



**DHOW
COUNTRIES
MUSIC
ACADEMY**



PRESENTATION



The youth of Zanzibar have minimal access to music education of any kind. At best, children grow up in an environment where music is still part of life. However, many young people are less lucky to have such a chance.

Dhow Countries Music Academy is the only music school in Zanzibar. The academy preserves, develops and promotes the unique musical heritage of Zanzibar and the Swahili coast. We were established in 2002 and throughout the years we had more than 1500 students. It has gained an ever increasing international reputation and proudly won the Roskilde World Music Award in 2010.

We place emphasis on teaching traditional Zanzibar music styles, such as *taarab*, *kidumbak* or *ngoma*. and more global genres of music, but also contemporary styles like afro-fusion or jazz are being taught. In addition special workshops, seminars, concerts, exchange visits and networking activities take place throughout the year. We see music as a catalyst for development. The mission of DCMA is strengthening the music industry of Zanzibar by researching,

preserving, promoting the musical heritage of the island. Our students become well educated musicians, both practically and theoretically. We also serve as a sustainable training center that train, and market professionals in Africa. We use music as a tool for social change and youth empowerment. DCMA is active in creating job opportunities for its students. For many of them music became profession. Thanks to education they received at DCMA many now enjoy local and international music careers. DCMA organizes around 170 paid concerts yearly and cooperates with hotels and restaurants. 2/3 of the teaching staff are Academy's graduates. DCMA students and graduates are regularly performing in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Africa and other continents.

As a non-governmental, non-profit organization, DCMA is primarily supported by international donors. DCMA provides music lessons at minimal cost and has currently almost 100 registered students. Even though tuition is on minimal level and have not been increased for 6 years, still almost 70% students cannot afford it. For them we are providing free education.

WHAT WE DO



FREE EDUCATION



YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT



PRESERVING HERITAGE



CREATING JOB
OPPORTUNITIES



SOCIAL IMPACT



EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN



PROGRAMME FOR
CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES



VILLAGE
PROGRAMME



LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL
PERFORMANCES



FREE EDUCATION

Dhow Countries Music Academy is non-governmental, non-profit, community based organization. We provide music education in Zanzibar. Currently we have enrolled around 80 students. Even though tuition fee is minimal (ca. 13 USD per month) and has not been increased for the last 6 years, still almost 70% students cannot afford it. That is why **for those students who can't afford paying, but are dedicated and conscientious, we are offering a free education.**

One of them is **Ferdinand**, who was a jobless, but musically talented teenager, expecting his wife to give birth to their child. He **had almost no perspectives for his future**, but thanks to free education at DCMA he developed his music skills. Now his group Mapanya Band is performing at biggest East African festivals, **and recently made their first European tour.**

It has been 16 years since we started our mission in Zanzibar. From that moment, **over 1,500 people have learned the unique music traditions of Zanzibar and East African coast.** For many of them music became their profession, they enjoy local and international music careers. We want to allow more young people with musical talent to join DCMA and give them an **opportunity not only to develop their talents but also to change their lives.**





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The ability of music to raise spirits and inspire is something that most people innately understand. The discipline of actually learning to play an instrument is altogether harder, but the pleasure of creating combined with the process of learning are **helping youth in Zanzibar to find a new path in life.**

Christopher Anthony grew up in a small village Kitope,. **He didn't have any goals, he didn't care for the future.** He loved listening to music, but didn't think about becoming a musician. His family felt like that might be a chance for him. They convinced him to join DCMA. Christopher got inspiration from teacher Abeid, a brilliant guitar player. **He decided to change his life.** Now he was leaving home at six o'clock in the morning, putting goats to pasture, going to the DCMA and returning home at night. When his father couldn't pay for his transportation anymore, Christopher found a job to continue his studies. He even started to learn flute as a second instrument. Soon, **because of his dedication and progress, he was good enough to perform with DCMA taarab group during concerts and festivals.** His friends laughed at him but at this point **he was self-confident, working hard, performing and earning money.** He also established his own group Mcharuko, one the most promising bands in Zanzibar.

"I'm very grateful for the existence of DCMA, I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for it. DCMA has changed me. There are loving people and teachers who enabled me to become a musician. I hope that more people can hear about it and join, especially those from the streets, with problems. They should be able to come to DCMA and change themselves."





