

SGA-M 25

This tape recorded at

1/4"  1/2"  3/4"  1"

Monophonic  Stereophonic

TAPE Tracks  
COMP Tracks

① ANYANGA ~~W. RATENG~~ JOHN OIONDE

② ROSE ADHIANBO DR. COLLETA  
5:05 W. RATENG  
4:12

① +0+0+4+7+6+5+4 (CORR) 6

② ~~do~~

2 SONGS  
7/2/74



VICTORIA JAZZ BAND

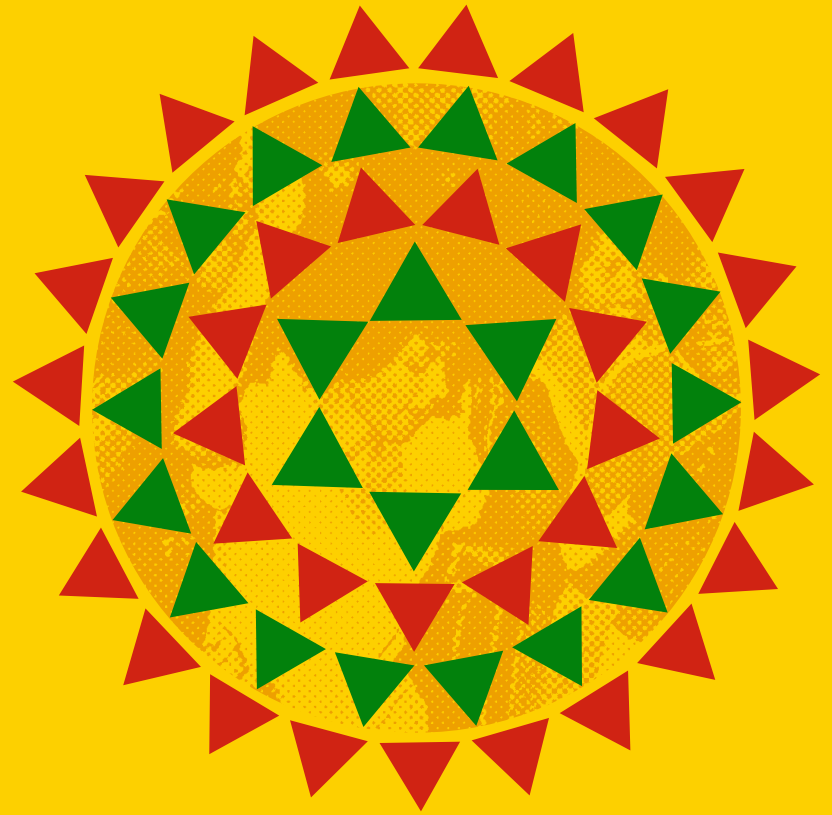
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# URGENT DANCING!

“We’ll offer work to three of them. That third drummer’s been listening to the records, and the last two singers know the lyrics well.”

It’s mid-August 1993, and I’m sitting in a deserted club in Dar es Salaam with Congolese soukous star Kanda Bongo Man and Kanda’s longtime guitarist and arranger, Nene Tchakou. The mid-afternoon sun slants across the beer glasses on the tables, still unwashed from the night before.

“Why don’t you bring a full band from Paris when you tour East Africa?” I ask Kanda.

“There’s no point,” he replies. “These East African musicians and singers are probably the best on the continent. They know what’s expected, the singers and drummers especially, so we just hire and rehearse when we get here. I only need Nene to come; he MDs the shows.”

And, apart from the last-minute addition to the frontline of the legendary Congolese vocalist Tchico Tchicaya, who happens to be in Dar at the time, that’s how the shows are performed over the next few weeks.

I’m the resident DJ for a series of Kanda Bongo Man gigs in Dar, mainly at two clubs, one an old-school ‘hooch ‘n’ hookers’ joint, the other state-of-the-art modern beachside. The latter is to be opened by the Prime Minister and his wife, both keen music-lovers. I’ve come with four boxes of records (1993, so all vinyl), two of which overshoot Nairobi airport, travel on to Johannesburg, and return to Kenya on a flight two days later, unharmed and undiminished. Luckily, the returnees include my batch of classic Congolese-style rumba, the music loved and revered by the older generation of East Africans, called *zilizopendwa* in Kenya and *zilizpendwa* in Tanzania, both terms loosely translated as ‘golden oldies’.



