



SHAMSI  
MUSIC

# BIOGRAPHY

**Shamsi Music is a jazz & afro-jazz fusion band from Nairobi Kenya, which prides itself in creating memorable musical experiences that capture the heart, mind and soul. Formed in 2014, the band set the core of their musical journey as the desire to create music that mirrors the sound of their heartland, Kenya, and their Motherland, Africa.**

In just two short years after their formation, and against all odds, Shamsi Music became the youngest band ever to be selected to play at Kenya's biggest live event, The Safaricom International Jazz Festival. They quickly gained admiration and raving support from fans and critiques alike, with people quickly falling in love with their music (see attached press quotes). They proceeded to win the Café Ngoma Award for Best Jazz Act 2017. In April 2018, they became the first ever Safaricom International Jazz Festival (2014 - 2018) export, after they were selected to play at the Festival Jazzy Koum Ben in Bamako, Mali.

Their sound can be described as Kenyan folk jazz eclectically infused with a predominant afro jazz influence, enchanting melodies and solid African rhythms. Shamsi is Swahili-Arabic for "Sun". They desire to be a light to the world and music industry, creating music that refreshes, inspires and gives hope, for God's glory.

**Their performance history includes (but is not limited to) sharing the stage with:**

- African Jazz Icon, Manu Dibango - Cameroon
- Cuban piano maestro, Roberto Fonseca
- Vocal powerhouse Fatoumata Diawara - Mali
- Kora Virtuoso Sekou Kouyate - Guinea
- Grammy Award winning saxophonist, David Sanborn - USA

**Locally, they have worked with amazing talent such as Kavutha Mwanzia-Asiyo, June Gachui Kendi Nkonge, Manasseh Shalom, Rigga, Noel Nderitu & Mwanga Band (as the session band for their ground-breaking Live DVD Recording project, "We Will Rule")**

**Notable international appearances include:**

- Festival Jazzy Koum Ben - Bamako, Mali
- DOADOA East African Performing Arts Market - Kampala, Uganda

**Notable local appearances include:**

- Safaricom International Jazz Festival 2016/2017/2018
- Kenyan Jazz All Stars Edition (SIJF - International Jazz Day)
- ONGEA Eastern Africa Music Summit
- The GoDown Gig
- Jazz Attitude 2 & 2.5
- Thursday Nite Live @ Js
- Jazz at the Riverfront @ Two Rivers Mall
- Jamhuri Festival
- Dawn to Dusk (Their ground-breaking album launch, the 1st of its kind for a band of their nature in Kenya)

**The band has also performed at reputable establishments in Nairobi such as Capital Club EA, Radisson Blu, Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club, Amber Hotel and Royal Orchid Hotel among others, either as a resident entity, or as part of the entertainment menu for corporate functions and weddings at the aforementioned venues.**

**Their masterfully crafted debut album, "The Audition", includes collaboration with master percussionists Tetu Shani and (Ted Fellow) Kasiva Mutua, among other gifted musicians.**

As ever, Shamsi Music are thrilled to keep doing what they do and are excited to find out where their music will take them next!

