

## SAUTI ZA BUSARA SWAHILI MUSIC FESTIVAL

### STONE TOWN, ZANZIBAR

#### FESTIVAL EVENTS

WEDS FEB 9	Zanzibar Taarab Concert - 8pm (Culture Musical Club, Vuga, Stone Town)
THURS FEB 10	Press Conference (am) & VIPs Reception (pm) <i>(contact Busara Promotions for details)</i>
THURS FEB 10	Opening Ceremony - 8pm (Old Fort)
FRI FEB 11	Kilimanjaro Band CD Promotion - 10am (Memories of Zanzibar)
FRI FEB 11	Performances, 4pm til 1am (Old Fort)
SAT FEB 12	Performances, 4pm til 1am (Old Fort)
SUN FEB 13	Performances, 4pm til 1am (Old Fort)
TUES FEB 15	Festival Party (Kendwa Rocks, north coast) <i>(contact 0747 415527/8 for travel &amp; accommodation)</i>

#### TICKETS AVAILABLE AT RECEPTION, OLD FORT:

##### *standing / sitting on grass only*

BEFORE 8pm	ADMISSION FREE TO ALL
After 8pm	500/- for residents (Swahili-speaking)
After 8pm	1,000/- for non-residents

##### *with seating / VIP Area*

VIP DAILY PASS	5,000/- (includes chair)
VIP ALL EVENTS PASS	10,000/- (includes chair)
FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS	10,000/-
PROGRAMMES	1,000/-
POSTERS	1,000/-
CDs & CASSETTES	as priced

*prices in Tanzania shillings; US\$ and € euros accepted at rate 1,000/- = \$1 or €1*

## THE ARTISTS - A to Z

### **BENI YA KILUA (Zanzibar)**

OPENING DAY PARADE THURS 10 FEB, 7pm

### **BI KIDUDE (Zanzibar)**

Sauti za Busara 2005 Guest of Honour

SPEECH AT FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY THURS 10 FEB, 8pm

PERFORMANCE FRI 11 FEB, 5.50pm

Bi Kidude is an institution on Zanzibar, and remains East Africa's greatest living musical legend. The doyenne of Zanzibar taarab, she also will be playing other musical styles at the festival, including *unyago* and *msondo ngoma*, more commonly associated with local women's initiation rites. Bi Kidude's exact date of birth is unknown, much of her life story is uncorroborated, giving her an almost mythical status. She started out her musical career in the 1920s, and learnt many of her songs with Siti bint Saad. As Bi Fatuma binti Baraka (Bi Kidude) herself says, "*How can I stop singing? When I sing I feel like a 14-year old girl again.*"

This intriguing and inspiring woman is a repository and leading exponent of Swahili culture. Bi Kidude has traveled widely and performed at many international festivals in India, Japan, the Middle East and Africa. Her latest European Tour in 2004 lasted a full three months where she was setting the festivals and concert venues ablaze and receiving rapturous reviews for her performances with Zanzibar's Culture Musical Club taarab orchestra. With her humble manner, incredible stage personality, voice and strength, Bi Kidude is a favourite with audiences wherever the group performs.

Midway through this tour, the whole of Zanzibar was thrown into shock and disarray when a rumour spread fast through the island that Bi Kidude had died. From the narrow streets of Stone Town to the barazas of N'gambo and throughout the villages this was the only topic of conversation as the island rapidly acquired the atmosphere of mourning. The rumour continued to spread even long after the Busara Office had disseminated confirmation from Bi Kidude's European promoters that on the contrary, she was alive and very well. She may have been surprised to hear that people in Zanzibar thought she has died:

*"I haven't died yet. Maybe people are saying that because they haven't seen me around for almost a month. But we are still continuing our tour, which continues for two more months. Me, I'm well, I have no problem. I sing with all my strength and will continue to make people happy until the day I die."*

Recordings: 'Zanzibar' (Retro Afric), 'Machozi ya Huba' (Heartbeat Records)

## **BLACK ROOTS CULTURE GROUP (Zanzibar)**

THURS 10 FEB, 8.15pm

Black Roots Cultural Group have been immersed in the islands' arts scene for many years. Apart from their regular drama plays broadcast on TV Zanzibar, the group is reinterpreting local traditional dances. The potent messages they convey through their drama reach all levels of society in Tanzania and is a main reason for their success and popularity. With the leadership and guidance of the charismatic Othman Mohamed (Makombora), the most famous actor in the Zanzibar islands, Black Roots is one of the island's special cultural treasures that we showcase with pride.

## **BTB (Zanzibar)**

FRI 11 FEB, 4.30pm

## **CHIBITE GROUP (Tanzania)**

FRI 11 FEB, 7pm

This group was founded by the late Dr Hukwe Ubi Zawose (1938-2003), the legendary singer and multi-instrumentalist, who was a master musician specialising in Wagogo music from central Tanzania. Dr Zawose and Chibite were representing Tanzania in many international events since its establishment in 1996, together with his nephew Charles who sadly passed away in November 2004 while on a cultural tour in Sweden. The two had led the group on many successful cultural missions and were included in the list of Peter Gabriel's favourite musicians, having recorded many times at his Real World Studios in UK.