Maquis Du Zaire

Kanda's words will be familiar to all musicians who have recorded or toured in East Africa. That afternoon in rehearsal, we hear maybe eight or nine singers, and every one of them is either very good or outstanding. It's one of the reasons why the mighty Congolese orchestras – TPOK Jazz, Afrisa, Johnny Bokelo and so many others – particularly enjoy touring in Kenya and Tanzania. Things are well-organised, almost everyone understands his job description, gigs start on time, the audiences are appreciative of and familiar with the music, and they dance *serebuka* (literally 'blissful expressive dance') using graceful moves, *mtindo*, that seem to fit everything from '50s Kenyan guitar-twist and Cuban-influenced rumba to modern R&B.

Almost a quarter-century later, even the youth, obsessed with the individualistic style of hip-hop and R&B-based bongo *flava* (Tanzania), *genge* and *kapuka* (Kenya), still respect and sample the classic *zilipendwa* bands in preference to the more ethnically-based Luo *benga* and Kamba guitar bands, whose ten-minute 140 BPM workouts are bizarrely but serendipitously, supremely popular with the *picós de champeta* (Colombian carnival sound-systems) on the other side of the Atlantic, the old vinyl having initially reached South

America via a network of visiting sailors and smuggling routes.

There was a strong and skilled recording industry in Nairobi in the early '60s, with many local entrepreneurs and investment from multinational recording labels. This was made all the more vibrant with Kenyan independence and the consequent inward flow of resources and talent from all over sub-Saharan Africa.

East Africa had a unique and exciting mixture of artistic collaboration in the '60s and '70s. There was an urban studio elite, a group of musicians from various ethnic backgrounds performing in 'non-tribalised' Swahili and recruited by English record producers. Then there was a separate group of outstanding Luhya musicians also performing in Swahili but professing allegiance to the Indian-owned River Boat group of record labels. And finally there were the more vernacular-based musicians who were spearheading the nascent *benga* and Kamba Stratocaster/percussion workouts. Put that all together and you had a perfect storm of international and parochial musical genius, with the focus on the 45-rpm vinyl format.

The feverish musical activity in clubs, hotels, private functions and recording studios in Nairobi, Dar, Mombasa, Arusha, Kisumu, Mwanza, Tanga and elsewhere became a magnet to the Congolese big bands, whose limited domestic work opportunities were a constant source of frustration. It also attracted *kwela* combos from southern Africa, whose influence in the early '60s could be found in Zambia, Rhodesia, Botswana, Malawi and Kenya, especially in the guitar work of people like Peter Tsotsi, a Nairobi-based South African 'dry' guitarist whose playing founded the Kenyan 'twist' craze, along with local twist originator John Mwale.

With its large professional and middle-class Asian, Arabic and Indian population, East Africa's coastal and island regions provided yet another destination for 'beach party' music consumers, including – before Idi Amin expulsions started to bite – weekend safari parties from Uganda.

Much has been written of Zanzibar's *taarab* music, its blend of accordions, violins and voices providing the perfect fusion of Bollywood filmscore with African rhythmic sensibility, and of the erotic 6/8 *chakacha* music of the Mombasa coastal region, a sort of traditional East African

'girls' night out' genre whose popularity lives on in the work of today's pop stars such as Diamond Platnumz and Nasema Nawe. From *taarab* has grown *beni* music, an all-purpose Africanised *taarab* for street parades and wedding parties, as well as *Sidi Sufi* music, the recently reinvented Afro-Indian trance music of Gujarat. All are easily heard today in Zanzibar.

And let's not even get started on one Farrokh Bulsara, a Zanzibar-born Parsi Indian, whose controversial legacy is still felt in the region. (He was better known by Westerners, and much better loved, as Freddie Mercury.)

