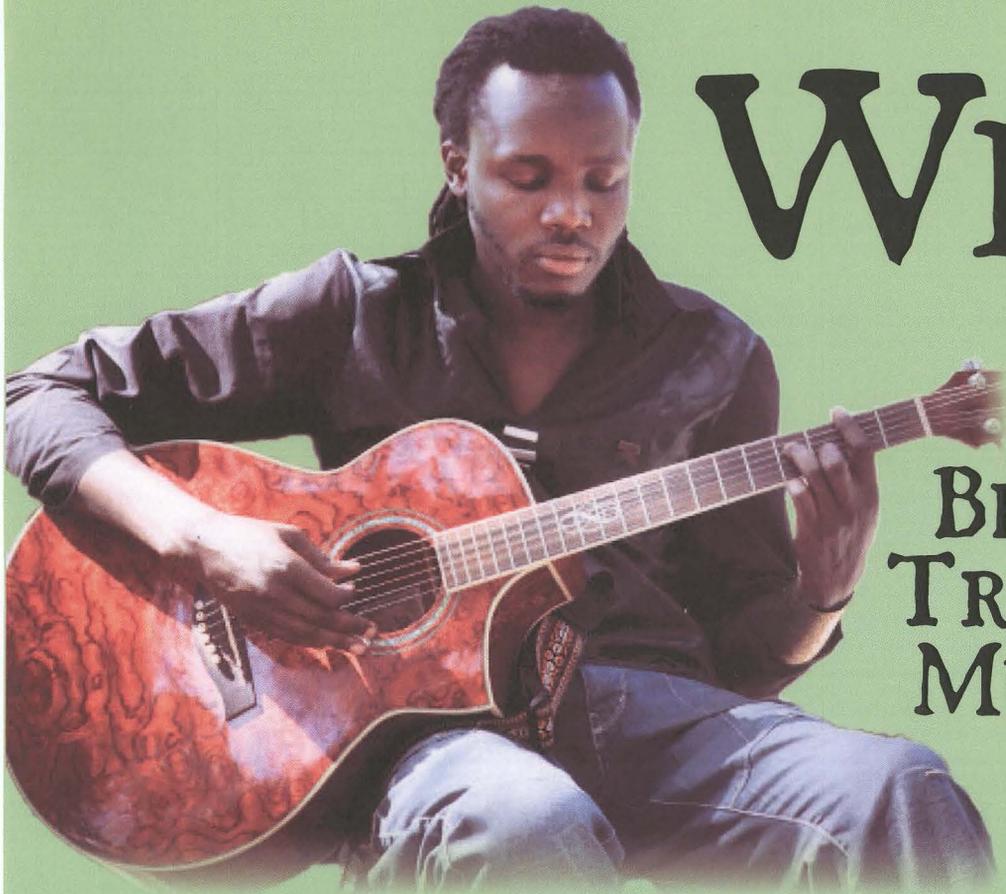


The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress presents

# HOMEGROWN 2014 *The Music of America*

Traditional Ethnic and Regional Music and Dance that's "Homegrown" in Communities across the U.S.



# WINYO

## BENGA AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC FROM KENYA

**WINYO**

*vocals & guitar*

**KOMBO**

*vocals & guitar*

**ALLAN**

*vocals & acoustic bass*

**IDD AZIZ**

*vocals & congas*

**Tuesday, July 1, 2014**

**12 NOON – 1 PM**

**Coolidge Auditorium**

**Ground Floor, Thomas Jefferson Building**

**Library of Congress**

**10 First Street, SE,**

**Washington, DC**

**FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

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Jefferson Building



Produced in partnership with: Smithsonian Folklife Festival's Kenya: Mambo Poa Program  
Government of Kenya Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts  
American Folklore Society

Request ADA accommodations five days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov)  
For more information contact Thea Austen 202-707-1743

# Winyo: Benga and Traditional Music from Kenya

Born Shipton Onyango, **Winyo** adopted his artistic name “Winyo,” which is a Luo word for “a bird” because his voice has been likened to that of a singing bird (the Luo are a tribe from the Lake Victoria region of Western Kenya). Winyo is a singer and songwriter of great sensitivity and he also plays the guitar, backed by his four piece band of accomplished musicians.

Winyo derives his music and musical strength from his forefathers whose African music was rich in melody and traditional harmonies. His musical style ranges from traditional Luo melodies infused with witty story lines, Afro-fusion and Afro-jazz, to a contemporary interpretation of *Benga*. Benga is a mix of contemporary music with traditional Kenyan Luo music in which the guitar is played to mimic a Luo eight-string lyre called a *nyatiti*. Winyo sings in his paternal language of Dholuo as well as in Swahili and English. His stories address a myriad of social issues ranging from the plight of homeless children to courtship and love stories.

Winyo started off as part of the accomplished trio Rateng (which means Black in Luo). He developed his talents as the composer, vocalist, and guitarist of the group. Winyo was the primary writer and composer of songs for the group’s album *Thumology*, released in 2009.

At the end of the year in 2012, Winyo was invited to the Global Music Academy as part of a panel of musicians and artists from Africa working on developing an African music training curriculum. Winyo’s contribution to the project drew on Benga music from Kenya.

Winyo’s debut CD as a solo artist titled *Benga Blues* was released in December 2012 and has been well received. In 2013, Winyo collaborated on stage with Burkina Faso musician Alif Naaba and went on to record a single titled “Pougbi.”

Winyo is a much sought after composer and song writer and has penned songs for many popular artists in Kenya. He is also a professional photographer, actor and a television producer. He is currently the executive video producer for a Kenyan media company called Big Foot Productions, which has produced several local TV shows.

Winyo’s goal is to take African music to the world, and enliven people to dance and sing to the sweet, melodic sounds of African songs and music.

