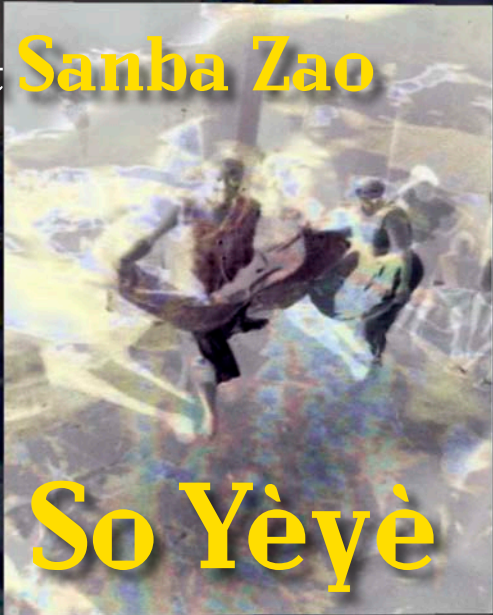




Simbi

feat **Sanba Zao**



So Yèyè

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Founded in 1987, **Simbi** is a Swedish band that performs in Creole, soulful dance music inspired by the Haitian roots music (mizik rasin) they learned on site in Port-au-Prince and out in the Haitian countryside.

Simbi's music is a declaration of love for this culture that allows for a free flow of influences ranging from West African pop, Afro-funk, jazz, and Caribbean carnival music.

In 1991, Simbi was invited by Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, to take part in the 200th anniversary of the 1791 Slave Rebellion, events that ultimately led to the first free black republic. It was an honour to receive an invitation like this and it also provided a fantastic send off for Simbi: The opportunity to perform alongside the country's foremost mizik rasin bands for an ecstatic audience of thousands. Simbi's first album, "Vodou Beat", was released by Imogena in 1993.

Ever since, Simbi has continued to play at venues of all sizes at festivals, schools and clubs around the world in, not only at home in Sweden, but in Canada, Benin, France, Haiti, Benin and the United States too. Three more albums have been released as well: "Kreol" (1996, Imogena), "Kalalou" (2003, MNW/Xource) and the latest "So Yèyè" (2016, Footprint Records).

As a tribute to their knowledge and dedication to Haitian music, the members of Simbi are known there as "the blue-eyed Haitians". The band has worked with several prominent musicians such as Boukman Eksperyans, Haiti's most well-known

roots music group; Jaques Fortheureux, known as "Wawa", one of the major pioneers of traditional vodou music; and as of 2012, Simbi works closely with singer and percussionist Sanba Zao, a unique representative of this living and breathing domestic music culture.

Simbi performed both at the grand opening of the World Culture Museum in Gothenburg in December 2004 with Boukman Eksperyans' front figures Lolo and Mimerose Beaubrun and when the touring exhibition VODOU, created by Haiti's premier anthropologists Rachel Beauvoir and Didier Dominique, opened there.

Simbi has continued to share this music by working for and with young people as well as playing live at clubs and festivals.

Louis Lesly Marcelin, or **Sanba Zao**, as he is known, is a musician, singer and songwriter born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1954. When he was young, Zao listened a great deal to American musicians like James Brown, Al Jarreau and Chick Corea. In the 1970s, he and other like-minded began to explore Haitian folk music, primarily the rich tradition with roots in West Africa that is still very much alive within the Haitian religion vodou.

Curious to learn more, Zao spent time in several northern Haitian villages, Lakou Souvenans, Badjo and Soukri, all known for maintaining their traditions with pride. That is where the music known as mizik rasin evolved and became a platform where they used influences from black American artists, but above all, tra-

ditional vodou music. During the 80s, Sanba Zao was one of the most influential members of this movement and he was also the founder of the bands Group Sa, Foula Jazz and Sanba Yo. Later on, he formed the group Djakata and he is currently the front man in Lakou Mizik.

Sten Källman is the founder and the creative motor of Simbi. From the time he lived in Haiti, 1970–71, and on, he has been influenced by Haitian folk music as a musician, an arranger, and as a composer. Numerous choirs as well as scores of young people involved in music programmes and classes at schools and universities have come into contact with his arrangements of traditional Haitian music and his own songs. A hallmark of Sten's work is the appealing and personal way he channels the energy inherent in Haitian music both as an educator and as a musician.

Sten Källman's arrangements for choir and percussion have been recorded by the vocal ensemble Amanda in Gothenburg, "Amanda chante Haiti" (Footprint Records) and his work has been published by Bo Ejeby Förlag in Sweden and by Earthsongs Choral Music and Walton Music in USA.

Sten is a saxophonist, a percussionist and a singer and he has been - and is - a member of several folk music bands such as Filarfolket (1980s), Den Fule (1990-), Bäck (1997-2006), Trio Samara (2007-), and ZigZag (1996-).

Khaled Harara was born 1987 in Yemen. He is a renowned Palestinian hip-hop artist who has lived as a refugee in Gaza. His texts discuss the political situation in Palestine from a humanitarian and social perspective and criticise the lack of freedom of expression and the suffering in Palestine under the Hamas rule. In Gaza, Khaled Harara was the first to organise hip hop workshops for youth, focusing on writing texts and on different ways of expressing oneself. The workshops were banned, just like his group "Palestinian Unit" and the artist organisation that he was a member of.

As a result of his artistic expression, and his participation as a soldier of the PLO forces before Hamas took control of Gaza, Harara is considered an "enemy of the state". More than once, he has been to prison and subject to rough interrogations, and several of his friends have been killed or injured in fights against the Hamas.