So, back to Dar, 1993. The club's full, the Prime Minister and his wife and entourage have arrived, and I've been spinning my favourite Lingala and Swahili rumbas for nearly an hour, but no-one's dancing. Then the honoured guests take to the floor as a couple, and immediately everyone's up and dancing too. Relief. It was simply an issue of traditional deference, and *serebuka* has finally deigned to bless our *zilipendwa* party.



## EAST AFRICAN MUSIKI WA DANSI CLASSICS 1972 - 1982

Sterns has been fortunate in securing access to one of the most valuable and extensive mastertape libraries of classic East African popular music. Much of the material has never seen the light of day since first issued more than four decades ago, and many of the selections command three-figure auction prices in their original 7-inch 45-rpm format. For this compilation I have made no attempt to segregate Kenyan and Tanzanian artists; Tanzanians play in Kenyan bands, Kenyans in Tanzanian, and Congolese and other Central and Southern African musicians in both.



Uganda would be included in any compilation of today's East African popular music, but in the '70s and early '80s (the era of these performances) Kampala's version of *zilibendwa* – *semadongo* ('master of many big musics') – was, with the honourable exception of The Afrigo Band, still in its infancy.

There is no *taarab* as such here – that would need at least two CDs' worth by itself – but there is music with that distinctive Indian Ocean flavour. Slim Ali, usually an Anglophone funk performer, teams up with a *taarab* group for a distinctive *chakacha* shuffle. The same 6/8 Mombasa tempo is imaginatively exploited by the criminally under-recorded (one LP, a handful of 45s) Sunburst – or, perhaps, taking into account the several different mastertape spellings – Sunbust Band. The Zairean, Zambian and Tanzanian players in this afro-rock ensemble called their sound *kitoto* and epitomized how pointless it is to compartmentalise '70s East African music.

But the main thrust of the music is *benga* and *zilibendwa*, the dominant mainstream sounds of the era. *Benga* can be full-throttle (The Kauma Boys, Peter Owino Rachar's Golden Kings), but it can also have poise and grace (Victoria Jazz, Segá Segá Band). *Zilibendwa* is generally more

commodious than *benga*, not only to languages but also to various stylistic influences, both local and imported.

Starting in the early '60s, Congolese bands flooded East Africa. Those from northeast Congo headed for Kampala, from the southern Shaba region to Dar, and all to Nairobi to record. They brought with them Cuban influences along with the latest Kinshasa and Brazzaville dance crazes: *kavacha*, *kwasa kwasa* and so on. Like Kanda Bongo Man twenty years later, they recruited Swahili vocalists and instrumentalists, and rapidly learnt Swahili themselves, their sets comprising songs in the region's main languages and several dialects.

Sterns customers will be familiar with the outstanding compilation *Sister Pili + 2*, featuring the prolific singer Batamba Wendo Morris, aka Moreno, who had been a lead vocalist with Safari Sound, Virunga, Les Noirs and several other bands. In 1980 he co-founded L'Orchestre Moja One in Nairobi, where "Dunia Ni Duara" was recorded, later to become a Colombian *champeta* sound-system classic, 'covered up' as "La Gallinita". Sides A and B of the original 45 have here been deftly interwoven into a ten-minute blast more suited to modern ears. *Piqueros* and *champeteros*, time to update your playlists!

Stax soul singers – Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, Arthur Conley and the rest – were of course massively popular all over Africa, with Kenya and Tanzania being no exception, and Maquis De Zaire’s horn arranger pays ample tribute to the Memphis sound in “Denise”.

Congolese-naturalised guitarist and bandleader Johnny Bokelo (born João Botelho in Luanda) remains one of the great untold stories of African music, a modernizer and arranger on par with Manu Dibango and Fela Kuti and an astonishingly prolific recording artist under a bewildering array of aliases, including L’Orchestre Congo International. The opening bars of “Nakupenda Sana” suggest a double-speed Benin-style *afrobeat*, but repeated listening yields an altogether different Mandingue-funk flavour, especially in the guitars, which suggest Ousmane Kouyaté or Djelimady Tounkara.

