

Wula Drum Presents:

Wamato: Everybody Look!

Featuring master drummer, M'bemba Bangoura

The rhythms of Guinea, West Africa, taught and performed on the Djembe, Dundun, Sangban, and Kenkeni.

DVD INCLUDES: The Breaks (starting and stopping signals) • Djembe Accompaniments • Dundun / Sangban / Kenkeni parts • Ensemble Demonstration (slow and fast tempos) • Ensemble Demonstration w/ Solo (slow and fast tempos)

Wula Drum's unrivaled DVD production features an all star ensemble, including special guests: Master Drummer, Laurent Camara – and Griot Famaro Dioubate, master of the Balaphone.

PLUS - SPECIAL FEATURES: History and cultural explanation of each rhythm • Interview with M'bemba Bangoura • Improvised Djembe solo by M'bemba Bangoura • Improvised Djembe solo by Laurent Camara • Improvised Balaphone solo by Famaro Dioubate • Outtakes from the making of the DVD

VOLUME ONE	<i>The Rhythms:</i>	• • • • • • • • • •	<i>Featured Artists:</i>
	Kuku • Sinte		M'bemba Bangoura Jolia Camara
	Soko • Guinea Fare		Laurent Camara Yao Ababio
	Lamba (bonus track)		Famaro Dioubate Osei Ababio
			Michael Markus
			Ibrahima 'Kolipe' Camara



M'bemba Bangoura – has traveled the world as a performer and teacher of the Djembe drum from West Africa, and is revered for his high level of mastery. As a native of Guinea, West Africa, M'bemba began playing the djembe at the young age of seven. By the age of twenty-one, he was acclaimed as a master drummer and was invited to play for Ballet Djoliba, the national company of Guinea. Since moving to the US in 1992, M'bemba is an integral part of the entire African drum and dance scene, both nationally and internationally. He has taught hundreds of students, many of who are now teachers themselves. In addition, he has personally created choreography and developed repertoire for many recording projects of dance companies worldwide. Working throughout the United States, Mexico, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean, his style is infectious. He has recorded 3 solo albums and been a guest artist on dozens of recording projects, including CDS, DVDs, and films. Dedicated to teaching drumming, dancing, and about his culture, M'bemba is one of the foremost ambassadors for Guinean drum and dance!

www.wuladrum.com | info@wuladrum.com | 718-786-8383

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WULA DRUM

Wamato: Everybody Look!

VOLUME ONE

WULA DRUM



Wamato: Everybody Look!

Featuring Master Drummer, M'bemba Bangoura

VOLUME ONE

DVD

A Thank You from Michael Markus:

This project could not have happened without the help of the following people. I can not thank you enough! You are all extremely skilled, great team members, rose up and above the task at hand. I am already envisioning the next project!

Filming: **Kevin Freeman** – Freemanic Productions

Editor: **Sharon Hughes**

Video Consulting: **Andrew Dunn**

Recorded by **Peter Fand** and **Amon** – The Hook Studio, Brooklyn, NY

Coloring Coding: **Mitch Jacobs** – Category 5 studios

Artwork and DVD Menu: **Maxim Kolvalsky**

Drum Makers: **Tom Kondas, Yamoussa “Yambig” Sylla**, and Wula Drum Team

Photography: **Clarence Elie, Sanjay Cherubala**

Drum Technician: **Galen Bremer**

Also, special thanks to:

The Markus Clan: **Andrea, Dakota** and **Makayla**

Thanks for all the support and understanding while I worked on this.

To **Sifu Maurice Haltom** and **Edward Biko Smith**:

Thanks for inspiring me to play African drums and respect the culture.

Please feel free to contact us about these amazing people!

Wula Drum Mission:

Wula Drum provides the highest quality West African instruments, performances, instruction, educational materials, and corporate team building programs. We believe that the way to break down barriers of race and class is through the education of music and dance, environmental awareness, paying higher wages, and support sustainable incomes in Guinea as well as the USA.