PRESERVING HERITAGE

Before DCMA was established, **traditional music in Zanzibar was close to be forgotten.** There were only a couple of traditional taarab groups, and very few young people willing to keep the heritage. But since DCMA started its mission **the situation has changed.** **Now you can hear taarab in radio, TV, restaurants, hotels. Internet is full of taarab clips.** Our goal is to preserve, develop and promote the unique musical heritage of Zanzibar and the Swahili coast. The **DCMA** has gained an ever increasing international reputation and proudly **won the Roskilde World Music Award in October 2010 for teaching traditional music.**

Particular emphasis is being placed on teaching traditional Zanzibar music styles, such as taarab, kidumbak or ngoma. The DCMA is proud to be the guardians of a living cultural heritage and proud to preserve and promote the musical heritage of Zanzibar and the Dhow Countries.

Through music **we are proving that the beauty of Zanzibar lies not only in pristine beaches and the gentle, blue ocean, but also in its people and their culture.** Music in Zanzibar is a living tradition, telling stories of the days past and present.





CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

DCMA is active when it comes to create jobs for our students. We organize and promote around 170 paid concerts yearly, we work with hotels and restaurants providing them with music, 70% of our teaching staff are DCMA graduates. **For many of our students music is chance to get out of the poverty, change their live and perspectives, to stay out of “street life”.**

One of the examples is **Rashid** – now 25 years old – coming from a very poor family. Before his studied at DCMA his only income was through selling daily newspapers. His parents separated when he was very young and, **basically, he was a ‘street boy’**. After his parent’s separation, he stayed with his mother and there was no funds available for schooling for him. Luckily, while selling newspapers, he walked past the facilities of the DCMA and heard students practicing. He thought that maybe **music might be his chance**. After an audition, he was accepted at DCMA. He finished a Certificate and Diploma courses in traditional instrument - *oud* - and **has been able become a musician**. Last year he was invited to perform at a major international conference in Abu Dhabi (at New York University in Abu Dhabi). He plays weekly at the concerts organised by DCMA and at hotels in Zanzibar. With income he is getting from those regular performances **he is now able to support his family**.





SOCIAL IMPACT

Many think that music is just for fun. But it is so much more. **Music has the capacity to act as a powerful force for social change.** And as the only music school on the island, we are aware of this force and **we use it in a positive way on many levels.** „I’ve never wanted to play music for money or to become famous, I will be happy to see reconciliation between people through my music” – says Christopher, our student, who recently recorded a hope song for HIV-positives..

Economically music is drawing different kinds of revenue such as concerts, entertainment in hotels and restaurants, cultural tourism. Thanks to that our students are generating income for them and their families. Music is the way for people to express and share themselves with others. Zanzibari musicians encourage people to try harder and overcome daily life challenges and reach for higher goals.

“To solve a problem is not hiding it, you have to make it open. I love my society, I’m proud to be Zanzibarian. And that is what makes me stronger every single day, but it’s a lot of challenge. So I don’t only sing for my heart, **I also sing for my society, for my culture.**” – says Amina Omar, DCMA graduate and now a vocal teacher. She is leader of Siti & the Band – a rising star in East Africa - a group combined with our students and graduates.

Successful stories of DCMA students serve as examples that hard work and dedication are bringing results.





EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

As the only music school in Zanzibar, the DCMA's mission is to share skills and experiences with children and youth. We believe that music education is a fundamental and essential part of childhood development and offers much more than just an enjoyable hobby. Zanzibar lacks music education in public schools and the DCMA, therefore, tries to fill this gap. The DCMA now provides free music lessons for more than 100 kids in six primary schools in Zanzibar. We offer free education to give back to those communities who have assisted or supported the DCMA throughout the years.

Learning music benefits children by fostering academic, social, and emotional growth as well as improving linguistic skills. Studies show that those who undergo music education perform better than the norm in standardized test results and achieve higher grades in high school. Music education develops skills necessary for success in the global workplace. By focusing on doing rather than simply observing, music students develop self-directed, proactive dispositions. Employers often seek multi-dimensional employees with the sort of flexibility and creative intellect that music education helps to instill.

One mother whose 12-year-old son Omar takes music lessons at the DCMA observes: **"Since Omar is learning music he has become more patient, his teamwork skills increased, he is more disciplined."** She also noted that his reading and math skills improved. Omar agrees. He adds, "music lessons are a great way to learn and have fun at the same time."





PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

DCMA is committed to helping children with disabilities by offering free music lessons to mentally and physically challenged children in Zanzibar.

We started this work in 2012 at Kisiwandui Primary School where DCMA educators teach a group of 16 children and youth with physical disabilities such as blindness, hearing impaired or wheelchair-bound. While DCMA teachers Nima and Zainab are not professional art therapists, they work alongside the school teachers to create the desired results. The DCMA organizes regular music concerts where Kisiwandui children perform and their priceless smiles are matched by delighted audiences. **In 2018, the DCMA began offering free music education to children with Down Syndrome and Autism in partnership with Kahesa Zanzibar**, a local non-governmental organization advancing the needs of children with disabilities.

Art therapy for children with disabilities helps develop speech and language skills in the areas of communication including oral, motor, sequencing, intelligibility, and language patterns. **Music classes also help students learn and strengthen social skills while also boosting self-esteem.**

We believe that music can transform mentally and physically challenged children's lives by promoting social inclusion. While these students have often faced social stigma due to their disabilities, we recognize the power of music to overcome these barriers and create the conditions for these children to experience success through the music learning process. **The DCMA is happy to provide musical learning experiences that give these children a sense of belonging, accomplishment, and joy among their peers, neighbors and families and friends.**





VILLAGE PROGRAMME

In addition to our activities in Stone Town, we started in 2008 an outreach program to respond to requests of village musicians. In rural areas of Zanzibar still some **small traditional orchestras continue to exist but struggle to survive**. Mahonda is a small village about 25 km outside of Stone Town. Here a small group “Kizazi Kipya” were meeting daily to rehearse and practice taarab and kidumbak music. Their resources was very scant, (they had a **few broken violins and drums**) and the skills of the musicians were more than limited. But they clearly loved music. **DCMA started to provide regular music lessons to them and repaired their instruments**. Because there is hardly any employment in this area and especially the fact that young people are very poor **all the lessons are free to anyone interested**. Thanks to our efforts “Kizazi Kipya” started to perform in Stone Town and at festivals in Zanzibar.

Due to lack of funds, this formerly very successful programme was discontinued in August 2015. But the passion for music never died in Mahonda and we decided to **come there and start to teach again in September 2017**.





LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Throughout the years DCMA has established partnerships with a lot of artistic and academic institutions, media partners, festivals, diplomatic missions, social and commercial enterprises etc. We are proud that so many respected organizations trusted us. We believe that working in team is the key to bring the real change. Among our valued partners you can find:

- New York University Abu Dhabi
- World Unite (Germany)
- University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- University of Hildesheim (Germany)
- SOS Childrens Village (Canada)
- Boston University (USA)
- Africalia Foundation (Belgium)
- Embassy of Switzerland
- Goethe Institut (Germany)
- Acra Foundation (Italy)
- Sauti Academy (Kenya)
- UNESCO
- Voluntary Service Overseas (United Kingdom)
- Ford Foundation (USA)
- Screen Station (United Kingdom)
- Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Tumaini University Makumira (Tanzania)
- Brave Festival (Poland)
- Champlain College (USA)
- Musique A Mayotte (Comoros)
- Hivos Foundation (Netherlands)
- Alliance Française
- Pole Regional des Musiques Actuelles (France)





INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES

Our groups, students and teachers are regularly performing in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Africa and other continents. Among most important performances there are:

2004 – various concerts in **Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, France**