Orchestre Special Liwanza delivers “Vicky”, nearly 10 minutes of driving, Prince Youlou-style Congo-*mambo*, featuring leader and vocalist Jimmy Moninambo and guitarist Tabu Frantal plus a sharp horn section. Liwanza once backed Ivorian *salseiro* Laba Sosseh on a Sacodis recording session in Abidjan, so they were clearly flexible musicians.

Three legendary East African bands make multiple appearances. After running The Safari Trippers successfully for many years, singer-songwriter Marijani Rajabu formed the mighty Orchestre Dar es Salaam International. Rajabu has been called ‘the Bob Dylan of *zilipendwa*’, and there are few Tanzanians of a certain age who don’t know the lyrics to at least several of his hundreds of compositions – short stories of love, jealousy, poverty, tragedy and the misuses of power and authority. The band on the four songs here is on top form, “Rufaa Ya Kiko” starting as a ‘weekend shuffle’, resolving at around 3’14” into a relentless *mambo*, with “Rudi Nyumbani” following a similar trajectory. “Rafiki Sina” shows the band on a gentle savannah-style ballad, the only one in this compilation.

The 2004 funeral of Patrick Balisidya, founder and, for four decades, the driving force of Afro 70, halted the traffic in downtown Dar for an entire morning. The band’s two tracks here show exceptional versatility, from soul-funk to *rumba* without a flicker.

Though the various Super Mambo groups suffered a bewildering number of name changes over the years, their basic personnel remained roughly consistent throughout. Their speciality was a sort

of Latinate, Hawaiian-influenced guitar *rumba* and *cha cha cha* followed by several tempo-changing *sebenes*. Their sought-after singles regularly fetch serious money on eBay from Latin music fans looking for something different. If you get the chance, check out Super Mambo Jazz 69’s sole RCA Victor LP, which includes another Colombian *champeta* hit, “Maria Ayebi” (retitled “El Mambotazo”).

This is just the tip of the iceberg. I started off with more than 1000 tracks, shuffled and reshuffled to a shortlist of around 60, reducing to 27 for this first volume by means of little more than a blindfold, a drawing-pin and instinct. There are at least another 27 more tracks earmarked for a possible Volume 2, and it’s my hope that the many excellent and knowledgeable old-school Afro DJs worldwide will now start to add a little more *zilipendwa* to their usual afrobeat, highlife, soukous and makossa playlists.

*Tucheze!*



### DJ John Armstrong

There are three connecting strains in John Armstrong’s professional life; the law (now retired), writing and music.

After spells DJ-ing in London at the Hampstead Country Club, the Beat Route and WAG clubs, in 1984 John began a 10-year residency at the Bass Clef – the jazz, Afro and latin club that almost single-handedly kicked off an ‘alternative’ London club boom. This led to further UK residencies, together with festival and club appearances around the world.

In the late 90s John was honorary music director at Brazilian Contemporary Arts, presenting Brazilian cultural events of all kinds in the UK, and also music editor of Latin London, the first fully-dedicated Anglophone Latin culture magazine in London. He has compiled more than 200 albums and was consultant for BBC World Service in the set-up and music programming of Afrique FM.

Currently, John is involved in the founding, construction and development of The Institute Of Light, a multi-media ‘analog hub’ in a disused railway arch in the heart of London Fields. Now open, you can, in August 2016, nibble coxinhas and sip caipirinhas while watching the Rio Olympics on a giant outdoor projector-wall. It’s a life ...



- 1 L'Orch. Dar International**  
*Rufaa Ya Kiko*  
(Marijani Rajab)  
Tape: HTLP 02 (no date)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 2 Afro 70**  
*Hasara Ya Moto*  
(Patrick Balisidya)  
Tape: MOTO 46 (25/07/72)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 3 Kauma Boys Band**  
*Rose Atieno*  
(Samson Ochieng)  
Tape: KER 09 B (21/06/77)  
Language: Dholuo
- 4 Super Mambo Jazz**  
*Band "69"*  
*Nasalaki Nini*  
(Bella Delvo)  
Tape: AFR 14 B (10/02/73)  
Language: Lingala / Kiswahili

