

Nuto Suama
nomini permae





An aerial photograph showing a large, irregularly shaped island covered in dense green forest. The island is surrounded by deep blue water. In the foreground, a smaller, elongated island with a sandy beach and some buildings is visible. The water around this smaller island shows shallow, light-colored patches, likely coral reefs or sandbars. The overall scene is a tropical coastal environment.

Nuto Suama ("Suama Island")



Introduction

Nomini Permae (“beautiful Mambor”) is a group of musicians from Mambor, a small island of 500 inhabitants located two hours’ journey from the city of Nabire in Papua province, Indonesia. Heard through Western ears, their music is both familiar and unfamiliar. It blends familiar country rhythms (performed on guitar, ukulele, and bass) and the universal themes of love, loss, and religion with an unfamiliar language and cultural context.

The language, Moor, is spoken fluently only by a thousand people. It belongs to the large Austronesian family of languages, and as such is very distantly related to Indonesian (the national language of Indonesia). Moor is unknown even to most residents of Papua province. Children are no longer learning the language; its vitality is threatened and its future is uncertain.

The cultural context is that of a small village where fishing is the principal occupation and fish and sago (the edible pith of the sago palm) are the principal foods. Extended families are large and create complex networks of interlocking social obligations. Marriages generally do not happen without the parents’ consent. Protestantism, introduced by Dutch missionaries in the early 20th century, is universally practiced.

This album, Nuto Suama (“Suama island”), contains a variety of Nomini Permae’s religious and non-religious songs. The first track, Freight Train, is a nod to the Western influence in Nomini Permae’s music.



Lyrics

1. Freight Train Author: Elizabeth Cotten (published by Figs. D. Music, Inc.)

2. Igwanani Va Author: Demisa Manuaron

Moor

igwanani va aha vurana ku a'oa
rutueta va

vehu se igworana gworem agwo

tara'ina ruari ta'u su sine'ona

igwanani va aha vurana ku a'oa
rutueta va

amua voma vavur igwo
vehu se igworana gworem agwo

tara'ina ruari ta'u su sine'ona

Indonesian

saya tidak tahu kau sudah menikah
dengan laki-laki, kau tidak sampaikan

kemudian baru saya dengar berita

seperti barang yang putus di dalam
hati

saya tidak tahu kau sudah menikah
dengan laki-laki, kau tidak sampaikan

kau sembunyi suara dari saya
kemudian baru saya dengar berita

seperti barang yang putus di dalam
hati

English

how could I have ever known that you
had wed another man, you never told
me

I just heard about it from someone
yesterday

and now there's something that is
broken in my heart

how could I have ever known that you
had wed another man, you never told
me

you hid your sweet voice from me
I just heard about it from someone
yesterday

and now there's something that is
broken in my heart

3. Aorana Gworem Igwo Author: Yunias Hawar

Moor

aorana gworem igwo ku a'anita voro

noku igwogwe vereija vao
aoraniose agwarama voro
noku igwa'ave tenona vao
aise aha vurana atarama noana

a'oa irui vano vavino vari javaria'o

marevaita vi jamua o moreto

Indonesian

kau dengar saya punya berita, jangan
menangis
bukan saya tidak mau kau
kalau kau dengar jangan datang
bukan seperti itu
nanti kau kawin, kau ingat (waktu) itu

kau kasi tinggal saya sudah,
perempuan itu banyak
mungkin ada yang lain tersembunyi di
sana

English

if you hear news of me, please don't
cry
it's not that I don't want you
if you hear, I said don't come
that's not how I feel
when you are married to another man,
you will remember the good times we
had together
but for now just let me be, there are
many pretty women
maybe there is a special one
somewhere for me

4. Gwa'o Rirano Ne Sien Author: Yosev Manuaran

Moor

gwa'o rirano ne sien ve to'a emba ne

gwa'ano ruta mandagwano vena ruta
manamo
sio rofana igwo, voro igwo kaumo

ve agwa maita sien iha heano igwo ne

Indonesian

perahu layar ini Tuhan di lautan besar
ini
saya bilang angin dari laut dan angin
dari barat
oh, saya punya kajang dan saya
punya dayung bagus
hanya Tuhan saja saya serahkan
hidupku ini

English

my life is like a sailing canoe in this
great ocean
winds blow from the sea and from the
west
oh, my shelter and my paddle are
good
to you alone, Lord, I turn over this life
of mine

5. Firu Isaramia Author: Otis Hawar

Moor

firu isaramia su jeta sine'a
firu isaramia veraja ima'a

isaramia vari nonde toajo

Indonesian

cinta saya sayang kau di dalam hati
cinta saya sayang kau sampai saya
mati
saya ingat kau nanti tidak bisa

English

darling, I love you with all my heart
I will love you until I die
although we can't be together, I think
only of you