Starting with 15 artists, the group has grown to 35 active members to date most of whom being close family members who are taught from an early age. The style of music has its roots from the Gogo people of Dodoma Region who are famous worldwide for their unique vocal styles and instruments including *marimba* [balafon], *zeze* [Gogo equivalent of mbira], and different types of drums. What makes Gogo music extra special is the singing which is so haunting and captivating – it doesn't matter if you don't understand the language, the power is in its intensity of feeling. Also interesting in Chibite performances is the dancing, mostly done by women doing elegant shoulder and neck movements.

Chibite has performed at several WOMAD festivals and in many countries including Japan, Canada, USA, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Australia, France and Spain

## RECORDINGS:

*Chibite* (Real World, 1996), *Mkuki wa Roho/A Spear to The Soul* (WOMAD Select, 2000)

## CULTURE MUSICAL CLUB (Mila na Utamaduni) (Zanzibar)

WEDS 9 FEB, 8pm (VENUE: Culture Musical Club, Vuga, Stone Town)

*Culture Musical Club* is not only the largest, but also the most prolific and successful taarab orchestra of Zanzibar and they present taarab Swahili style at its best. In addition to innumerable performances in Stonetown, villages of Zanzibar and on Tanzania mainland, this group has toured internationally with outstanding success, winning over audiences in France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, the Arab Emirates and Reunion with their lush sound and dedicated performance of songs and instrumental solos. They perform new compositions on a regular basis and have developed a distinct and uniquely Swahili style. Their CD-releases *Spices of Zanzibar* (Network Medien, 1996) *Bashraf* (Dizim, 2000) *Waridi* (Jahazi, 2003) and *The Music of Zanzibar* (Globestyle, 1988) have made the name *Culture Musical Club* known to audiences throughout the world so that rehearsals in their club house have become somewhat of a tourist attraction. This, however, does not interfere with the first and foremost aim of their social gathering – namely to enjoy music and to be moved by it. So sit back and let the rich orchestral sounds, the inventive songs and the joy of the music-making transport you!

## DCMA KIDUMBAK (Zanzibar)

FRI 11 FEB, 5.15pm

The DCMA Kidumbak ensemble is a group made up of music students of Zanzibar's Dhow Countries Music Academy, an NGO which is operating a music school specializing in the teaching of traditional instruments with an objective of preserving and developing the threatened music traditions of the Islands.

*Kidumbak* (sometimes called *kitaarab*, 'a diminutive kind of taarab') is a music style which is closely related to taarab and often makes use of the latest taarab hit songs. The *kidumbak* ensemble consists of a single melodic instrument, normally a violin (played in frantic fiddle-style), *sanduku* (locally made chest-bass), two small clay drums (ki-dumbak), which form the rhythmic core of every such ensemble. Other rhythm instruments featured include *cherewa* (maracas) and *mkwasa* (rhythm sticks).

Kidumbak mainly features at weddings. The women dance with *khangas* tightly tied to their waists, with the main attraction being the interplay between the players and the dancing and chorus response by the wedding guests.

DCMA Kidumbak group is composed of nine young students of the Dhow Countries Music Academy, five men and four women. All of these have been studying one or more instruments at the academy and formed a student kidumbak ensemble a little more than a year ago. Being a popular music style of the island, they have dedicated themselves to this joyful music style with great enthusiasm.

Apart from occasional performances at tourist spots around the island, the group has successfully participated in various cultural music festivals and competitions such as *Sauti za Busara*, *Festival of the Dhow Countries*, *Mwaka Kogwa* and *Music Crossroads*, where they were recently joint winners of the much-coveted prize “Best Group of Tanzania.”

## **DJ SALEH (Zanzibar)**

FRI 11 FEB, 4.45pm

Born in Zanzibar DJ Saleh is an independent artist who started his musical career in 1990 being part of the group known as *Hard 2 Find* consisting of three members. After completing his secondary education DJ Saleh continued with a music career originally copying songs of other big artists of the time like Snap, Naughty By Nature and Shaggy so as to sharpen his skills.

In 1999 DJ Saleh joined Bagamoyo College of Arts to study music, and learned to play guitar and African percussions. After a year he came back to Zanzibar and continued as a musician whilst working as a TV presenter in TVZ music programs. To date he has recorded four singles: *Si unanipenda* (you love me), *Asante sana* (thank you so much), *Ananipagawisha* (she drives me crazy) and *Wakati umefika* (The time is now). His style is unique with a mix of African, Caribbean and Latin flavours.

