



## Social Justice Themes in Song and Verse from Africa and the Diaspora

May 20, 2023 | 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Prince George's County Memorial Library System  
Greenbelt Branch, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

### I. Introductory Remarks by Laura Murray, President of the National Museum of Language

Introductory Song: "It's Movement Time" by Las Cafeteras, United States, 2012 (video)

### II. Authoritarianism from Ancient to Contemporary Times

- 1) Ancient Egyptian Poems (around 1400 BCE)
  - a) "Plowing and Sowing"
  - b) "Reaping"
  - c) "Threshing"

*Performed by Ed Hostetter in Ancient Egyptian and English.*
- 2) "Complaint," traditional Lomwe women's song, Mozambique  
*Original in Lomwe; performed in English by Sistah Joy.*
- 3) "With Whom Shall I Sing," traditional Maseko Ngoni song, Malawi, 19<sup>th</sup> century  
*Original in Ngoni; performed in English by Sistah Joy.*
- 4) "Kuno Kunena" ("Speaking Out") by Abdilatif Abdalla, Kenya, 1973  
*Performed in Swahili (Kimvita dialect) via recording by the author; performed in English by Greg Nedved.*
- 5) "Siwati" ("Conviction") by Abdilatif Abdalla, Kenya, 1973  
*Performed in Swahili (Kimvita dialect) via recording by the author; performed in English by Greg Nedved.*
- 6) "Mamba" ("Crocodile") by Abdilatif Abdalla, Kenya  
*Performed in Swahili (Kimvita dialect) via recording by the author; performed in English by Greg Nedved.*
- 7) "Patria y Vida" by Yotuel, Cuba, 2021  
*Performed via video recording by the artist.*

### II. Echoes of Colonialism

- 8) "Song of the Machila Bearers," traditional Lomwe song, Mozambique, approx. 1915  
*Original in Lomwe; performed in English by Jill Robbins and Arao Ameny.*
- 9) "Here Comes Ruy's Steamer" by Fernando Nicolas, Mozambique, 1975  
*Original in chiSena; performed in English by Sistah Joy.*
- 10) "Mfie Apem Nipatitire" ("Man of the Millennium") by Adjei Agyai-Baah, Ghana, 2021  
*Performed in Twi via recording by author (with accompaniment by drummers); performed in English by Greg Nedved.*

### III. Introduction to Identity: Poems of Langston Hughes

Members of the audience are invited to read a poem in English or Spanish in this section.

- 11) "Beggar Boy" by Langston Hughes, 1926

*Performed in English by Sistah Joy; translated and performed in Spanish by Patricia Bejarano Fisher.*

- 12) “Cross” by Langston Hughes, 1926

*Performed in English by Sistah Joy; translated and performed in Spanish by Patricia Bejarano Fisher.*

- 13) “Lament for Dark Peoples” by Langston Hughes, 1926

*Performed in English by Sistah Joy; translated and performed in Spanish by Patricia Bejarano Fisher.*

- 14) “The Jester”

*Performed in English by Sistah Joy; translated and performed in Spanish by Patricia Bejarano Fisher.*

- 15) “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” by Langston Hughes, 1921

*Performed in English via recording by the author.*

#### **IV. Identity, Ethnicity and Gender: From Tradition to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- 16) “Lantern and glass,” traditional Ethiopian poem

*Performed in Amharic and English by Workneh Getasew.*

- 17) Adinkra Symbols, Ghana

*Presented by Workneh Getasew.*

- 18) “Spring in New Hampshire” by Claude McKay, Jamaica, 1920

*Performed in English by Greg Nedved; performed in Spanish by Linda Thompson.*

- 19) “Listen, Compatriots!” by Nontsizi Mgwetho, South Africa, 1924

*Original in Xhosa; performed in English by Arao Ameny.*

- 20) “Home is a Woman” by Arao Ameny, Uganda, 2018

*Performed in English live by the author; performed in Spanish by Linda Thompson.*

- 21) “When You Return,” by Macaulay Oluseyi Akinbami, Nigeria, 2008

*Performed in English with Yoruba elements via recording by the author.*

- 22) “Fate” by Odukoya Adeniyi, Nigeria, 2022

*Performed in English via recording by the author.*

- 23) “Self-portrait with phonemic analysis,” Abdulkareem Abdulkareem, Nigeria, 2022

*Performed in English via recording by the author.*

- 24) “Privilege Is...” by Aneesah Lawrence, United States, 2021

*Performed in English via recording by the author.*

- 25) “Uncovered” by Aneesah Lawrence, United States, 2022

*Performed in English via recording by the author.*

#### **V. Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks by Laura Murray, President of The National Museum of Language**

*Reception and Discussion; Drummers Perform*