ĩ'areria vari nonde toa re' e o

saya lupa kau nanti tidak bisa juga

I try to forget you because we are so far apart

sinemo vari veruro firu

kau punya hati mendua, cinta

your cheating heart is two-faced, darling

gwaromi agwo na' u jahearo

saya lihat kau, orang yang tipu

you have deceived me though I love you

su marasinarotio i' o saramia

setiap hari saya ingat kau

every day I think of you

jo'ove su gwena ose igwenami'a firu

kalaupun saya tidur saya mimpi kau

even when I sleep I dream of you

6. Rama Itara Sien Author: Bethel

Moor

rama itara sien avena heano ne jo'ove
atona magwagwo

sien rutu ijo ve'ura rarino aire atona
sien kamusio

irara avena hean agwo

rutujo kamuso su sanuma

sien sarama na' u ijo ti' o

rama itara sien ve rarinio na

Indonesian

mari ikut Tuhan dengan hidup ini kalau
kau dapat kesusahan

Tuhan punya ceritera tunjukkan
jalannya supaya kau dapat
keselamatan dari Tuhan

lari datang dengan kau punya hidup
ceritera bagus ada dalam hati

Tuhan sayang orang-orangnya

mari ikut Tuhan di jalannya

English

when you're in trouble in this life,
come join the Lord

His story shows the way to find
protection

come running with your life to the Lord
the true gospel is only within your
heart

the Lord loves his people
come join the Lord on His path

7. Firu Aheari Author: Otis Sawaki

Moor

firu aheari averara o mora mana' u

rututa jama igworani vaku sine ku
kauma va

tivuro jigwera ve nahujo iverasu o reta
suama

igwawaruja gwa sarama ruo aruotii

gwarika vari ta' u mana' u hahoa' aru

tisu'area aru

i' o saramia gwa anitia

Indonesian

sayang kau tipu saya, kau pergi
tinggal di tempat yang jauh
ada berita tapi hati tidak senang

angin tiup dari barat, saya pergi duduk
di sebelah Suama

saya pikir kau sambil bayangkan
kenangan dulu

saya lihat tapi lautan ini luas, awan
sudah terpele kitong dua

saya duduk ingat kau sambil menangis

English

darling, you told me lies and now
you've gone so far away
although you send me many letters my
heart is worried

the west wind blows, I sit at Suama

and remember the times we had

the ocean is wide and strong winds
separate us

I sit and cry as I remember you

8. Ve Ara'a Morao Kaumo Author: Bethel

Moor

ve ara'a morao kaumo, rarinao jenao
noa

ve morao amatito nitaruro toajo

ma'o o nanai'a ve mor agwo kaumo

Indonesian

di surga tempatmu yang bagus, ada
jalanmu di sana

di tempatmu yang suci air mata tidak
ada

kami tinggal memuji kau di tempatmu
yang bagus
di kota segiempat ada satu jua

air mata hilanglah tiada tangis di sana

pujian damai sentosa adalah di sana

English

in the heavenly place that is both good
and pure

a path can be found where there are
no tears

here in our earthly city we are praising
you now
and hoping to go where tears

disappear

there will be no tears when we get
there

only your praise and eternal peace

9. Firu Aheari (#2) Author: Jhon Sembor

Moor

firu aheari vorio

ineijao firu ateaogogwe ri agwo

ama'a i'anita gwagwora natan

agworo

ima'a a'aniti gwagwora natan igworo

Indonesian

nona kau tipu saya

mama dan bapak tahan kau

kau mati, saya menangis, saya panggil

kau punya nama

saya mati, kau menangis saya, kau

panggil saya punya nama

English

darling, you have deceived me

your parents will never let us wed

you're dying, I'm crying, I'm calling

your name

I'm dying, you're crying, you're calling

my name

10. Aeno Here Author: Yunias Hawar

Moor

ono vurino o ao isarama rutu aruoti

marasinaro kaumo noandi mose kaumo

gwarae

ono nona vari atu ena neva'ure

aeno here matindure janona rutu aruoti

ono nona igwa'oa ruturoti

isaramiagwo

Indonesian

waktu bulan mulai naik terang saya

ingat kitong dua punya cinta

waktu yang indah kapan lagi

saat itu kau tidur di atas pangkuan

pasir Here, Matindure menceritakan

kitong dua punya cinta

waktu itu saya bicara bilang saya

sayang kau

English

when the full moon rises, I remember

our love together

when will there be such a beautiful

time again

when you slept in my arms

the sands of Here and Matindure tell

our story

I told you how much I loved you

isaramia vari nonde toajo
i'areria vari nonde toajo

tenon ruari kaumo ja iveja tene vano
aeno here matindure jasaha rutu aruoti

saya cinta kau nanti tidak bisa
saya lupa kau nanti juga tidak bisa

jadi biar sudah saya pergi begini saja
pasir Here, Matindure jadi saksi abadi
kitong dua punya cinta

but we can never be together
I try to forget you but we can never be
together
there is nothing I can do
the sands of Here and Matindure are
eternal witness to our love