## **EL TANBURA GROUP (Egypt)**

THURS 10 FEB, 9.00pm and FRI 11 FEB, 11pm

Under the direction of Zakaria Ibrahim, “El Tanbura” was established in 1989. Based in Port Said, at the entrance to the Suez Canal, the troupe is ideally placed to influence positively the status of popular art and its performers in its home area. Although only seven participate in this festival, at home the troupe has expanded to 20 members ranging between 25 and 75 years of age, and every member of them is a singer, dancer and player of an instrument at the same time. The instruments in use of the group are: *simsimiyya* (a small lyre), *tanbura* (a big lyre), *ney* (Arabic flute), *tabla* (Arabic drum), *triangle*, *sagat* (small cymbals), *shakhalil* (a kind of castanets) and *riq* (a kind of tambourine).

The troupe has recruited the remaining few masters of the tradition, and its repertoire of over twenty hours of songs represents an important link in the

transmission of cultural heritage. El Tanbura performs widely throughout urban and rural Egypt in a variety of venues ranging from concert halls to youth clubs to tents and streets. The troupe has performed to enthusiastic audiences in France 1996 (where the “Institute du Monde Arabe” in Paris produced a CD in 1998), Jordan 1997, Italy 1997, Canada (where they received the first prize at the “International Folk Music Festival” in Montreal, June 2000), France 2001, Sweden 2001, France (Paris and Montpellier at the festival “Spring of Artist”) 2002, London (the festival of “Diaspora” organized by “Music Village”) 2002 and Mali 2002 and in 2003 they presented eight concerts in Switzerland and three shows in Lebanon at the Beirut Street Festival. El Mastaba Center for Egyptian Folk Music, established by Zakaria Ibrahim in 2000, produced 2 albums, “*Noh Elhamam*” (2002) and “*Ahwa Qamar*” (2004)

### **HALIKUNIKI COMEDY GROUP (Zanzibar)**

SUN 13 FEB, 4.00pm and 5.45pm

### **HIYARI YA MOYOWO (Pemba)**

SAT 12 FEB, 4.45pm and SUN 13 FEB, 5pm

Kirumbazi is a unique kind of stick dance and one of the earliest traditional types of ngoma from Pemba island, a tradition which has been handed down from generation to generation over centuries. According to Mzee Omar Khamisi, leader of Hiyari ya Moyowo group, kirumbizi has similar origins to the bullfighting tradition (“ngoma ya ng’ombe”), both believed to be brought originally to the island by the Portuguese and still popular today.

Hiyari ya Moyowo is one of the few surviving groups which still performs kirumbizi in both Unguja and Pemba islands. Since 1974 they have been performing this special traditional ngoma and dance at wedding ceremonies, cultural events, public, religious feasts and government events. Kirumbizi consists of 12 to 30 dancers mostly men. A circle is made and two dancers get in the middle at a time both holding sticks thrashing and blocking strokes expertly. In most cases the number of women does not exceed five and they sing and clap to cheer on the dancers in the middle of the circle. Instruments used in kirumbizi are 2-3 drums, a piece of aluminum sheet and zumari.

The same group also performs *kibati* ngoma, also featured in the Festival. Kibati is one of the most popular and entertaining traditional ngoma from Pemba island. Instruments used are local drums and percussion, while the style of music delivery is machine-gun fire rap and a lot of joking (eg on Nia Safi Group’s recent *Kibati* recording whereby the lead singer tells how he hates a certain person so much and wishes him/her to develop a huge boil under their armpit which never heals or

bursts!) After the jokes, the percussion storms in for everyone to dance a bit until it is time for other series of jokes and drumming.

Witnessing kibati ngoma live adds much weight to the argument that rap music really did originate centuries ago in Africa.

## **IMANI NGOMA (Zanzibar)**

SUN 13 FEB, 6pm

Imani Dancing Troupe aims include reviving and developing some of the many ngoma and dance styles from Zanzibar and Tanzania, and to promote them at an international level. As well as using *ngoma* (drums) in most of their performances, they also use other local instruments, including *zumari* (horn), violin, trumpet and *sanduku* (tea-chest bass) for specific songs. Among the dances the group play are *msewe*, *kyaso* and *gonga* from Pemba island, *beni* and *tukulanga* from Unguja island, *lizombe* from Ruvuma region, *mangaka* and *sindimba* from southern regions of Tanzania. Imani Ngoma also are experienced and well versed in conducting traditional drum and dance workshops. One of the most popular groups at last year's Italian *Festival Mediterraneo*, this is one of Zanzibar's hardest-working traditional ngoma groups, and comes highly recommended.

## **IMENA (Rwanda)**

SAT 12 FEB, 8.15pm

Based in Kigali, Imena is a cultural association that has been performing Rwandan music, dance and culture for twenty years. Imena's main focus is youth, especially orphans and other marginalized children. Their show is spectacular and varied, ranging from powerful drumming to graceful dance, modern and expressive but firmly rooted in Rwandan traditions.

After the tragedies caused by the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, Imena Association soon realized that the country's entire population was suffering deeply from psychological and emotional trauma as well as crisis of identity. Imena decided to renew its efforts to strengthen the culture of dance and song, as a first therapeutic stage towards development for a confident and happy youth. Lots of educative messages on children's rights are expressed through the performances.