2004 – 2018 Busara Festival, **Zanzibar**

2005 – Mela Festival, **France**

2005 – 2017, Zanzibar International Film Festival, **Zanzibar**

2005 – Music Crossroads, **Malawi**

2006 – Mura Mura Festival, **Japan**

2006 – Ibsen Festival, **Norway**

2008 – Sibiu Festival, **Romania**

2009 – Riddu Riddu Festival, **Norway**

2010, 2012, 2015 – Brave Festival, **Poland**

2010 – Fedde Festival, **Norway**

2013 – Foyer de Mascarene Festival, **Mayotte and Comorros**

2015 – Africa Festival, **Wurzburg**

2016 – Orient Festival, **Latvia**

2016 – Abu Dhabi Festival, **United Arab Emirates**

2017 – HIFA Festival, **Zimbabwe**

2017 – Nairobi Cultural Week, **Kenya**

2017 – various concerts in **USA, Spain and Norway**

2018 – various concerts in **Nairobi, Kenya**

2018 – various concerts in **Switzerland**

2018 – Manifold Festival, **United Arab Emirates**

2018 – DOADOA Festival, **Uganda**



NUMBERS OF DHOW COUNTRIES MUSIC ACADEMY

<div>1</div> <div>THE ONLY MUSIC SCHOOL IN ZANZIBAR</div>	<div>6</div> <div>AWARDS FOR PROMOTING CULTURE</div>	<div>8</div> <div>MUSIC GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH DCMA</div>
<div>12</div> <div>INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS A YEAR</div>	<div>20</div> <div>INTERATIONAL PARTNERS</div>	<div>24</div> <div>CDs RECORDED BY DCMA STUDENTS AND TEACHERS</div>
<div>27</div> <div>EMPLOYEES</div>	<div>30</div> <div>SPECIAL WORKSHOPS PER YEAR</div>	<div>80</div> <div>STUDENTS A YEAR</div>
<div>170</div> <div>CONCERTS A YEAR</div>	<div>500</div> <div>INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES OF OUR STUDENTS</div>	<div>1500</div> <div>STUDENTS FOR 16 YEARS</div>
<div>4500</div> <div>LESSON HOURS PER YEAR</div>	<div>13 000</div> <div>SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS</div>	<div>15 000</div> <div>PEOPLE VISITING DCMA A YEAR</div>

We would like to tell you the story of a young man. 13 years ago Robert John lived in a small village in the north of Tanzania. In a village without electricity and running water. He worked on grazing cattle earning about \$ 2 a week. Its biggest treasure was the small transistor radio. Every night he switched on the only station that his radio was receiving and listened to hits from overseas.

Robert dreamed of breaking out of his village. He saw no opportunity to change his live. He decided to go to Zanzibar where the opportunity to find a better paid job seemed much bigger. After a few days of travel, and spent all the savings he reached the island. He did not speak in Swahili or English but quickly he managed to find a job digging ditches. He was still listening to the radio, learning new music. He wanted to become a musician himself.

In one of the broadcasts he heard about DCMA. The next morning he came to school and asked if he could learn how to play an instrument.

When asked what instrument he was thinking, he did not quite know how to respond because he rarely had the opportunity to watch live instruments. When one of the teachers started demonstrating more instruments, Robert decided he wanted to learn how to play the piano. He did not have the money to study, but DCMA allowed him to learn for free.

The first months were a nightmare for Robert, playing piano was going very hard, he did not understand the scores. But after a year Robert began to use the instrument better and better and began to understand the theory of music. He passed other practical and theoretical exams until he finally graduated from Dhow Countries Music Academy after five years. Shortly after graduation, the Academy hired him as a piano teacher. Today he is one of our best lecturers.





MEDIA ABOUT DCMA

The tradition is kept alive by this dynamic academy which trains next-generation masters and hosts weekly taarab concerts as well as a lovely program of Afro-jazz and fusion bands

Lonely Planet, August 2017

At the heart of this growth is the DCMA, located in Stone Town. Its location, overlooking the Indian Ocean, epitomizes the revival of a rich heritage. It s a fortress of musical culture.

The New Time, March 3, 2011,

“The success of DCMA is demonstrating to the donor community that it is a strong and transparent organization performing a needed job assisting African students to present their cultural expressions and from this to be provided with economic sustenance.

The African, Monday, April 13-19, 2015

“DCMA is working tirelessly to train a new generation of musicians playing traditional music in Zanzibar”

Daily News, Friday, January, 16, 2009

DCMA has become a kind of music epicenter of Zanzibar, which covers the music scene of Stone Town and the clubs at Zanzibar's fantastic beaches with music and bands.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, April 18 2018

“Over the years DCMA has become an essential meeting point for the vibrant local cultural scene. The combination of traditional and modern music has given DCMA prestige as an ambassador for Zanzibar culture beyond national and African borders”

Un Solo Mondo, June 2018

Mohammed Issa Matona is a man on a mission. A master of taarab music, Matona is also the co-founder of Zanzibar's Dhow Countries Music Academy, a school dedicated to preserving the island's traditional music styles.

CNN, December 31, 2011

SPONSORS & PARTNERS



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LUXURY is PERSONAL





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