11. Sien Tarama Ma'oro Author: Lucky Hawar

Moor

sien sien tarama ma'oro tarama ma'oro sien
su ono ti
sinema jeta rutu ijonoa aire atona
kamuso
anani ve sien vari jarua heanoa aku
a'arera sien voro
tauno nena igwanani va ainu vena
rutujoti
sien ruari jitari ve heano nena aro sien
a'areri voro
sien sien orana anito aruro vaku
ivargwarigwa ve heano nena va
sien sien orana nadi igwo nena agwa
vari mora ve igwu'unaro
tarama ma'oro sien ve heano ne aro sien
tarama ma'oro

Indonesian

Tuhan, Tuhan, ingat kami, ingat kami
Tuhan setiap waktu
kau punya hati tetap di dia punya
ceritera supaya kau dapat keselamatan
kau tahu bahwa Tuhan yang atur kau
punya hidup, jangan lupa Tuhan
tahun ini saya tidak tahu, penuh
dengan rahasianya
Tuhan jadi jalan untuk hidup ini, oh
Tuhan jangan lupa saya
Tuhan, Tuhan, dengarlah tangisan,
saya tidak kuat dalam hidup ini
Tuhan, Tuhan, dengar doaku ini, kau
adalah tempat untuk saya meminta
ingat kami Tuhan dalam hidup ini, oh
Tuhan ingat kami

English

oh Lord, Lord, please remember us,
keep us in your thoughts
our hearts are constant for you, so that
we can find safety
we know the Lord arranges our life, so
praise the Lord now, don't wait
the future is hidden, full of mystery and
secrets
the Lord is the way in this life, oh Lord
please remember me
Lord, Lord, hear my tears, for I am not
strong in this life
Lord, Lord, hear my prayer, for you
are the one I am longing for
remember us Lord in this life, oh Lord
remember us

12. Aro Raroti Author: Yunias Hawar

Moor

aro raroti
i'ogwari verasu to'a ve ona
moto marasinaro
manggem naha'oro ture ve ijana
aro mu'oro verara ramara andero
marasina mose ve amu varua amu amu
ogwarae

Indonesian

sio saudara
saya lihat ke laut waktu itu
meti siang
burung manggem di ujung pasir ada
ikan
kasian kamu pergi ke tempat lain
waktu apa lagi kamu kembali lagi

English

oh brothers
I looked out at the sea that day
it was low tide at noon
the manggem bird on the sand just
caught a fish
I am so sad that you are leaving
when will you come back again?

13. Nomini Author: Frans Y. Hawar †

Moor

oro veraja su
moto ahi jua jamo
ve naho igwari veraja
ta'u rorevo siama'a vurino a'a toajo
manda'o tijjutuma vavu, vavu jaria ahe
vorosu nahia'a aru vavu vera na

tavero ahahori ao noane
i ruari nomini nomini
nomini ramar igwo

Indonesian

matahari sudah terbenam
air mulai naik
di sana saya pandang
di atas laut teduh, bulan terang sekali
merpati dorang terbang pulang ke Ahe
dayung cepat kitong dua pulang ke
sana
asap naik di sana
itu dia, Mambor, Mambor
Mambor, saya punya kampung

English

the sun has set
the tide is coming in
I look out on the calm sea
the moon is very bright
the pigeons are coming home to Ahe
row briskly, my friend, we are going
home
the smoke is rising in the distance
there it is, Mambor, Mambor
Mambor, my home

Credits

Recordings: David Kamholz, on location on Mambor and neighboring islands.

Track 1 recorded September 23, 2010. Musicians: John Kamholz.

Tracks 2, 7, 9, 10, and 12 recorded September 23, 2010. Musicians and vocals: Otis Hawar and Zeth Wataha.

Tracks 3 and 13 recorded July 24, 2008. Musicians and vocals: Otis Hawar and Zeth Wataha.

Tracks 4, 6, 8, and 11 recorded July 31, 2008. Musicians: Otis Hawar, Menase Rara'awi, Polio Sawaki, and Pater Sawaki.
Vocals: Bethel.

Track 5 recorded July 5, 2009. Musicians and vocals: Otis Hawar, Manggareni Singgamui, and Yulian Aronggear.

Moor transcription and Indonesian translation: David Kamholz in collaboration with Nomini Permae.

English translation: John Kamholz, Felecia Mack, and David Kamholz.

CD design and audio post-production: Kush Amerasinghe and Claire Li of Adobe.

This project was a collaboration between The Long Now Foundation and Adobe.



Nuto Suama

- 1 Freight Train
- 2 Igwanani Va
- 3 Aorana Gworem Igwo
- 4 Gwa'ó Rirano Ne Sien
- 5 Firu Isaramia
- 6 Rama Itara Sien
- 7 Firu Aheari
- 8 Ve Ara'a Morao Kaumo
- 9 Firu Aheari (#2)
- 10 Aeno Here
- 11 Sien Tarama Ma'ó
- 12 Aro Raroti
- 13 Nomini

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