Imena have traveled and performed at many international festivals in central Africa, Germany, France and Spain and we are very pleased to welcome them for the first time to Zanzibar.

## **JAGWA MUSIC (Tanzania)**

SAT 12 FEB, 9.30pm

Founded in 1972 in the outskirts [Ng'ambo] of Dar es Salaam as a *chakacha* ngoma group - a style of traditional music performed mainly on the eastern coast of East Africa mostly at wedding ceremonies. The dancers are usually women with the men playing instruments. In the late 80's young people changed *chakacha* from pure traditional music to more mixed flavour "*mchiriku*" by adding a small keyboard in the collection, and two drums and a stool with two timing sticks. Ever since, this particular music became very popular among the youth from the working class communities. Unlike *chakacha*, *mchiriku* dancers are of both sexes and in most cases the audiences are free to join in the fun. Jagwa Music group with twelve members is now one of the leading Dar es Salaam *mchiriku* groups, performing in weddings, traditional ceremonies and sometimes in clubs. To date Jagwa has recorded ten popular albums available locally on cassette.

## **JAMBO BROTHERS ACROBATS (Kenya/Zanzibar)**

FRI 11 FEB, 4pm

## **JANG'OMBE NURSERY SCHOOL (Zanzibar)**

SUN 13 FEB, 4.15pm

## **JUMA NATURE & WANAUME FAMILY (Tanzania)**

SAT 12 FEB, midnight

Juma Nature aka Sir Nature is one of the country's most talented hiphop artists. His ability to play with words and creativity in composition and flowing "*kighettoghetto*" is something which most hip hop artists in the world fail to come close to. Juma Nature aka Sir Nature (born Juma Kassim Ally) is a founder member of Temeke group [Wanaume], an informal group of rappers from the poor side of Dar es Salaam. Nature is one of the best, well known and most creative artists in the Bongo Flava Swahili hiphop arena, not only is he a great composer and uniquely talented rap artist but also is gifted with a soulful and touching voice. The other main reason for his popularity throughout East Africa is of course the topics of his songs, which deal with real and pertinent issues to the majority of local people. "*Umoja wa Watanzania*" from his 2004 album *Ugali*, for example, pleads for peaceful resolution to political misunderstandings between two rival parties, the ruling CCM and CUF reminding people of what could be the outcome of a political

crisis. “*Utajju*” (“it’s up to you”) from his brand new album *Ubin-Adam Kazi* is a song about people who like to poke their noses into others’ business. In the hilarious lyrics of this song Nature himself at one point assumes the role of a woman who sees Juma Nature for the first time “*huyo Juma Nature mwenyewe mbayaaa*” (“*So this is Juma Nature, but he is so ugly*”). Nature is referring of course to life in the Dar es Salaam ghetto where so many people judge each other by the way they look or dress. Due to his popularity this woman expected to see him expensively dressed and handsome. Nature has always been a musician who knows what his fans want, he gives them what they want and much more besides. Nature’s real-life experience in the poor areas gives him the material and inspiration for his compositions and Tanzania being one of the world’s poorer countries, he is an artist with a lot of fans.

Wanaume Family is a unit of different artists namely Juma Nature, Wachuja Nafaka, GWM / Gangsters with Matatizo [Problems], Wangoto Family, and Gangwe Mobb. Wanaume Family developed with the aim of sharing of ideas on how to use Swahili hip hop positively, national and international promotion and using their unity as a means of helping other upcoming artists. The sense of their togetherness is often seen in their performances with their creative one line “mapanga” dance which drives fans totally crazy.

## **KIDUTANI NURSERY SCHOOL (Zanzibar)**

THURS 10 FEB, 8.15pm

## **KILIMANJARO BAND (Wananjenje) (Tanzania)**

PERFORMANCE - THURS 10 FEB, 9.45pm

CD PROMOTION & AUTOGRAPHS – Memories of Zanzibar, FRI 11 FEB, 10am

*The Kilimanjaro Band* was formed some thirty years ago in Tanga, a town on the Swahili coast of Tanzania. They began with the name *The Love Bugs* then performing mostly cover songs. The band later changed its name to *The Revolutions* and moved to Dar es Salaam where there was stiff competition with older established bands. The Band began to perform in top hotels and tourist centers in the two main cities of Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

In 1989 the Band landed in London, and there changed its name to *The Kilimanjaro Band*. During that stay in London the Band released its first album ‘*Kata Kata*’. A song from this same album ‘*Njenje*’ has since earned the Band the nickname ‘Wananjenje’. In London *The Kilimanjaro Band* performed on the same bill with great African artists like Baaba Maal and Sam Mangwana.

1992 to 1994 saw them in Japan, this time the group was performing in top hotels and also having to compete with top discotheques of the time. Due to the terms of the contracts, the Band performed mostly cover songs. But the Band was good

enough to slowly start including its own repertoire between the cover songs, and this brought invitations for the Band to perform in top venues including the Gunma Park where the Band played strictly African repertoire. The Band's original six-month contract was again and again renewed.

