

Take an audience adventure through time with...

THE GRIOT

Written and performed by Kijana Wiseman, M.Ed.

Winner: APCA Best Diversity Program of 2001 & 2002

BEFORE TELEVISION WAS INVENTED...

"Put Your Feet Up" **

"Kum Bah Yah" • "Sabiao Yamma Yeh"

"Mama Tiembo's Getting Married Tonight"

We Call Them by the Names They Sang**

The Griot is My Muse African**

"Talba Eo Walli Kamma"

"At de Marketplace"

No Trees** • Against Tradition**

"Gimme My Lappa" • "Loco, No Call Me Loco"

"Mama Tiembo's Getting Married Tonight" **



THE ORIGINS OF SPIRITUALS

"O Freedom" • "Nobody Knows.."

"When the Storms of Life are Raging"

"Goin' Up Yonder" • "Soon'a Will Be Done..."

"Wade in the Water"

"Steal Away" • "Deep River"

GOSPEL: HEARTBEATS OF A PEOPLE

Watu Wazuri** • Terri: Beautiful for One Day**

Sitting In Church** • I am Your Cup**

"I Got Shoes"

"Ain'a That Good News"

Being Young, & Black & In America**

"How Much is that Doggie in the Window?"

"Summertime"

VAUDEVILLE

"Kitchen Man"

"You Got the Right Key, But the Wrong Key Hole"

THE JAZZ LADIES & OTHER DIVAS...

SARAH VAUGHN • ELLA FITZGERALD

ETTA JAMES • ARETHA FRANKLIN

LENA HORNE • BILLIE HOLIDAY

"God Bless The Child" **

MUSIC...MORE THAN POETRY...

"Sincere as Trees and Stars" ...John Cleveland Cullen

"Yet Do I Marvel" ...Countee Cullen

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

PLEASE NOTE: Not all presentations listed are performed in all programs. Performance length and selections from the above list vary depending on the level of audience participation and specific program occasion.

**Original poem/song by Kijana

PUT YOUR FEET UP, DON'T BE SHY

(Lyrics & Music by Kijana Wiseman)

Put your feet up, don't be shy, Make yourself at home, I'll tell you no lie.
Before television was invented, Before there were news directors, news anchors or news talk radio, People communicated. The Griot walked into the Marketplace, picked out a drummer and told the people.
Put your feet up, don't be shy, Make yourself at home, I'll tell you no lie.

Hey there little boy with hair so bushy! Won't you walk with me to the marketplace? We will buy a plantain and cassava leaf and see the monkey seller at the marketplace, and I will smile at you and take you with me and say "Mama I found him at the marketplace!"

I am the future voice of hope that wakes you up at night,
the small voice of faith that calls you to the light,
for the future generations and all the world to see,
we all have a season, a reason just to be
an agent for a change in this new century!

Whether Spanish, French, Chinese, or African...We're all blood related in the brotherhood of man...And it is our duty, to move the dream along...to really make it happen... make it more than just a song!

'Cause when you look at colors...you only go skin deep. But there's beauty in the rainbow and the price of hate is steep. So no matter what your paint job...no matter how you look...or who your fathers hated... or even what they took... Let's take our new dream forward, but don't forget the past...cause we have an obligation, to make this rainbow last.

It's time for new beginnings... first love yourself and then, embrace God's living rainbow, and then the world will win, so... Put your feet up, don't be shy, Make yourself at home, I'll tell you no lie.

MAMA TIEMBO'S GETTING MARRIED TONIGHT

Tonight, tonight's the wedding feast,
The men arrive with a slaughtered beast
The sound of chanting fills the air,
for miles around, all the people cheer--

CHORUS: *Mama Tiembo's getting married tonight;
All the spirits will be chanting her delight!
Mama Tiembo's getting married tonight;*

*The bones are thrown and Mama's future's very bright!
(*Xhosa Chorus...)Ehla "kneka, La "kneka, La "kabella kai yahl...(repeat)*



GOD BLESS THE CHILD

1. Them that's got shall get, Them that's not shall lose....
So the bible says and it still is news

**Your Mama may have...Your Papa may have ...
But God Bless the Child ...that's got his own that's got his own!
With money, you've got lots of friends ..Crowding 'round your door...But when it's gone and spending ends,They don't come 'round no more...

