



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. 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.**

The band was officially formed in October 2014 after playing together at a charity concert event earlier that year and realizing that there was more that the unit could offer the music industry. Barely two years later, after being rejected twice by Kenya's biggest live event, The Safaricom International Jazz Festival, Shamsi Music became the youngest band ever to be selected to play on that same platform as one of the Kenyan bands in the 2016/2017 season of the 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 and 2018.

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. They have proceeded to play several events and festivals in the region and are poised to dominate the regional Afro Jazz scene and make notable contributions to the wider international Jazz and World Music scene.

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 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, Chris Adwar, Kendi Nkonge, Manasseh Shalom, Rigga, Webi, 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
- Bayimba International Festival of the Arts - Uganda
- Sauti za Busara - Zanzibar (Feb 2019)

**Notable local appearances include:**

- Safaricom International Jazz Festival 2016/2017/2018
  - ONGEA Eastern Africa Music Summit
  - The GoDown Gig
  - Jazz Attitude 2 & 2.5
  - Thursday Nite Live @ Js
  - Jamhuri Festival
  - Jazz at the Riverfront @ Two Rivers Mall
  - Dawn to Dusk (Their ground-breaking album launch, the 1st of its kind for a band of their nature in Kenya)
  - AfroSynthesis: a self-curated experience, an artistic exploration of a syncretized Africa
- Among many others!

**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 sophomore album AfroSynthesis is set for release in August 2019 and promises to be explosive! Their masterfully crafted debut album, "The Audition", includes collaboration with master percussionists Tetu Shani and (Ted Fellow) Kasiva Mutua, among other gifted musicians.**



# 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.



- 1 The Audition
- 2 Miyale
- 3 The Beginning
- 4 Lukenya Giraffes
- 5 Free
- 6 Hold D
- 7 Dik Dik
- 8 Journey of Life
- 9 Mighty Long Way
- 10 Birds of Paradise
- 11 Kuhappy
- 12 Wa Milele
- 13 Kipepeo
- 14 Say No More
- 15 Mic Drop

Executive Producer: Shamsi Entertainment Ltd.  
Music produced and arranged by Shamsi Music for Shamsi Entertainment Ltd  
Recording Engineers: Victor Mbogo, Annette Oduor, Tim Baraka for 3 Twins  
All tracks recorded live at Mwanga Hub Studios, Nairobi Kenya.  
Mix Engineer: Victor Mbogo  
Mastering Engineer: Annette Oduor  
Artwork by Chris Wanjagi for The Directionman Group  
Album Photography by Wachira Macharia for Wachira Macharia Photography

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

Facebook: Shamsi Music  
Twitter: @ShamsiMusicKE  
Instagram: @shamsimusicke  
YouTube: Shamsi Music

Contact / Booking:  
- [booking@shamsi.co.ke](mailto:booking@shamsi.co.ke)  
- [info@shamsi.co.ke](mailto:info@shamsi.co.ke)



© 2017 SHAMSI ENTERTAINMENT LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.  
UNAUTHORIZED DUPLICATION IS A VIOLATION OF APPLICABLE LAWS.



Birds of Paradise  
4:34



Kipepeo  
4:54



The Beginning  
4:37



Hold D  
4:54

## 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.





# THE BAND



*'Laka' Waithaka Nyaga*

**SAXOPHONE WHIZ**  
BAND LEADER  
CROWD SENSATION  
COMPOSER



*Kenn 'Biggie' Njoroge*

**DRUMMER EXTRAORDINAIRE**  
ASSISTANT BAND LEADER  
GROOVE-MASTER



*George Nyoro*

GENIUS **MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST**  
CREATIVE LEAD