1 AYIBOBO - ÄNGLAR

Ayibobo, ayibobo pou sa Ayibobo
Timoun yo lesen pal anho
Ayibobo vinn wè lesen pal anba Ayibobo

*Ayibobo, children! The saints speak far above us
Ayibobo, come and see how the saints speak from below*

*Angels fly and watch us walk the earth
with heavy footsteps, they watch us.
Breathing hard, our heavy steps are far too fast
Listen, where is the road? We rush!*

2 SO YÈYÈ

Sali lento, So Yèyè, sali lento
Sali lento So Yèyè, sali lento ah!

*Bow down on the threshold, So Yèyè, bow down
In tribute to the midwives and their knowledge*

3 LAZIL O

Kongo Lazil o ewa lwa kongo danjere
Mwen fè twa jou sou dlo a mpa bwè mpa manje
Kongo Lazil o ewa lwa kongo danjere
Nou pa bwè nou pa manje e e e kongo Lazil o

Kongo Lazil, you are a dangerous spirit
For three days I have been at sea
without food and water

Rap in arabic by palestinian hip-hop artist Khaled Harara
*All you need is only the planning, boss (related to the refugee)
your passport firstly needs to be renewed
call the human smuggler and count your dollars
if he gives you a good offer decide the date
think clearly of what you're packing with you
of what you take with you and you take it
you barely going to have a space for you on the boat
that's why drowning is probable
try to be sly, try to be fast
the waves are larger than you
pack your suitcase and bring all you documents (immigrate)
you've been waiting for a long time to migrate
you got the chance and the date is approaching
take your past with you and run away as far as possible*

*I know that you might die drowned there
but your soul will be like minaret from Congo to Palestine*

English translation Khaled Harara.

4 NÈG CHIVE YO

Anye, nèg chive yo Bazilo
Tout pa menm o nan zile a
Pa manje lajan chango, chango la
Pa p sa wè n o o
Pa p sa wè nèg chive sa yo
Pa sa wè yo
Nèg chive yo Bazilo
Tout pa menm o

*Well Guys with dreadlocks are not all the same on the island.
We never took money from the wrong people
We know that they are among us.
You will not see us
You will not see our dreadlocks
You will not see them.
Guys with dreadlocks are not all the same*

6 OMI BA - MACHE ALADA

Omi Ba, Omi Ba ba ye Omi Ba
Papa Ogou O ou mèn m ki rele m isi a
Ou pa di m anyen

Nou manyan vodou mache Alada, Alada e

*Omi Ba, Wisdom,
Papa Ogou, The fighting spirit, you call me,
but you say nothing
We are in touch with the vodou spirit*

7 PINGA DYOL YO

Kongo di yo pinga dyol yo
Yo vini gade pou y ale pale
E e e pinga dyol yo
O o o pinga dyol y
Rete avek nou! Pa kite nou! Kite kongo mache la!

*Members of the Kongo community, watch out for liars.
They come to watch, then run off and spread lies.
Stay with us instead, don't leave.
Keep on dancing the Kongo*

8 ZAKA

Mwen sot anba map monte
Ti gout dlo kouzen mande
Ti gout dlo kouzen mande ato
Pran godèt o

Zaka kouzen mande ayia ti gout dlo
Kouzen, chay la lou na monte
kouzen mwen chay-la lou
Chay la lou na goumen
Kenbe n avanse
Chay-la lou na goumen
Men anpil chay-la pa lou

*I come from down in the valley, I walk up the mountain,
Kouzen, brother, is asking for a drop of water, Kouzen is asking
for a drop of water again.
Take the mug.*

*Kouzen Zaka, the spirit of the farmers, is asking for a drop of
water
Kouzen Zaka, our burden is heavy, we walk uphill. Our burden is
heavy, we struggle,
Hang in there, we're making progress. Our burden is heavy, we
struggle.
Many hands make the burden light.*

9 KREYOL PALE

Kreyol o
Kreyol pale kreyol konprann
Se lang manman mwen
Kreyol o sa ma di lakay!
Se lang papa mwen
Se lang tonton m
Se lang matant mwen
Se lang zansèt yo
O o o o ...

*Kreol o, Creole we speak, Creole we understand
It is my mother's tongue
Creole is what I speak at home
It is my father's tongue
It is my uncle's tongue
It is my aunt's tongue
It is the language of my ancestors
O o o o ...*

The band

Lotta Sjölin Cederblom *vocals*

Louis Lesly "Sanba Zao" Marcelin *vocals, percussion*

Sten Källman *sax song*

Klas Nilsson *trumpet*

Markus Ahlberg *trombone*

Rubens Millet Herrera *congas*

Stefan Bergman *bass*

Mats Eriksson *guitar*

Johan Ohlsson *keyboard, accordion*

Per Svenner *drums*

Producer: Henrik Cederblom

Recorded at Studio Epidemin, Göteborg 2015, mixed in February 2016 by Henrik Cederblom and Hans Asteberg

Mastering: Per Sjösten

Musical arrangements: Sten Källman, Stefan Bergman, Henrik Cederblom, Simbi

Cover picture: Roberto n Peyre

Photos: Sofia Andersson and Josef Andersen

Graphic design: Jocke Wester

Guest musicians:

Christopher Ek *vocals on all tracks*

Khaled Harara *rap on "Lazil O"*

A childrens choir on "Kreyol Pale":

Hilma, Elvin, Arion, Esther, Elvin, Liv, Herman and Julius

Henrik Cederblom *vocals on "Lazil O"*

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