

Music and Peace

Muya Francis Kihoro (PhD)

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v8-i5/4091>

DOI: 10.6007/IJARBSS/v8-i5/4091

Received: 05 April 2018, **Revised:** 06 May 2018, **Accepted:** 13 May 2018

Published Online: 17 May 2018

In-Text Citation: (Kihoro, 2018)

To Cite this Article: Kihoro, M. F. (2018). Music and Peace. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(5), 148–154.

Copyright: © 2018 The Author(s)

Published by Human Resource Management Academic Research Society (www.hrmars.com)

This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen

at: <http://creativecommons.org/licences/by/4.0/legalcode>

Vol. 8, No. 5, May 2018, Pg. 148 - 154

<http://hrmars.com/index.php/pages/detail/IJARBSS>

JOURNAL HOMEPAGE

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
<http://hrmars.com/index.php/pages/detail/publication-ethics>

Music and Peace

Muya Francis Kihoro (PhD)

Department of Educational Administration and Planning, School of Education,
South Eastern Kenya University.

Email: fmuya@seku.ac.ke

Abstract

Kenya experienced a traumatic phase of Post Election Violence (PEV) in 2007/8. The looming elections of 2017 were therefore viewed apprehensively by the populace. Under these circumstances, it was, and still is, imperative to spread the message of peace. Music is a universal language that appeals to all people regardless of age, ethnicity, race or religion and people spend a lot of time each day engaging in music. Most importantly music is a practical subject and can be used to carry messages to the people. It is against this background that the author composed a short strophic song in two part harmony using primary chords to carry the message of peace. The author recommends use of selected art songs to spread the message of peace especially in schools and colleges.

Keywords: Post Election Violence, Music, Peace, Music and Peace.

Introduction

Following the announcement of the presidential election results on December 30, 2007, Kenya experienced the worst electoral violence since the inception of multiparty politics in 1992, leaving more than 1,100 people dead, 650,000 displaced, and the country deeply divided (Kriegler and Waki Reports on 2007 Elections). In a bid to address this scenario, the Kenyan government, in collaboration with civil society and with support from the international community, set out an ambitious peace agenda including large investments in new technology, early warning systems, and capacity-building programs for the country's peace infrastructure (PW101-Elections-and-Violent-Conflict-in Kenya-Making-Prevention-Stick.pdf)

The new constitution, a new electoral commission and laws, a reformed judiciary and legislation to prohibit hate speech were all recognized as critical elements to avoiding a repeat of 2007–08. While necessary, both local and international peace building initiatives prioritized the short-term prevention of mass violence. Even peace initiatives in Nairobi targeted specific at-risk groups—especially the youth—with messages tailored to emphasize the cost of violence and intolerance. These measures were felt not to be enough. The author, guided by the maxim “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed” (www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/about-us/who-we-are/history/constitution), rose to the

challenge, which was, and still remains, to reach the minds of the Kenyan populace with the message of peace.

Rationale

Since time immemorial, humanity has used music to communicate. Expressing sentiments and feelings in ways words often cannot, music is a way of reaching out and sharing our hearts. (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/isha/music-for-peace_b_5086026.html). Music is a form of communication different from words, though obviously there are many songs whose lyrics strengthen the message that the author wants to express, emphasizing the sense of the song. It is a means of communication which sensitizes people who are facing the challenges of the world (http://escolapau.uab.cat/img/programas/musica/music_and_peace.pdf)

Music can be used for many purposes: entertainment, setting an environment, inducing certain moods, giving instruction, healing, and so forth (<http://www.kraigbrockschmidt.com/the-hidden-messages-of-music>), because it fulfills a wide range of different functions for people in everyday life (Schramm, 2006; Sloboda, 1999). It is an art form that uses sound as its medium. The musical appeal lies basically on its universality and practicality, and as Gordon (1990) points out, musicality is normally distributed in the population, with most subjects falling somewhere in the middle of the bell curve. There are very few completely unmusical individuals, just as there are few completely musical individuals. In this regard, almost all individuals are music consumers in one way or another.

The author was guided by the tenets above and was of the opinion that the message of peace carried in song would have a more lasting impact than would a theoretical paper on the same topic. The listeners would be exposed to a musical experience, and though they may not understand the language, the arrangement of the chords would in itself be indicative of peace.