In 1997 The Kilimanjaro Band released their second album '*Maua*'. With the female voice of Nyota Waziri now adding more flavour to the album, the album went on selling well despite the rampant piracy that is affecting the music in Tanzania. Between then and 1999, the Band spent time performing in Tanzania, Muscat and Bahrain, performing in different hotels to a wide variety of audiences. In September 2000, the Band released their biggest selling album to date, '*Kinyaunyau*'. The songs are a mixture of pieces of art with influences from different ethnic groups in Tanzania, including *Ndembele* a lullaby from the WaNyamwezi of Tabora, *Boko* a traditional song of the Wadigo from Tanga, a Kiswahili salsa song, and other songs with strong influences from the Tanzanian coast. The Band is well known for its *mduara* (circle) dancing style, very common to many ethnic groups in Tanzania and around Africa.

The Kilimanjaro Band has just released its brand new album *Gere*. The album is a mixture of styles and fusion of music from different ethnic groups in Tanzania. *Gere* a song from the western tip of the country, *Yamenishinda*, and *Tummogele*, from the Southern Highlands, and a variety of songs which truly illustrate the Band's combined experience of being together for thirty years.

A recent tour of the UK in July and August 2004, proved that the Band also has many fans outside Tanzania. All the concerts were successful musically and economically wherever they performed in London and other cities. The Kilimanjaro Band has won several awards including the 2000 Best Band M Net Award and 2001 Kibo Gold Best Band award.

#### Recordings:

*Katakata* (1989), *Maua* (1997), *Kinyaunyau* (2000), *Gere* (2005)

With thanks for support to

**Air Tanzania (logo)**

## **KLEAR KUT (Uganda)**

SAT 12 FEB, 10.45pm

Klear Kut is a five-member "hip hop" group consisting of Navio, Papito, Mith, JB and Langman aka Da Missing Link. The group was formed in August 2000, starting by performing at karaokes around Kampala. The group quickly gained a reputation for their original performances and soon caught the eye of local super-producer Steve Jean who recorded their first single "Nothin' Wrong Wit'

A Lil' Doe". The song gave the group a buzz and they received more and more recognition; becoming the first Ugandan hip hop group to be accepted among mainstream artists.

Soon the group teamed up with D&D Productions to record a full-length album entitled "Mind, Body & Soul". The album proved to be a great success for the group spawning the hits "All I Wanna Know" featuring Juliana and "Superstar" featuring Bebe Cool. The singles topped the charts in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The video for "All I Wanna Know" was an even bigger success. The high quality of the video earned the group two nominations at the prestigious 2002 KORA All Africa Awards in the "Most Promising African Group" and "Revelation of the Year" categories. This also made them the first Ugandan group to be nominated at the KORAs.

Klear Kut was nominated at the Pearl of Africa Music Awards and won the award for "Best Hip Hop Group". The group released another album "K2" which featured the hit single "Mon Coeur/ Murder of Crows". The video was on heavy rotation on WBS as well as TV Africa before the station's demise. The impressive video topped the EATV Top 10 for three weeks. The album features T.I.D., Bebe Cool, Benon, Rania, E-Von & Poetic.

Klear Kut has built a solid reputation by many live performances at a number of events including the Shaggy Boombastic, Miss Uganda, Tevin Campbell New Year Concert, Sanyu Carnival in Uganda; Miss Kenya and Coca-Cola Race Day in Kenya; and Bongo All-Stars in Tanzania.

*With thanks for support to*

**Alliance Francaise (logo)**

## **MANYANI NANI (Tanzania)**

SUN 13 FEB, 11pm

Based in Dar es Salaam this group was formed in 1998 at the Bagamoyo College of Arts, where the founding eight people were all students. The group performs a fusion of African traditional with modern contemporary music. Inspired by the likes of Youssou Ndour, Baaba Maal, Oliver Mtukudzi, the group's creativity and determination has made them a well respected and established band in Tanzania and they certainly know how to keep the audience on their feet with their rhythms and dancing styles.

Manyani Nani has participated in Bagamoyo Arts Festival, Music Crossroads, Music Mayday and the Festival of the Dhow Countries, while in Dar es Salaam the group performs regularly in the Mango Garden and Nyerere Cultural Centre (Nyumba ya Sanaa). The group has so far recorded five singles namely *Mapanya* [Rats], *Naisaliti Nafsi* [Betraying my own self], *Si Utani* [It's not a Joke] and *Lijojo* which is in

Makonde's electrifying percussion and language. It is a great pleasure to have Manyani Nani participate in Sauti za Busara Festival and karibuni sana.

## **MATIMBA ARTS (Tanzania)**

SAT 12 FEB, 4pm

Founded in 2001 Matimba is a youth group based in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam. Formed by 19 young artists they play a variety of different traditional dances from various regions of Tanzania, contemporary dances, acrobatics, theatre and choir. The group performs mainly in educational campaigning events around Tanzania as well as tourist hotels and public events.

What makes this group so special is the fact that all the artists are very young and extremely creative. They communicate with the audience, are energetic in their renditions of a variety of different styles of traditional ngoma. Don't miss their "Africa Dance" whilst throwing and catching firesticks and performing acrobatics!

