man or an all male group. I’m very excited for the prospects for this group & I hope they go far. Enjoy the music.”

(Akena Hammagaadji, First World Music, USA, April 2012)

“Belying their new album’s name, Mokoomba’s success is more than a mere rising tide. it is a rushing current, much like their revered Zambezi river, ready to carry the band to new audiences as well as nurture a worldwide awareness of Zimbabwe’s rich cultural diversity.

(Songlines, UK, September 2013)

“I’ve seen the future of Afrosound and it is called Mokoomba »

(Thorsten Bednarz, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Germany, October 2012)

“New hotshots of pan-African funkiness”

(5* and TOP OF THE WORLD ALBUM) (Rose Skelton, Songlines Magazine, UK, July 2012)

“The show and music are really entoxicating! They deserve success, because they make genuine good music! To me they are ‘the logical evolution’ from the whole range of South-East-African music + Congo. And they know how to touch the public, by being their own natural selves. Beautiful !”

(Tineke van Brederode, Mixed World Music, Holland, May 2012)

“My feeling is strongly that Mokoomba will be the new big thing next year in world music”.

(Balazs Weyer, world music producer and Hungary’s Public radio Hangtar, November 2012)

“It is not often as a Promoter I become a fan of a band but with Mokoomba its different as they are the best band I have seen over the last 15 years.”

(Paul Duhaney, OYE festival, Liverpool, UK, November 2012)

“I recently received Rising Tide of Mokoomba, it is an outstanding CD with lots of well crafted songs and superb compositions. It is one of the best productions to come out of Africa so far this year.”

(Emmanuel Nado, Africa Mix, San Francisco, USA, July 2012)

“And, central to the enterprise, great credit to the outstanding voice of Mathias Muzaza which, avoiding melisma and fuss, consistently dices with death and wins. You may pick up traces of Geoffrey Oryema, Kanda Bongo Man, Baaba Maal, Mahlathini. The sustained intensity this man wrings out of Masangango is practically a spinal experience.”

(Rick Sanders, fROOTS Magazine, UK, August 2012)

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MOVIES

Title : **MOKOOMBA** From one riverbank to the other

Production : Iota Production Coproduction : Perspective Films, RTBF, Casa Kafka Pictures, Enersol, Lampiris

Category : Documentary Film by : François Ducat, Frank

Dalmat Production : 2010 Length : 51'15 min Size : 16:9

Language : French, English, Ndebele Subtitles : French, English

Summary : “Mokoomba, From One Riverbank to the Other” is the story of a band of six musicians from Zimbabwe who win a 3-month tour in Europe at the “Music Crossroads 2009” festival. Tested by setbacks but motivated by financial rewards undreamt of in their home communities, Mokoomba’s epic journey reveals the relationship between culture and sustainable development in Africa.

World Music Films : <http://www.worldmusic-films.com/index.php?id=732>



Awards

MOKOOMBA's Awards 2012

SONGLINES **UK IN THE 10 BEST ALBUMS**

The Washington Post **IN THE BEST CDs 2012 USA**

FirstWorldMusic **USA N°3 BEST ALBUM**

N°3 BEST ALBUM **The Netherlands**

MIXED WORLD MUSIC

the guardian **N°3 BEST WORLD & FOLK MUSIC ALBUM UK**

movinUP **N°2 BEST ALBUM** **Brazil**

GRITVALZACIN **ALBUM OF THE MONTH**

THE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN **N°1 BEST WORLD MUSIC ALBUM** **USA**

JUS I LOVE **N°8 BEST ALBUM**

WORLD MUSIC CHARTS EUROPE **N°11 BEST ALBUM**

b92 **N°2 BEST WORLD MUSIC ALBUM** **Serbia**

WORLD MUSIC SPECIAL **N°3 THE WORLD MUSIC SPECIAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR !** **Switzerland**

npr music **N°4 WORLD MUSIC ALBUM** **USA**

Afropop Worldwide **IN THE BEST NEW RELEASES** **USA**

TROPICALIDAD **N°1 BEST ALBUM** **N°4 BEST CONCERT** **Belgium**

dailynews **N°2 BEST CONCERT** **N°4 BEST SONG** **Germany**

funkhaus europa **N°9 ALBUM OF THE YEAR** **UK**

2012 FROOTS Critics Poll ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

BE STILL PLEASE **IN THE BEST ALBUMS 2012**

Canada **N°6 TOP GROOVES OF THE SUMMER** **CBCmusic**

Spain **N°2 BEST SONG** **OTROSO**

Mokoomba's next tours
Europe : mid-May -> Mid-August 2013
Europe : March-April 2014
North America : June-July 2014

Album «Rising Tide»
Zig Zag World, 2012
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