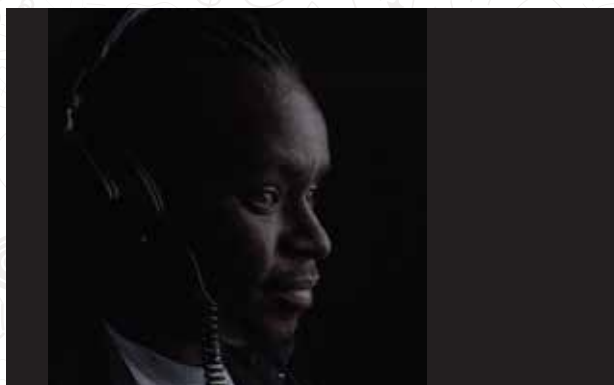
*Michael Munene*

MASTER **BASS** GUITARIST  
CHARISMATIC ARTIST  
COMPOSER



*Immanuel Mohol*

**GUITAR MARVEL**  
PASSIONATE PERFORMER



*Julius Kibugi*

**SOUND ENGINEER**  
PAR EXCELLENCE

## 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



**Best Jazz Act  
2017 and 2018**

## 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

SHAMSI MUSIC PRESENTS

## AFRO SYNTHESIS

VENUE: NYAMA MAMA DELTA PARKING LOT

DATES & TIME:  
SATURDAY 20TH JULY  
GATES OPEN 7:00PM | SHOW STARTS 8:00PM  
SUNDAY 21ST JULY  
GATES OPEN 2:00PM | SHOW STARTS 3:00PM

TICKET PRICES:  
EARLY BIRD TICKETS: 1,000 KSHS (EXPIRES 07/07/2018)  
ADVANCE TICKETS: 1,500 KSHS  
GATE TICKETS: 2,000 KSHS

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES:  
CHRIS ADWIA | JUNE GACHOB | ADWICH

FOR INQUIRIES CALL | 0709 984 521  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON MYMOOKH.COM

AFRICA'S FIRST ONLINE POP-UP FESTIVAL

## mookh.fest

SHAMSI MUSIC

WE'LL BE PERFORMING

www.mookh.africa

FRIDAY 27 JULY  
REGISTER YOUR PRODUCTS, MUSIC AND CONTENT NOW TO BE ONLINE AT WWW.MOOKH.AFRICA

www.bayimbafestival.com

## BAYIMBA 2018

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

PERFORMING LIVE

### SHAMSI MUSIC KE

LUNKULU ISLAND . 2-5 AUGUST  
#Bayimba2018 #Lunkulu

Bayimba\_01 Bayimba Bayimbafestival.com

NHR

## Shamsi Music THE MAY DAY CONCERT

APRIL 30TH, 2018, 6PM  
NYAMA MAMA PARKING  
Advance 2000 | Door 2500  
Tickets available on www.mtickets.com

SHOWCASING

Shamsi Music (KE)  
Uganda Museum - Showcase Tent  
Thursday 10th May - 8:00pm  
Free Entry

www.shamsi.co.ke

Live Music by SHAMSI MUSIC

JOIN US AT THE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT / KAREN BLISSIN MUSEUM / 1PM ONWARDS / FREE ENTRY

SAFARIKOM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER WE MAKE

## MUSIC THAT MOVES YOU

THIS INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

PERFORMANCES BY

### Manu Dibango & Soul Makossa Gang

TUESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018  
VENUE: KARIAKO CHURCH, LANGATA  
TICKETS: 2500 ADVANCE AND 3000 GATE  
www.safarikom.co.ke

ROOTS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

A NIGHT OF ORIGINAL ACROBATIC JAZZ, R&B AND ROOTS MUSIC BY DEVITA'S ROOTS ARTISTS

## THURSDAY NITE LIVE @ J's WESTLANDS

FREE ENTRY!