Methodology

The researcher composed a short strophic song in Kiswahili, repetitively bringing out the word “Amani” meaning peace. The lyrics were deliberately simplified so as to have a more significant impression on the performers or the audience. Due to its simplicity and strophic nature, the general audience is able to join in and sing along.

The Song

The researcher used a quadruple meter in the key of B major to accommodate most non-singers and therefore encourage them to join in the song. The song uses syncopated rhythm to give it an appealing and lively lilt. It is harmonized in two part harmony, the second voice a third below the melody. Harmony at the third gives an impression of tranquility and peace. Below is an excerpt of the song.

Twahitaji Amani

Amani, amani x 4

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Haya ni maombi
kwa mwenyezi Mungu
Kina baba tuombe
Tujaliwe amani | 2. Haya ni maombi
kwa mwenyezi Mungu
Kina mama tuombe
Tujaliwe amani |
|---|---|

3. Haya ni maombi
kwa mwenyezi Mungu
Vijana tuombe
Tujaliwe amani

Twahitaji Amani
Tuombee amani
Tutangaze amani
Tuhubiri amani

Translation

Peace, Peace x4

1. These are prayers to the almighty God, Fathers, let us pray and be granted peace
2. These are prayers to the almighty God, Mothers, let us pray and be granted peace
3. These are prayers to the almighty God, The youth, let us pray and be granted peace
4. These are prayers to the almighty God Everybody let us pray and be granted peace
Peace X 4

We need peace
We pray for peace
We tell others about peace
We preach peace

Recommendations

The author recommends use of music and dance and other art forms in spreading the message of peace. This is especially necessary whenever one deals with young adults or children in their formative years. Every available opportunity in schools and colleges should be utilized to spread this vital message.

References

- Gordon, E. E. (1990) *A Music Learning Theory for Newborn and Young Children*. Chicago: GIA Publications.
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation, "Kriegler and Waki Reports on 2007 Elections," http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_16094-1522-2-30.pdf, 53, 56.
- PW101-Elections-and-Violent-Conflict-in Kenya-Making-Prevention-Stick.pdf *accessed from* <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files>
- Schramm, H. (2006). Consumption and effects of music in the media. *Communication Research Trends*, 25(4), 1-29.
- Sloboda, J. A. (1999). Everyday Uses of Music Listening: A preliminary study. In S.W. Yi (Ed.), *Music, Mind and Science* (pp. 354-369). Seoul: Western Music Institute.

Disclaimer: The composition was performed by the author at the International Conference on Peace, Security and Social Enterprise organized by Mount Kenya University at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi between May 16th and 19th, 2017.

Appendix: Peace song

peace

Muya F. kihoro

A ma ni a ma ni a ma ni a ma ni A ma ni
a ma ni a ma ni a ma ni a ma ni a ma ni
a ma ni A ma ni a ma ni a ma ni a ma ni
Ha ya ni ma o mbi kwa mwe nye zi Mu ngu ki-na bu bu
tu - o - mbe tu - ja - li - we a ma ni Ha ya ni ma o mbi
tu - o - mbe tu - ja - li - we a ma ni Ha ya ni ma o mbi
kwa mwe nye zi Mu ngu ki-na bu bu tu - o - mbe tu - ja - li - we
kwa mwe nye zi Mu ngu ki-na bu bu tu - o - mbe tu - ja - li - we
a ma ni Twa hi tu ji a am ni tu - o - mbe - u a ma ni
a ma ni Twa hi tu ji a am ni tu - o - mbe - e a ma ni

Copyright © 2017 <Muya, F.>
All Rights Reserved

tu te ago in a ma ni tu hu li ri e ma ni tra hi te ji
tu te ago in a ma ni tu hu li ri e ma ni tra hi te ji

e an ni tu o o - rbi - e a ma ni tu te ago in a ma ni
a an ni tu o o - rbe - e a ma ni tu te ago in a ma ni

tu hu li ri a ma ni A ma ni A ma ni A ma ni
tu hu li ri a ma ni A ma ni A ma ni A ma ni

ni A ma ni
ni A ma ni