## **MAULIDI YA HOMU YA MTENDENI (Zanzibar)**

THURS 10 FEB, 8.45pm

Welcome to one of the world's best-kept secrets. The *Maulidi ya Homu* is a visually spectacular and spiritually uplifting experience that you are unlikely to forget. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century there are only three remaining groups in the world practising this religious artform – all based in Zanzibar. *Maulidi ya Homu* comes from a centuries-old tradition with roots most probably in Iraq/ Gulf Region.

The Mtendeni Maulid Group is the oldest group, led to date by *Ustadh Majid Said Mansour*, who founded the group in the mid-1960s. For several decades the group has had no financial support and has only survived due to the perseverance of its leader and founder, as well as the fact that the people of Zanzibar clearly hold the tradition close to their hearts and turn out in thousands to witness the shows when they perform at Islamic religious festivals. The first time the group performed at an arts festival with many non-Muslims in attendance was at a recent ZIFF Festival of the Dhow Countries also in Zanzibar, where the group received audience choice as best performance out of more than sixty groups who participated.

For many years both women and men participated in Maulidi ya Homu performances. These days it is mostly performed only by men, who make a spectacular sight on stage in their white *kanzu* and *kofia* (traditional Zanzibari Muslim dress). The songs are always played at night time and are based around religious texts, praising Almighty God and His Prophet Mohammed.

The musicians play only percussion and are arranged on the floor or kneeling in a line with the dancers, starting very softly and almost motionless as the music and singing slowly unfolds and encapsulates, weaving its spell among both artists and audience. Slowly the rhythm and music builds in intensity, until the right moment, when the musicians take everything to another completely higher level.

## **NADI IKHWAN SAFAA (Malindi Taarab) (Zanzibar)**

**FRI 11 FEB, 8.15pm**

Founded in 1905, this orchestra can probably trace its roots back further than any other orchestra in Africa. Every known musician from Zanzibar has at some point or other performed or played with "Malindi" (as they are also affectionately known) and recently they are enjoying a strong revival in popularity with the local population. Celebrating their centenary at this year's festival, this gathering of hobby musicians from all walks of life is still going strong and we can expect a vibrant performance brimming with life - no senile weaknesses here! This is taarab in its original beauty - delicate poetry, outstanding vocal performances, which reveal in their elaborate ornamentation the close connection to their Arabic roots, and finely chiselled instrumentals. Love, companionship, friendship, the enjoyment of music, the pains of sadness, all find expression in the moving performances and the sweet sounds of their orchestral arrangements. Idi Farhan, one of their oldest and most respected members sums it up: *"It goes to the mind and then to the heart and to the blood and you feel happy at the end."*

### **RECORDINGS:**

'Music of Zanzibar, Vol 2 : Ikhwani Safaa Musical Club' (Globestyle, 1988)  
and countless local cassette releases

## **PAMUZINDA (Zimbabwe)**

**SUN 13 FEB, 7pm**

Pamuzinda Theatre Productions was established in 1990, after lamenting the absence of art and ignorance of culture among youth in Zimbabwe. The group was officially launched at a St Mary's New Highfield Catholic Church with the blessing of the Catholic Youth Association. The group faced a lot of criticism since Day One of its formation. Elderly people thought it is against church doctrine, while some youth said: "How can you mix African culture and Christianity." Others believed, living in modern times, they cannot see themselves in traditional African dress. The group was finally expelled from operating under Catholic premises and Pamuzinda is now practising at Zimbabwe Hall Social Centre.

Pamuzinda is composed of three categories: kindergarten, students and unemployed youth. As the capital of a widespread and powerful theatre house, they take art very seriously and aim to stop the disappearance of traditional arts and culture in Zimbabwe. On behalf of African artists who were suppressed over centuries, Pamuzinda is proud to perform and demonstrate their cultural heritage and artistic abilities.

The theatre house caters for all aspects of theatre including music, poetry, drama, traditional and contemporary dances. With their traditional instruments *ngoma*, *mbira*, *marimba* and *hosho*, through their music not only do they reflect their immediate surroundings but also capture the essence of the whole of Africa. Enormous care is taken to design and perform harmonic songs, energetic, well-synchronised dance routines and splendid plays.

To date Pamuzinda has toured in Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Holland, Belgium, UK and Japan.

More info: [www.pamuzinda.de](http://www.pamuzinda.de)

## **SAIDA KAROLI (Tanzania)**

SUN 13 FEB, midnight

SAIDA KAROLI was born in 1976 in Bukoba Region in north-western Tanzania. As a singer, composer, dancer and drummer, within a short period of time, Saida has become a much sought after female artist all over East and Central Africa. She has staged live shows in almost all parts of Tanzania, and has successfully toured in Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Uganda and Kenya. Her artistic musical talent, which is filled with tradition, has captivated diverse audiences and her mellow singing voice continues to earn her a place the hearts of people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

As a child, Saida lived in the small village of Rwongwe in Bukoba. Her culture did not permit girls to sing or play drums but her mother, who was also a musical figure in the village, encouraged her and taught her the essentials of music. Due to lack of support from her drunken father, Saida only managed to attend school up to grade 5. At the age of 20, following the death of her mother and continued criticisms from people around her, Saida still continued doing what she knows best – to make wonderful music. Her humility, patience and good sense of humour make her a great and vibrant personality.