All drums in DVD provided by Wula Drum INC.

Please visit www.wuladrum.com

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WULA
D R U M

Wamato: Everybody Look!
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FREE DOWNLOAD WITH THIS DVD!

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Included with this DVD is a free download which includes a written transcription of the rhythms, more details on how to approach the music and this DVD, and all about the differences between the way M'bemba taught and the way the ensemble played.

Please visit the “DOWNLOAD” area of our website

www.wuladrum.com

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 15, 2011

The Story of this DVD:

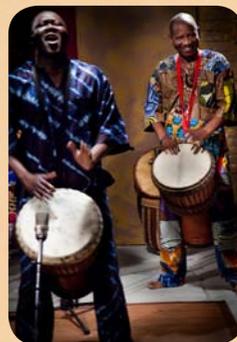
This DVD was filmed over two consecutive scorching hot days in late August, 2009. The crew consisted of three camera men, the director, an intern, two sound engineers, a drum technician, a general assistant, a couple interns, and yours truly. Plus, there are the artists: M'bemba, Laurent, Famaro, Mangue, Kolipe, Yao, Jolia, Osei, and yours truly. We decided that because there were so many people involved, that the first day would be just M'bemba, by himself, playing and demonstrating each part. This is our first 'in house' DVD, so we wanted to ease into it. The second day we added the group, completing all ensemble playing, plus Famaro's unaccompanied solo and Laurent's unaccompanied solo.

When making a project with this many great artists, things always pan out a little differently than expected. And just like in African Music, sometimes one has to 'improvise.' No matter how much we planned, there were always some details overlooked. Our intention was to have each player play each part exactly as M'bemba presented it by himself on day one. However, you will notice that when we put the parts together in the ensemble, there are some variations, different bell patterns played, or parts changed even slightly. We are aware of this, but when we were in the flow of the session it became very organic and we did not want to disrupt the feeling of the music. And, as the heat of the music mixed with the heat of summer (no air conditioning, no fans, and no open windows)—we chose to let each player do their thing-- as long as it didn't change the music significantly. The beauty of African music is that although the tradition is preserved, it is also ever evolving. New variations are created, and mixed with the old, as long as they don't change the overall form of the rhythm.

With this said, please note - the parts M'bemba teaches are sometimes slightly varied from player to player in the ensemble. And, as tempos increase, a drummer must sometimes vary their part in order to keep it relaxed. We could explain this in detail in the DVD, but it would take a lot more filming, editing and demonstrating. When a player/student is competent to play at a fast tempo, he/she usually already understands this idea or figures it out as they learn. So, please use the parts as a starting point. Try to carry the exact part into the faster tempos, but when too much, you will need to change the bell, or leave out a bass, etc., so as not to disrupt the feeling of the music! The most important thing is the feeling of the music!

Enjoy!

Michael Markus



August 26th, 2011

A Special 'Thank You' From M'bemba

"I'd like to dedicate this DVD to the following people:

Kemoko Sano: Director General — Ballet Djoliba,
Choreographer- Ballet African

Sekouba Camara: Choreographer — Ballet Djoliba

Bangaly Bangoura: Principal dancer — Ballet Djoliba,
Ballet Africans

G'banworo Kieta: Premier Djembe Solist — Ballet
Djoliba, Ballet African

Djibrile Camara: Director — G'basicollo

They helped me to be artist I am now. May they rest in peace!

To all artists on the DVD: Thank you for taking the time to be a part of this project. It is only the beginning! We have assembled a great group and represent the music very well!

To my family and friends: Thank you so much for the support!

To all students: Thank you for your interest and support of the music and culture of Guinea, West Africa. It makes me grateful and proud to know that so many people enjoy playing the djembe!

Djembe brings people together- this is the most important thing. One hand helps the other. Together we are able to accomplish anything!"

M'bemba Bangoura, 2011 — NYC