FEATURING: SHAMSI MUSIC

LIVE IN CONCERT! 10:00PM - 12:00AM

FRM 8-11PM

MAY 04

SHAMSI MUSIC PRESENTS

## THE AUDITION ALBUM LAUNCH

### DAWN TO DUSK

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE  
13TH & 14TH JULY 2017

GATES OPEN 6:30PM | SHOW STARTS 7:30PM  
ADVANCE: 1,500 | GATE: 2,000 | VIP: 3,500  
Tickets Available on mymookh.com

FEATURING  
Kendi Nkonge  
Manasseh Shalom  
Emma Mutua

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE  
Kavutha Mwanja-Aliyo  
Nigga  
Nechesa Oduma  
DJ D-Lite

## JAZZ ATTITUDE

23RD JULY 2PM - 10PM  
THE ARCHPEST BAR, WESTLANDS

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

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON MYMOOKH.COM



**PRESS**

**Music That Moves You**  
PERFORMANCES BY:  
**ROBERTO FONSECA QUARTET** (Congo) GRAMMY® AWARD NOMINEE  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:  
**FATOUmata DIAWARA** (Senegal)  
**SHAMSI MUSIC** (Kenya)



DATE: SATURDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER // VENUE: UHURU GARDENS, LAHO AIA ROAD  
TICKETS: KSH 3,000 REGULAR // KSH 500 STUDENTS (ID)  
GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM. SHOW STARTS AT 8:00PM

SAFARICOM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL - 2016/2017 -  
#1511

SAFARICOM  
Safaricom

**MUSIC THAT MOVES YOU**



SAFARICOM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL - 2016/2017 -  
FEATURING **DAVID SANBORN** (USA)

Ray Lemo & Soko Soko (Kenya) Bokani Dyer (Kenya)  
The Haxxhubs (Kenya) Taz Wore (Kenya)  
Shamsi Music (Kenya) Arun Ghosh (Kenya)  
The Nairobi Horns Project (Kenya)  
Muti & The Four (Kenya)

VIP DINNER & DANCE: FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2017  
GATES OPEN AT 4PM. SHOW STARTS AT 8PM  
MAIN FESTIVAL: SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2017  
GATES OPEN AT 12PM. SHOW STARTS AT 12 NOON  
VENUE: TRAINING GROUND, KASARANI STADIUM  
Live prices and posters for details

#1511 SAFARICOM  
Safaricom



SAFARICOM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL - 2016/2017 -  
Shamsi Music  
In Celebration of International Jazz Day  
Safaricom Presents  
**Kenyan Jazz All Stars Edition**

DATE: SUNDAY, 30TH APRIL 2017  
VENUE: CARNIVORE GROUNDS  
TICKETS: KSH 2,000 REGULAR  
KSH 500 STUDENTS (ID)  
GATES OPEN AT 12 NOON

#MusicThatMoves SAFARICOM  
Safaricom

**NIGHT OF JAZZ**



INTERCONTINENTAL NAIROBI, MAKUTI BAR  
06.10.2016

PERFORMING: SHAMSI MUSIC & SHAMSI CLASSICS  
TICKETS: KSH 100

INTERCONTINENTAL  
HOTELS & RESORTS

Radisson BLU  
31.12.16  
TRU BLU FESTIVE SEASON  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**  
FEATURING SHAMSI MUSIC & THE GROOVE PATROL



SHAMSI MUSIC  
GROOVE PATROL

Entertainment Courtesy of MOCO Music & Media in partnership with The Radisson Blu Hotel Nairobi  
modo

**JAMHURI WEEK**



SHAMSI MUSIC  
TUE, 12TH DECEMBER  
NYAMA MAMA, WESTLANDS  
FREE ENTRY. SHOW STARTS AT 4PM

NYAMA MAMA

TWO RIVERS  
**JAZZ**  
RIVERFRONT  
FRIDAY 12TH  
FROM 5 TO 9PM WITH  
**SHAMSI MUSIC**



DRUMJAM & MEMORIAL PARK PRESENTS  
**JAZZ in the PARK**  
• SOULFUL AFTERNOON •  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH  
FEATURING TOP BANDS & GUEST





# 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

---

Find ***Shamsi Music*** online at:

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



Shamsi Music



Shamsi Music



@ShamsiMusicKE



@shamsimusicke