Saida remained in relative obscurity until FM Productions crossed paths with her in Bukoba, during a search for talented Tanzanians that could be promoted. After only three weeks of recording at FM Studios, the young village girl that nobody knew suddenly exploded onto the national music scene in September 2001 with the song

*Marie Salome (Chambua Kama Karanga)* which remained top of the national music charts for six consecutive weeks.

Everyone in Tanzania felt the wave and Saida was quickly acknowledged as a pioneer in new interpretations of traditional music. In the same manner, she shined during her tours in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. In all countries where she sets foot, she is warmly welcomed as the East African queen of traditional music.

Saida sings predominantly in Kihaya (language of the Haya tribe in Tanzania) as well as Swahili. However, even those who do not understand these languages have been touched by her unique voice and the crisp quality of her music. Her sources of inspiration are social values, the rural culture of Tanzania as well as the condition of human society.

Saida's manager and producer Mr. Felician Mutta, (CEO, FM Productions) recognised the great potential possessed by Saida Karoli as a traditional music singer and drummer. Mr Mutta has been the driving force behind Saida's explosion onto the music scene, and is fully determined to continue to reveal Saida to the rest of Africa and beyond. They plan to tour UK, Scandinavia, Germany, Canada and USA during 2005.

Saida Karoli is truly one of Africa's greatest and now only the sky is the limit.

Recordings:

Chambua Kama Karanga (2001), Mapenzi Kizunguzungu (2003), Harusi (2004)

*With thanks for support to*

***Air Tanzania (logo)***

## **SEGERE ORIGINAL MODERN TAARAB (Tanzania)**

**FRI 11 FEB, midnight**

This group started in 1985 as Young Stars Modern Taarab and split in 2003 after which Segere Original was formed, playing a mix of Zaramo traditional music, taarab and modern music the group has become extremely popular all over Tanzania and the islands and has also been an inspiration to other groups incorporating local elements in their music.

Registered under National Arts Council [BASATA] Segere was founded by 12 young people as a self-employment, entertainment and cultural tool. Since the split the group has so far released two singles, *Domo la Upawa* and *Kiyugi* and both are frequently played on local and national radio in Tanzania. Segere Original performs regularly at wedding ceremonies as well as different clubs and venues in Dar es

Salaam. They have participated twice already in Zanzibar at the Festival of the Dhow Countries. Expect nothing short of an orgy or a riot on the dancefloor!

## **SEIYUN POPULAR ARTS GROUP (Yemen)**

SUN 13 FEB, 9pm

Hadhramaut has a long history of association with the maritime routes between the Swahili Coast of Africa, the Arab World and India, absorbing centuries of musical and cultural influences. The music of this part of the Republic of Yemen is rich in rhythms and varieties of instruments with songs and dances based around the daily lives of the local population who are almost exclusively Muslim. Songs also reflect work activities such as agriculture, fishing and seafaring. Here you will find instruments such as the *simsimiya* and *tambura* (lyres), *mizmar* (double clarinet) and a huge array of drums and African-influenced dances such as the *liewa* and *bambila* as well as traditional music of the nomadic Bedouin.

It is estimated that in the 1930s some 90,000 Hadhramis, out of a population of 260,000, had migrated at some time in their lives. The return journey was equally popular, at least until the advent of the communist regime in 1967. Families would send their sons home to absorb their Hadhrami heritage and they brought with them a taste for Indian rhythms and styles of playing. The Sultan of Mukalla (the main Hadhrami port on the Arabian Sea) fostered a music group which played exclusively Indian and European music. As well as the music, much of the architecture shows a distinct Indian flavour with its embroidered window blinds and carved balconies still visible in the old quarter of Makulla today.

The Seiyun Popular Arts Group is one of the best and oldest groups in the region founded in 1963. Led by Shukri Hassan Baraja, it boasts over forty musicians and dancers including both men and women (of which nine people will be here for the Festival in Zanzibar). The group has played at many festivals all over Yemen as well as other countries including Jordan, France and UK. Its repertoire includes traditional Hadhrami and Bedouin songs as well as material sung in a dynamic fusion of Arabic, Swahili and Hindi languages. Instruments include violin, oud, ney (flutes), qanun and percussion.

*(excerpts from Diaspora Music Village UK Festival Programme with thanks to Paul Hughes-Smith)*

## **SISI TAMBALA (Tanzania)**

SUN 13 FEB, 8.15pm

Since their formation in 1997 this group has been receiving wide critical acclaim for their originality in reinterpreting traditional Tanzanian music and dance styles into

their own “*ngwashala*” style. They sing in a variety of tribal languages, English and Kiswahili, portraying messages of African unity and peace as well as other social and economic issues. In April they performed at Youth Festival of SADC countries in Mozambique and were the 1st runners up in M-Net Where U At Awards for Best Group 2001.

