



MSAFIRI ZAWOSE

EPK
TANZANIAN
TRADITIONAL FUSION

www.msafirizawose.com



ABOUT

MSAFIRI ZAWOSE

MUSICIAN

"Music is the answer to everything"

Tanzania's charismatic Gogo innovator Msafiri Zawose breaks open the circle of tradition, the flock of songs and tunes, beats and melodies his fellow musicians have relied on for generations. **Jubilant voices** dance over a broad palette of timbres like the buzzy bowed zeze. **Swaying polyrhythms** combine in **tranced-out jams**, only to shift into delicate filigree of malimba (thumb piano) and vocal counterpoint. It speaks to Msafiri's simultaneous **deep engagement** with and **playful reframing of tradition**.

-From Center Stage Promotion materials

MSAFIRI ZAWOSE

BIOGRAPHY

A charismatic performer, prolific songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Msafiri Zawose is one of the most admired Gogo musicians today. Beginning his career at the tender age of twelve, the importance of the traditions of this music in Tanzanian culture was instilled in him by his father, musical icon Dr. Hukwe Zawose, which has lead him to strive to preserve Gogo music.

However, Msafiri's fusion of traditional Gogo instrumentation and modern rhythms, coupled with his transcendent vocals, has created a unique, soulful and spiritual sound. In this way, he continues to honor his father's legacy whilst cementing his position as a musical pioneer in Tanzania and the world at large. Additionally, he has not only managed to remain relevant amongst local fans, but has succeeded in attracting an international audience through his numerous tours and workshops across the globe.

Msafiri continues to be an inspiration to Tanzanian and other African musicians alike.

DISCOGRAPHY

Having commercially released six full-length albums, Msafiri continues to tirelessly evolve his sound through a growing list of collaborations with a wide range of international labels, producers, and artists.

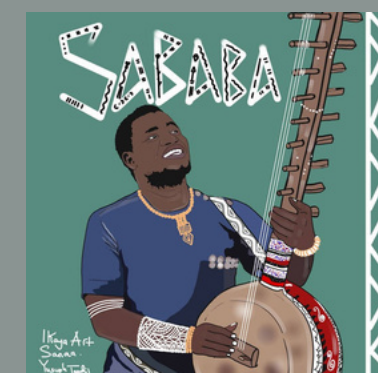
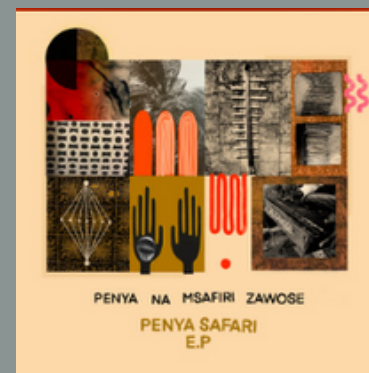
- In 2017, Msafiri's album **Uhamiaji** was released on Soundway Records, an award-winning London-based independent record label.
- In January 2020, Msafiri and Kenya, a UK-based electronic music quartet, released **Kenya na Msafiri Zawose** with
- On the Corner Records, another London-based label. Msafiri and Kenya have continued to collaborate as WEMA, a supergroup including New York producer Photay. WEMA's **self-titled**, debut album was released on April 29, 2022.
- The result of a separate collaboration in 2021, Dutch producer Feiertag and Msafiri's song "Trepidation" is featured on the soundtrack of FIFA 22, a video game published by Electronic Arts, one of the world's major video game publishers. (click on an album cover to listen)

Scan QR Code on Page 6 for more.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Msafiri was a co-winner of the Beyond Music Project, a by-invitation social networking platform and musical collaboration project, in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Recently, Msafiri was nominated for the "Experimental Music" award at the 2021 Sondeka Awards as well as "Best Traditional Song of the Year" at the 2021 Tanzania Music Awards where he won "Best Male Traditional Musician."

Scan QR Code on Page 6 for more.



MSAFIRI ZAWOSE



MUSIC AND LIGHT JUST POUR OUT OF HIM

Msafiri's was one of the sweetest performances I've ever seen anywhere. **Music and light just pour out of him** as he plays! His exquisitely resonant marimba and zeze instruments take you out of this world. Don't miss his performance!"

-Laura C. (Washington, DC)



COMPLEX LAYERS

"Zawose is on an ongoing quest to forge an original sound for a changing Tanzania, a search he took up from his father, Hukwe, a founding figure in the nation's musical independence. He and his five-member group draw on dozens of handwrought instruments to unfold **complex** compositions.

They turn once cyclical pieces into choruses, bridges, and intriguing moments of arresting, tight harmonies. **Layers** build, repeating elements overlap and turn to grooves."

- Tristra Yeager Rock, Paper, Scissors (USA)



MUSIC IS A BRIDGE

"Msafiri Zawose's **music is a bridge** to go to another level into the Afrikan struggle, it has possibility **to transform and entertain alike**. Msafiri's music is very inspiring in a very interesting way, especially the fact that often times I don't understand the Kigogo language, but intuitively I can relate to the message transmitted."

-Zavara Mponjika (Canada)

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CONTACT INFORMATION



Phone Contact

+255 784 829 218



Social Media

@mzawose / IG



Website Address

www.msafirizawose.com



Email Address

mzawose@gmail.com

**For More
Information:**

