aro raroti ararona natan igwo
oh brother, keep my name in your thoughts

ve ono aru tau heanone
di waktu kitorang dua hidup
as long as we both shall live

atarama roaeta voro
jangan ingat sesuatu
don't forget me

na'u tijaheara onetore aruro su muniagwo
kalau orang tipu kau, di waktu lain kau akan menangis
if someone deceives you, it will just lead to tears

isaramia su sine'a
saya ingat kau di dalam hati
I will remember you in my heart

igwa'ano aru re'e rio
saya bilang kitong dua boleh
just the two of us is enough

emata a'oa irui o
sekarang kau tinggalkan saya
now you are leaving me

iveja avena aruro su sine'a
saya pergi dengan air mata
I go with tears in my heart
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.
1. Igwanani Va
Author: Demisa Manuaron
Vocals: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Musicians: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Date: September 23, 2010

Moor
igwanani va aha vurana ku a’oa rutueta va
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

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

2. Firu Aheari
Author: Otis Sawaki
Vocals: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Musicians: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Date: September 23, 2010

Moor
firu aheari averara o mora mana’u rututa jama igworani vaku sine’ona ku kauma va tivuro jigwera ve nahujo iverasu o reta suama igwavaruja gwa sarama rutu aruoti gwarika vari ta’u mana’u hahoa’aro 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

3. Sine Ku Kauma Va
Author: Yason F. Hawar †
Vocals: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Musicians: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Date: September 23, 2010
My heart is breaking as I remember our love together when will I ever see you again? I won’t see you again even if I go so far away our love was everything and now you know my heart is breaking why did you go?

4. Firu Nevi Anani Joni

Author: Yunias Hawar
Vocals: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Musicians: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Date: September 23, 2010

Moor
firu nevi anani joni
firu nevi anani joni
to inama igwanoni ona se’ioro
su ono tina i’o veja tara’ina se’io
ingwanani ve aheari vao
igwanani ve aheari vao
aveni igwandoa su arai’a va
arai’o su so ruturo sia jena
noandi
su ono tina i’o veja tara’ina se’io
ivejao

Indonesian
hati tidak senang, saya ingat cinta kita berdua kapan lagi saya ingat kau
saya tinggal, saya tidak lupa kau kalau saya pergi di tempat sana saya ingat kitong dua punya cinta yang dulu saya ingat semua, saya punya hati hancur kenapa kau pergi

English
darling there is something you don’t know
darling there is something you don’t know
listen and I will tell you everything
I go through my life, but nothing feels the same
I think you have told me lies
I think you have told me lies
I cannot eat
my body aches because our love is over
I go through my life, but nothing feels the same
5. Aro Raroti

Author: Traditional
Vocals: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Musicians: Otis Hawar, Zeth Wataha
Date: September 23, 2010

Moor
aro raroti ararona natan igwo

Indonesian
sio saudara, simpanlah namaku

English
oh brother, keep my name in your thoughts

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

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

DVD design and video post-production: Kush Amerasinghe and Claire Li of Adobe.

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

Credits
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Nuto Suama

1 Igwanani Va
2 Firu Aheari
3 Sine Ku Kauma Va
4 Firu Nevi Anani Joni
5 Aro Raroti