2. Oh, the strong gets more, while the weak ones fade...
Empty pockets don't ever make the grade.

3. Rich relations'll give you a crust of bread and such...
You can help yourself but don't take too much!
"Cause, your Mama may have...Your Papa may have But God Bless the Child ...that's got his own that's got his own!

Videos, Mp3s & more information: www.kijana.com
Bookings: Houla Entertainment, 865-414-9266



Before Television
was invented,
there was...

THE GRIOT

An audience participation
musical time travel adventure

with

KIJANA WISEMAN, M.Ed.

Best College Diversity Program (APCA: 2001 & 2002)
Best College Performing Artist (APCA: 2001)



Become a part of Kijana's
time-traveling "Griot Chorus"
and take a musical journey to the
dawn of existence -& back again!-
while joyously rediscovering the
timeless & unifying power of
African-American music.

Bio, Videos & More Info:

www.kijana.com
713-521-0900





Kijana

"AMERICA'S GRIOT"

"...SHE'S A CANVAS THAT SHE PAINTS PEOPLE ON..."

KIJANA WISEMAN, M.Ed. is a master-degreed lyric coloratura with a 3.5 octave range. As THE GRIOT, she uses music, dynamic storytelling, comedy, costumes, characterizations and audience participation to joyously uses her "edutain" audiences—then mold them with laughter.

Kijana has lived and performed in 20 countries on the American, African and European continents. As "The Griot", she astonishes—shifting genres as easily as her slides and on-stage costume changes. Inviting her multi-cultural audience to join her on a time trip to the dawn of music, she first makes them one people — again ("just with many paint jobs!"), then teaches them a South African "click" song for a wedding they'll be attending. The story progresses as she becomes a slave, gospel choir director, toddler, vaudeville artist, opera and jazz singer—demonstrating how music unifies mankind.



Audiences participate as her "Griot Chorus" and learn much more than music. High points of the show occur throughout, whether it's when she pulls audience members to the stage to dance at an African wedding they'll be attending; when she does a blues version of "Summertime" or struts her stuff while performing vaudeville's "I Can't Do Without My Kitchen Man." She even throws money around the stage while singing "God Bless the Child"...then uses the song as an object lesson for maintaining "dignity" for those who scramble to grab the cash.



"Each audience is different..." says Kijana, "...and I like playing with people—from children to adults, so the Griot is full of audience participation. I adjust the level of the performance to match the age or needs of the participants. My job's simple...to musically and

comically stir the cultural multi-mix of my "class," and allow them to first embrace their common roots, then taste its multicultural flavor with me... not just watch and applaud. My brand of diversity is inclusive."



Kijana lived in West Africa for 6 years where she was a former Peace Corps volunteer. Once her tour or duty was over, she stayed and became known as a singer, model and host of an entertainment TV show, "Under the Palm Tree," where she hosted international artists and interviewed politicians and personalities such as Idi Amin. Wiseman also worked as assistant director of the National Liberian Cultural Troupe; was drama coach of the US Embassy related American Co-operative School and sang background for Hugh Masakela and Mariam Makeba.



Kijana was a performing member of SssteaMoga in West Africa and worked as an international model for a Merz Skin Care products in Munich, Germany and Champion products of Madrid Spain.

In the United States, she has performed with the Conrad "ThunderSoul" Johnson Big Band, The Masterworks Chorus, The Drifters, the Houston Symphony Chorus, and Masterworks Chorus. Her vocal coach was international operatic tenor soloist David Brewer.

Kijana has won 1st place in the City of Houston Talent Competition and was a certified Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster Artist for over 5 years. In 2002, she was voted APCA's "Best College Performing Artist of the Year" and her audience participatory musica time trip, "The Griot" won "Best College Diversity Program" for 2001 & 2002. Kijana is the eldest child of award-winning educator Mary Wiseman, M.Ed. and the late El'Ray Wiseman, Sr., is happily married to Aundra Sebastian Fusilier.

"Charismatic, yes. Gifted, unquestionably. Full of so much energy it rolls off her in waves...leaves participants with a sense that people are more alike than different."

Andrea Johnson, Minot (ND) Daily News

