



"In The Tradition..."

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Founders: Mary Carter Smith and Linda Goss

Songs from 34th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference

Songs to Share

Song Swap with Ilene Evans and Kwanza Brewer

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About Song Swap

Over the years at NABS Festivals & Conference we have found that each of us as storytellers use song, rhythm, rhyme and chants to:

- Engage, extend, and explain the lessons of story,
- Entrain the ears of our listeners and our ancestors
- Help our listeners remember and carry forward the stories they hear

We have also learned the value of having the story of the song. Knowing and Including its history is essential as a part of the respectful appreciation of singer/songwriters. Wherever possible we give credit to the creators of song.

The 34th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference was held in November 1-6 in Philadelphia, PA.

Disclaimer: The songs included are shared with kind permission from presenters, tellers and singer/songwriters. It is written more often phonetically, and not in accordance with the spellings from the languages.

Song List

1	<i>We Are An African People</i>	Created by Opalanga Pugh
2	<i>Harambee Chant</i>	Shared by Kwanzaa Brewer
3	<i>Dr. Carter G. Woodson</i>	Created by Sharon Holley
4	<i>Habari Gani -What's the News?</i>	Created by Sharon Holley
5	<i>Kwanzaa With a Roll</i> (Call-and-Response)	Created by Queen Nur
6	<i>Children Come Hear Some Stories</i>	From Denise Chapman
7	<i>Sansa Kroma</i> (Roaming Hawk, Akan Twi Language)	Shared by Diane Williams
8	<i>Birthday Song</i> (Traditional, Wolof Language)	Shared by Rebecca King

9	<i>Hello Song</i>	By Global Wonders Shared by Oni Lasana
10	<i>Turtle Mother Chant</i> (Traditional Iroquois)	Sung by Candece Tarpley
11	<i>Fanga Alafia</i> (Traditional also spelled Funga Alafia)	Shared by KinderMan
12	<i>Peace</i> (in 4 Parts)	Shared by KinderMan
13	<i>My Grandmother's Pot</i>	Created by Baba Jamal Koram
14	<i>Mama Kai</i>	Adapted by Baba Jamal Koram
15	<i>Tuway Tuway</i> (Circle Game from Ghana)	Shared by Janice Holley
16	<i>Twi Lullabye</i>	Shared by Elaine from Youtube series
17	<i>Ancestor We Are Here</i>	From Masanko Bande
18	<i>Da Koo oh na</i> (Greeting Song, Malawi in Ochichew Language)	Shared by Masanko Bande
19	<i>Ishe Olua</i> (Yoruba)	Group
20	<i>Babethandaza</i> (Traditional Zulu)	Arranged by Ysaye Barnwell, Sung by Zahra Baker in Creative Sounds

1. We are an African People
Created by Opalanga Pugh

Sung in Three Parts

1. We Are An African People
1. Time to Rise, Time To Rise, my brothers, (Sisters) Time to Rise,
2. Get up, Get up, Get up, Get Ready to Rise, Rise my Sisters, (Brothers)

We may remember the words a little differently, and so we adapt it each time we sing it. The leader establishes the song line. Some sing Rise up, Rise up, Rise up Get Ready to Rise.

Opalanga is an ancestor, and we fondly remember her leading, creating and teaching songs to help us establish our connections to each other and the songs of our history.

[See Opalanga on Our Wall of Remembrance](#)

2. Harambee Chant

Shared by Kwanza Brewer

It's Saturday
at Harambee
Blackstorytellers in the house
Say What????

3. Carter G. Woodson

Created by Sharon Holley

Who Was
 Who was
Who Was
 Who was
Who Was... Dr. Carter G. Woodson?

Who Was
 Who was
Who Was
 Who was
Who Was...Dr. Carter G. Woodson?

Who Was
 Who was
Who Was
 Who was
Who Was...Dr. Carter G. Woodson?

Father of Black History
 Father of Black History
Father of Black History
 Father of Black History
Father of Black History.....

4. Habari Ghani -What's The News Created by Sharon Holley

Song is used for Kwanzaa Celebrations in Ki-Swahili Language.

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
(Answer:) UMOJA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
(Answer:) KUJICHAGALIA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
(Answer:) UJIMA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
(Answer:) UJAMAA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What's the news?
(Answer:) NIA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What’s the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What’s the news?
(Answer:) KUUMBA

Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What’s the news?
Habari Gani, Habari Gani, Habari Gani – What’s the news?
(Answer:) IMANI

5. Kwanzaa with a Roll **Created by Queen Nur**

Add one Principle of Kwanzaa at a time with each repetition of the chant. Roll arms (3 times) and Pat legs (2 times). Design to help toddlers and families remember the principles of Kwanzaa.