# RECENT PROJECTS

## AfroSynthesis

Features tracks from their upcoming sophomore album, AfroSynthesis



Nthenya  
4:26



Murata  
5:27

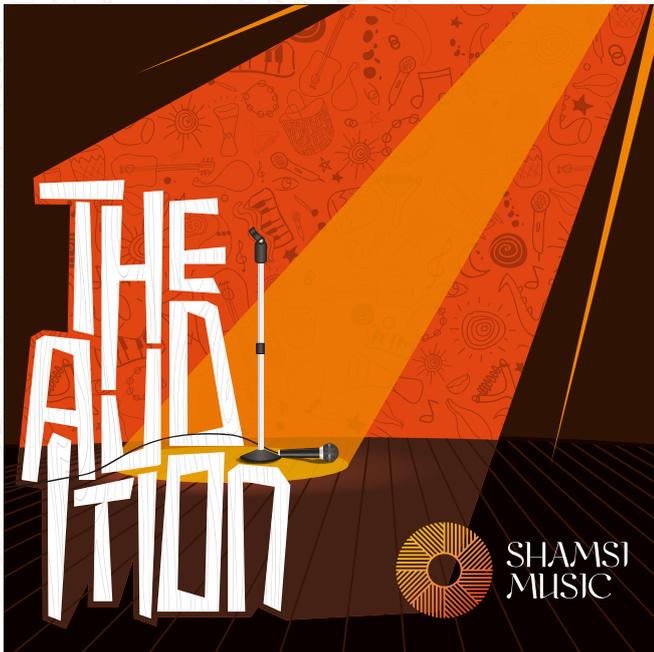


Elephant Parade  
5:55

## The Audition

"The Audition" is Shamsi Music's debut album consisting of masterfully composed and re-imagined pieces brought to life through the fusion of percussion, string, wind, vocal and keyboard instruments.

Recorded in 2016 and published in 2017, The Audition introduces their audience to a new sound and exciting groove.



Birds of Paradise  
4:34



Kipepeo  
4:54

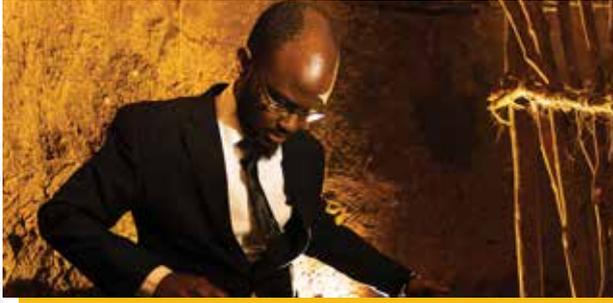


The Beginning  
4:37



Hold D  
4:54

# THE BAND



*Paul Mbithi*

**KEYBOARD GURU**  
BAND LEADER / MUSIC DIRECTOR  
COMPOSER



*'Laka' Waithaka Nyaga*

**SAXOPHONE WHIZ**  
ASSISTANT BAND LEADER  
CROWD SENSATION  
COMPOSER



*Kenn 'Biggie' Njoroge*

**DRUMMER EXTRAORDINAIRE**  
GROOVE-MASTER



*Michael Munene*

**MASTER BASS GUITARIST**  
CHARISMATIC ARTIST  
COMPOSER



*George Nyoro*

**GENIUS MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST**  
CREATIVE LEAD



*Immanuel Mohol*

**GUITAR MARVEL**  
PASSIONATE PERFORMER



*Julius Kibugi*

**SOUND ENGINEER**  
PAR EXCELLENCE

## VIDEOS

This is what you can expect from Shamsi Music. **Lively Fusion Jazz** with lots of passion, personality, fun-fair & excellence!



### Shamsi Live Performances

The Shamsi Live Experience.



### Shamsi Unplugged

An unplugged video series.



### Shamsi Music Christmas

Creative renditions of timeless Christmas Carols.



### The Audition

Tracks off our debut audio album.



## PRESS QUOTES



[Shamsi Music] are a refreshing Afro-Jazz ensemble. Their music is very mature with excellent little breaks and an arrangement that leaves you yearning for more. Their music takes you on a journey that explores the periphery of human imagination with melodies that linger long after you have left the concert hall.

*Boniface Nyaga, Daily Nation*



Shamsi Music is a highly-energised modern jazz group... Two members of the band who deserve some special mention are the drummer and bassist—the anchors of the band. Their youthful age isn't no handicap that would deny them some interesting musical insights that are, in most situations, rare among musicians of their generation.

*Murimi, Standard Newspaper*



[Shamsi Music] slayed and showed the crowd exactly why they were selected by Safaricom to represent Kenya and rock the Jazz Lounge stage. I was so proud because their music and live performance was absolutely world class and I felt so proud to hear jazz music played in such a professional way by our own.

*Lyra Aoko*



Shamsi Music is a refreshing Afro-Jazz ensemble. Their music is very mature & showcases excellent arrangement.