- 5 Maquis Du Zaire**  
*Denise*  
(M.M. Adios)  
Tape: MZ 14 B (03/10/75)  
Language: Lingala
- 6 Victoria Jazz Band**  
*Anyanga*  
(John Otonde / Dr. Collela)  
Tape: SGA/M 25 A (07/02/74)  
Language: Dholuo
- 7 Orchestre Conga**  
*Internationale*  
*Nakupenda Sana*  
(Johnny Bokelo Essenge)  
Tape: NANA 1 B (07/02/74)  
Language: Lingala
- 8 L'Orch. Dar International**  
*Rudi Nyumbani*  
(Marijani Rajab)  
Recorded: 28/11/80  
Tape: MOTO 1040 A (28/11/80)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 9 The Golden Kings Band**  
*Taabu Ya Awendo*  
(Peter Owino Rachar)  
Tape: OYR 21 A (14/12/77)  
Language: Kiswahili / Dholuo

- 10 Sunburst Band**  
*Matatizo Nyumbani*  
(James Mpungo)  
Tape: MOTO 108 B (22/11/73)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 11 Urafiki Jazz Band**  
*Nauli Ya Uda*  
(Juma Mrisho)  
Tape: AFR 62 A (07/03/75)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 12 L'Orchestre Grand Piza**  
*Oboti Kolisa*  
(Mbomayou)  
Tape: EB 3 B (25/10/76)  
Language: Lingala
- 13 Hafusa Abasi & Slim Ali and**  
**the Kikulacho Yahoos Band**  
*Sina Raha*  
(Hafusa Abasi)  
Tape: AFR 1024 A (1978)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 14 L'Orch. Moja One**  
*Dunia Ni Duara Pts 1 & 2*  
(Moreno Batamba)  
Tape: AIT/MOJA 1 A/B  
(30/09/82)  
Language: Kiswahili



- 1 Sunburst Band**  
*Enzi Za Utumwani*  
(James Mpungo)  
Tape: MOTO 108 A (22/11/73)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 2 Sega Sega Band**  
*John Ochieng*  
(Joseph Otieno)  
Tape: KUJA 11 A (29/10/77)  
Language: Dholuo
- 3 L'Orchestre Super Mambo**  
*Kurukia Ukuta*  
(Juma Mwina)  
Tape: Super Mambo Tape 1  
(23/03/77)  
Language: Lingala / Kiswahili
- 4 Earthquake Jazz Band**  
*Blasio Onyango*  
(Silvester Odhiambo)  
Tape: NOK 107 B (15/01/75)  
Language: Dholuo

- 5 L'Orch. Dar International**  
*Chama Kimoja*  
(J. Mlenga)  
Tape: DAR INT TAPE 5 B  
(no date)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 6 Vijana Jazz Band**  
*Kosa La Wazazi*  
(Vijana Jazz)  
Tape: TNT 3 A (no date)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 7 Orchestre Special Liwanza**  
*Vicky Pts 1 & 2*  
(Tshimba Monimambo)  
Tape: EB 1 A/B (25/01/75)  
Language: Lingala
- 8 Super Mambo Jazz**  
*Band "69"*  
*Jeanne Mulongo*  
(Bella Delvo)  
Tape: AFR 1 A (08/12/72)  
Language: Lingala / Kiswahili
- 9 Juwata Jazz Band**  
*Mpenzi Zalina*  
(Msondo / Mabera)  
Tape: HTLP02 A (1978)  
Language: Kiswahili

- 10 L'Orch. Dar International**  
*Hatari Kubwa*  
(Marijani Rajab)  
Tape: MOTO 1040 B (28/11/80)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 11 Afro 70**  
*Cha Umheja*  
(Patrick Balisidya)  
Tape: Afro 70 tape 1 (04/10/74)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 12 L'Orch. Dar International**  
*Rafiki Sina Pt 1*  
(Abel)  
Tape: DAR INT TAPE 5 (no date)  
Language: Kiswahili
- 13 Orchestre Super Jambo**  
*Yenga Pts 1 & 2*  
(Africanova Anthony)  
Tape: MZ 105 A/B (1977)  
Language: Lingala