Chant:

Kwanzaa with a Roll
Kwanzaa with a Pat
Kwanzaa’s got 7 days just like that.

ONE Umoja – Unity
(Audience repeats: ONE Umoja – Unity)

Kwanzaa with a Roll
Kwanzaa with a Pat
Kwanzaa’s got 7 days just like that

ONE - Umoja
(Audience repeats ONE – Umoja)

TWO - Kujichagulia – I know myself
(Audience repeats – TWO Kujichagulia – I know myself)

Kwanzaa with a Roll
Kwanzaa with a Pat
Kwanzaa’s got 7 days just like that

ONE – Umoja
(Audience repeats: ONE Umoja)

TWO - Kujichagulia
(Audience repeats: TWO Kujichagulia)

THREE - Ujima – Together we are responsible
(Audience Repeats: THREE UJIMA – Together we are responsible)

After principal number three recite chant with audience, but let audience respond with all the principles that have already been introduced. Add the next succeeding principle and it's meaning. (Add the meaning only at the time of introducing the principle)

Kwanzaa with a Roll
Kwanzaa with a Pat
Kwanzaa's got 7 days just like that

You say – ONE
Audience Says Umoja

You Say – TWO
Audience Says Kujichagulia

You Say THREE
Audience says Ujima

You Say
FOUR UJAMAA – I buy things from people in my community

(Audience repeats – FOUR UJAMAA - I buy things from people in my community)

Continue pattern with the remaining principles.

FIVE - Nia - "I have purpose – We have purpose"

SIX - Kuumba – I Am creative and make my community beautiful

SEVEN - Imani – I have faith

End with: The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa!

6. Children Come Hear Some Stories **From Denise Chapman**

Children come hear some stories!
How many stories?
I'm gonna tell you story 1.
Story 1 - that's just for fun.
Laughing, Clapping, Wiggling,
Smiling, Singing, Giggling.
Fun, Fun, Fun, Fun at Story time.

Children come hear some stories!
How many stories?
I will tell you story 2.
Story 2 – that's just for you.

Children come hear some stories
(Keep adding....)
Story 3 – that's just for me
Story 4 – time to explore
Story 5 – Oh, so live!

7. Sansa Kroma **Shared by Diane Williams**

Circle Game in the Akan – Twi Language

Call:

Sansa Kroma – roaming Hawk
Ne Na Wo – His mother is dead

Answer:

Akye Kye Nko Komba – (He snatches/preys on chicks)

Verse:

Ose onnko ye edwuma; ne na wuo (He says he won't find a job)

Answer:

Akye kye Nkomba

The song is circle game tapping and passing a stone. The song is about a roaming Hawk child whose mother has died. He flies, and will not work – he looks for chicks to prey on. It is a warning for danger and an expose of the need to protect the innocent.

Mama Lisa's web site has a fuller explanation and a connection to a choral version. <http://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=3780>

(KYE is pronounced Chay)

8. Birthday Song
Shared by Rebecca King

Sung in Wolof. Contact: Rebecca at Rkstories@aol.com

9. Mother Earth Song
By Global Wonders. Shared by
Oni Lasana

You-Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjwkMmdqmH4> – onilasana.com

Chorus:

When we meet someone
We all have words to say (you)
Words that mean hello or
How are you today? (So nice to me-et you)

Verses:

1. Salaam, Shaloam, Guttentag, Buenos Dias
Konechi wa, Namaste, Ni ao, Lay-Ho, Bon Jour, Aloha, Jambo, Hello!

2. Buon Giorno, O ku ale, Salaam Aleikom, Have a lovely day,
Hola, FoFo, Yo Many Mak, Ciao, Morembe, Tashidelek

10. Turtle Mother Chant **Sung by Candece**

From the Iroquois. Played with a rattle

I am the turtle Mother
I have much to do
Little Ones are playing
There is much to do

I am the turtle mother
I have many to feed
I am the great provider, listen to me.
I have much to do

I am the turtle mother
I will show you much
I am the Turtle mother.
I will pray for you.

11. Fanga Alafia **Shared by KinderMan**

Also spelled Funga Alafia.