*Maureen Shelmith*

## AWARDS



CAFE NGOMA  
AWARDS

Best Jazz Act 2017

## PRESS QUOTES



**My picks of the day however, were local bands Shamsi Music... Shamsi Music was the first band on stage to get everyone on their feet and their rapport with the crowd went on for their entire set. They were also the only band to get the crowd yelling for more when their set ended.**

*SIJF 2017 Review*



**Kenyan band Shamsi Music was already on stage when I arrived. The energy was up in the air. The band was a brilliant pick and certainly they did not fail their own. Their performance was exemplary. I actually can't get one of their songs out of my head.**

*SIJF 2016 Review*



**Kenyan band Shamsi Music opened the show with an interactive African infused jazz set. They got the crowd on their feet playing an array of original songs, and further surprised the crowd with an instrumental rendition of Mercy Masika's "Mwema".**

*SIJF 2016 Review*



**There is currently a change of the guard with fast-rising groups like Shamsi Music taking centre stage. This year, Shamsi Music was one of the big discoveries at the jazz festival. They had auditioned unsuccessfully twice previously for the Safaricom festival before eventually being selected for the 2016/17 edition. Shamsi, which was formed in 2014 by six musicians who had previously played together in various gigs, has also just released their debut album "The Audition."**

*Business Daily*

# PRESS

Live Music by **SHAMSI MUSIC** *Carols by Candlelight*

JOIN US AT THE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT / KAREN BLIKEN MUSEUM / SPM ONWARDS / FREE ENTRY

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER WE MAKE  
**MUSIC THAT MOVES YOU**  
THIS INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

PERFORMED BY  
**Manu Dibango & Soul Makossa Gang**

TUESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018  
10:00 AM - 12:00 AM  
KAREN BLIKEN MUSEUM, LANGATA  
TICKETS: 2500 (ADVANCE) AND 3000 (GATE)

Safaricom International Jazz Day

Safaricom Presents  
**Kenyan Jazz All Stars Edition**

SAFARICOM INTERNATIONAL  
**JAZZ FESTIVAL**

DATE: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018  
VENUE: KAREN BLIKEN MUSEUM, LANGATA  
TICKETS: 2500 (ADVANCE) AND 3000 (GATE)

**THE MAYDAY CONCERT**

APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2018, 6PM  
NYAMA MAMA PARKING  
Advance 2000 | Door 2500

Tickets available on [www.mtickets.com](http://www.mtickets.com)

**TWO RIVERS**

**JAZZ RIVERFRONT**  
FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 5 TO 9PM WITH  
**SHAMSI MUSIC**

**JAZZ ATTITUDE**

ADVANCE: 500  
REGULAR: 1000

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON [MYMOOKH.COM](http://MYMOOKH.COM)  
27/09/17 THE ALCHEMIST

**JAMHURI WEEK**

**SHAMSI MUSIC**

TUE, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
NYAMA MAMA, WESTLANDS  
FREE ENTRY, SHOW STARTS AT 4PM

ROOTS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

**THURSDAY NITE LIVE @ J'S WESTLANDS**

FRM 8-11PM

FEATURED: **SHAMSI MUSIC**

MAY 04<sup>TH</sup>

SAFARICOM INTERNATIONAL  
**JAZZ FESTIVAL**

PRESENTS  
**THE AUDITION ALBUM LAUNCH**

**DAWN TO DUSK**

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE  
13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017

GATES OPEN 6:30PM | SHOW STARTS 7:30PM  
ADVANCE: 1,500 | GATE: 2,000 | VIP: 3,500

FEATURED: Rendi Nkonge, Manasseh Shalom, Emma Mutua

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE: Kavulha Mwanzia-Abiyo, Rigga, Nechesa Odima, DJ D-Lite

**JAZZ ATTITUDE**

23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2PM - 10PM  
THE ALCHEMIST BAR, WESTLANDS

ADVANCE: 500  
REGULAR: 1000  
STUDENT ID: 500  
VIP ADVANCE: 2500  
VIP GATE: 3000

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON [MYMOOKH.COM](http://MYMOOKH.COM)



# BOOKING

For all *Shamsi Music* booking requests, please contact:

**Booking:** [booking@shamsi.co.ke](mailto:booking@shamsi.co.ke)

**Inquiries:** [info@shamsi.co.ke](mailto:info@shamsi.co.ke), [kenn@shamsi.co.ke](mailto:kenn@shamsi.co.ke)

**Tel:** +254772944090, +254722175341, +254725205287

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Find *Shamsi Music* online at:

**Website:** [www.shamsi.co.ke](http://www.shamsi.co.ke)

 Shamsi Music

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