## **SOSOLISO KIDUMBAK (Zanzibar)**

SAT 12 FEB, 7pm

## **STARA THOMAS (Tanzania)**

SAT 12 FEB, 11.30pm

Stara is fine example of the new generation of artists in Tanzanian modern music. She sings r’n’b, soul and zouk in Swahili language.

Originally from Mwanza District, Stara began singing at the age of seven and whilst still at secondary school was performing on stage with other well established Tanzanian groups such as The Kilimanjaro Band and In Africa Band. Whilst still a teenager Stara wrote her first song, *Children’s Right* and two years later her second song was released, *My Body* – both being in English language.

Stara really came into her own in 2000 when she started singing in Swahili, and soon had a string of hits being played repeatedly on national radio, including *Sikia* (Listen), *Mimi na Wewe* (Me & You) included on the album *Nyuma Sita Rudi* (Never Go Back). Her talent received some recognition in 2003 when Stara won the Kilimanjaro Music Award for Best Female Vocalist in Tanzania.

In 2004 Stara released *Hadithi* (Story), her second album and is already busy again working on the third.

## **WAZENJI KIJWE (Zanzibar)**

SAT 12 FEB, 10.15pm

Based in Kikwajuni area in Zanzibar Town, Wazenji Kijiwe is one of the most popular hiphop groups on the island mainly because of their unique and uncompromising style. Fusing local Zanzibar music/dance and hiphop has made them different from many other groups. “*Hakuna mti usiokuwa na mizizi*”- “*there is no tree without roots*” says group member Mjusi, insisting on the need to preserve and respect original Zanzibar culture as well as creating new and exciting flavours.

The group is based around three permanent members, Yosia George aka Mjusi Kaffir, Mustafa Sued aka Taffa Boy and Abdul Salim aka Sax Tai, the main creative

force. They first came together in 1997 under the name Arosto Boys Camp (ABC) but after the release of their first single *Zenji Kijiwe* it was so popular they decided to change the group's name to Wazenji Kijiwe, *Wazenji* is a slang for Zanzibaris while *Kijiwe* is also slang meaning a meeting place for mostly young people.

Their style of music falls under the loosely defined label of *bongo flava* (Swahili hip-hop) and Wazenji Kijiwe is one of the few rap groups from the island that is already at the artistic and production level of rappers from across the water in Dar-es-Salaam. Their lyrics mostly discuss issues affecting the daily lives of people in their community including poverty, politics, lifestyle and tradition. Wazenji Kijiwe have performed in many concerts & festivals in Zanzibar as well as mainland Tanzania and they have a reputation for coming up with different surprises in their lively and captivating stage shows.

#### Recordings

*Zenji Kijiwe, Wazenji Kijiwe, Aii*

### ZANZIBAR MOONLIGHT JAZZ BAND (Zanzibar)

FRI 11 FEB, 9.30pm

### ZEIN L'ABDIN TRIO (Kenya)

FRI 11 FEB, 10.15pm and SAT 12 FEB, 5.45pm

Born on the island of Lamu, Kenya, the young Zein was surrounded by music as his father played host to the Arab traders. He started to play the oud in the 60s in Mombasa, and subsequently became akin to a musical father for the Kenyan taarab scene, with all the famous singers at some point or another passing through his group. More recently he has gone back to basics, playing oud with two ngoma percussionists, performing contemporary compositions as well as old songs that Zein has unearthed and revived from Lamu and the Northern Swahili Coast.

#### RECORDINGS:

'The Swahili Song Book' (dizim records)

*"You've gone over the top, I give you the fact:  
Whoever expects to get all, without doubt is sure to lose all!  
A dhow with many captains, I refuse to travel, I'll alight.*

*What you are telling me, I will make an effort to understand.  
The charges will stay, they will grow larger than belief.  
The dhow will sink, we are too many captais!*

*I see you are anxious, being beyond all reason.  
You've got nowhere to grasp, because you desired too much.  
When the dhow overturns, which pole will you cling to?"*

*Zein l'Abdin - Chombo (dizim 1999)*

**Sauti za Busara**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Swahili Music Festival  
brings more buzz to Stone Town

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2006**

Welcome again to Zanzibar for  
the friendliest festival on Planet Earth!

**SAUTI ZA BUSARA** is organised by Busara Promotions - a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit cultural organisation registered in Zanzibar "to promote and develop opportunities for local and international music and performing artists within the East African region, work to strengthen the local arts infrastructure and build networks internationally, for the social, cultural and economic growth of Africa and the dhow region".



**Busara Promotions, PO Box 3635, Zanzibar, Tanzania**

**Tel: (+255) 24 223 2423 or (+255) (4) 747 428478**

**Fax: +44 870 132 1190**

**Email: [busara@zanlink.com](mailto:busara@zanlink.com)**