The words and meaning:

Fanga means Rhythm
Alafia is Swahili for Peace
Ashe – We ask for Divine Blessing, May it be so

It is a Pan African unity song created by drummers from different parts of Africa to play together.

Song

Fanga Alafia Ashe Ashe

Fanga Alafia Ashe Ashe

Dance: The movements that go with the song are opening the hands in time from on the right side and then on the left

Fanga Alafia at Kennedy Center in Washington DC

<https://youtu.be/GTegkMJq15M>

12. Peace

Shared by KinderMan

Four Parts

1. We want peace. War must cease.
Silence to violence. No use for abuse.
2. Peace. Peace. Peace. Peace.
3. Peace, peace, peace, peace. We want peace.
4. Friends, Friends, Friends, 1, 2, 3 – All my friends are here with me.

13. My Grandmother's Pot

Created by Baba Jamal Koram

My Grandmother's Pot
Make the soup hot.
Make it good,
Make it good.

**14. Mama Kai –
Adapted by Baba Jamal Koram**

Mama Kai Kai Kai,
Please give me some oranges
Momo Lai Lai
So juicy and so sweet.

**15. Tuway Tuway
Shared by Janice**

A Circle game from Ghana

Tuway Tuway Badema Tuway Tu way
Abasa dou Amma - Dowa Dowa Tuway Tuway
Badema Tuway Tuway - Badema Tuway Tuway

The Circle game hand clap
Start by facing a partner with back to a neighbor formed in a circle.

- 1) you, your neighbor
- 2) you , your partner
- 3) Add 2 steps to the right side and then 2 steps to the left

**16. Twi Lullabye
Shared Elaine**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hVxr7W07N4&t=473s> a series on
You tube

May qwaba
May qwaba
May qwaba ennay
I'm going and coming back - today

Men su May bey
Men su May bey
 Don't cry my baby
May qwaba ennay oh
 I'm going and coming back - today

May qwaba
May qwaba
May qwaba ochina
 I'm going and coming back -tomorrow

En mah wo Rha ho
En mah wo Rha ho
 Don't be sad
May qwaba ochina oh
 I'm going and coming back -tomorrow

Men ya chay
Men ya chay
Men ya chay ennay
 I'm happy today
Effrisay may wo wong cheng
Effrisay may wo wong cheng
 Because I am next to you

Men ya chay -ennay oh
 I'm happy today

17. Ancestor We Are Here
Shared by Masanko Bande

Traditional from Malawi

Baba Yo
Baba Ay ye
Baba L'Orisha
Baba OK

18. Greeting Song **Shared by Masanko Bande**

Traditional from Malawi. Also used for “Passing the Peace.”

Da Koo oh na - (I see you with my eyes)
Da Koo oh na - (I see you with my heart)
Da Koo oh na - (I open my hands)
Moni – (To greet you)

Masanko’s explanation of the song is that in their culture, we have not properly “seen” someone until we have looked three time. This song demonstrates a polite way to respect another’s humanity and complex beauty.

Baba Yo
Baba Ay ye
Baba L’Orisha
Baba OK

19. Ishe Olua

Yoruba Interpretation: The Work of God cannot be undone. May our work be as God’s Work.

Ishe Olua - Kolay Ba Jay oh
Ishe Olua - Kolay Ba Jay oh
Kolay Ba Jay oh - Kolay Ba Jay oh
Ishe Olua - Kolay Ba Jay oh

Longer Version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TU1K6dXSMAo>

20. Babethandaza Arranged by Ysaye N. Barnwell, Sung by Zahra Baker during In The Spirit Evening Concert	
Sin nje nje nje ngemi thandazo	Things are as they are because of prayer
Sin nje nje nje ngemi thandazo	Because of Prayer,
Ngemi thandazo, ngemi thandazo	Because of prayer
Ngemi thandazo.	
Oomama bagudala babe thandaza	Our mothers/ women of old used to pray
Oomama bagudala babe thandaza	Used to pray
Babe thandaza, babe thandaza,	Used to pray
Babe thandaza	

Ethics
Always give appropriate credit when singing a story.
If you have adapted, share information about the original source.
If song is in a language different from your native language, be sure to use correct pronunciation and know the meaning.
Have fun.
If you capture a song on your recording device, offer to share the recording with the source.

Join us at the Next Song Swap during our Annual National Festival Black Storytelling Festival and Conference

Questions@NABSinc.org