

# Nuto Suama



# 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.



## 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

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

## 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  
ku kauma va

tivuro jigwera ve nahujo iverasu  
o reta suama  
igwawaruja 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

<u>Moor</u>	<u>Indonesian</u>	<u>English</u>
sine ku kauma va isarama rutu aruotii	hati tidak senang, saya ingat cinta kita berdua	my heart is breaking as I remember our love together
mose kaumo gwa saramia gwarae	kapan lagi saya ingat kau	when will I ever see you again?
sine ku kauma va isarama rutu aruotii	hati tidak senang, saya ingat cinta kita berdua	my heart is breaking as I remember our love together
ono aru ono aru tauro	waktu kita, waktu kita berdua	when the two of us, the two of us were one
isarama anu'ioro emata tisia toa	saya ingat semua cinta kita, sekarang sudah tidak ada	we were in love, but now it's over
mose kaumo gwa saramia gwarae	kapan lagi saya ingat kau	when will I ever see you again?
i'ove i'areria va iveraja moro noandi	saya tinggal, saya tidak lupa kau	I won't forget you
isarama ruturo aru venu noandi	kalau saya pergi di tempat sana	even if I go so far away
isarama anu'ioro sine'ó masasu'i	saya ingat kitong dua punya cinta yang dulu	our love was everything
so roseri averare	saya ingat semua, saya punya hati hancur	and now you know my heart is breaking
	kenapa kau pergi	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

<u>Moor</u>	<u>Indonesian</u>	<u>English</u>
firu nevi anani joni	cinta mungkin kau sudah tahu	darling there is something you don't know
firu nevi anani joni	cinta mungkin kau sudah tahu	darling there is something you don't know
to inama igwanoni ona se'ioro	kau dengar baik-baik, saya mau bilang semua (cinta kita)	listen and I will tell you everything
su ono tina i'ó veja tara'ina se'io ivejao	setiap hari saya pergi seperti biasa saya pergi	I go through my life, but nothing feels the same
igwanani ve aheari vao	saya tidak tahu kalau kau tipu saya	I think you have told me lies
igwanani ve aheari vao	saya tidak tahu kalau kau tipu saya	I think you have told me lies
aveni igwandoa su arai'a va	karena kau saya tidak makan baik	I cannot eat
arai'ó su so ruturo sia jena noandi	saya punya badan tidak baik karena cinta kita yang sudah berlalu	my body aches because our love is over
su ono tina i'ó veja tara'ina se'io ivejao	setiap hari saya pergi seperti biasa saya pergi	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

ve ono aru tau heanone

atarama roaeta voro

na'u tijaheara onetore aruro su

muniagwo

isaramia su sine'a

igwa'ano aru re'e rio

emata a'oa irui o

iveja avena aruro su sine'a

### Indonesian

sio saudara, simpanlah namaku

di waktu kitorang dua hidup

jangan ingat sesuatu

kalau orang tipu kau, di waktu

lain kau akan menangis

saya ingat kau di dalam hati

saya bilang kitong dua boleh

sekarang kau tinggalkan saya

saya pergi dengan air mata

dalam hati

### English

oh brother, keep my name in  
your thoughts

as long as we both shall live  
don't forget me

if someone deceives you, it will  
just lead to tears

I will remember you in my heart

just the two of us is enough

now you are leaving me

I go with tears in my heart



## Credits

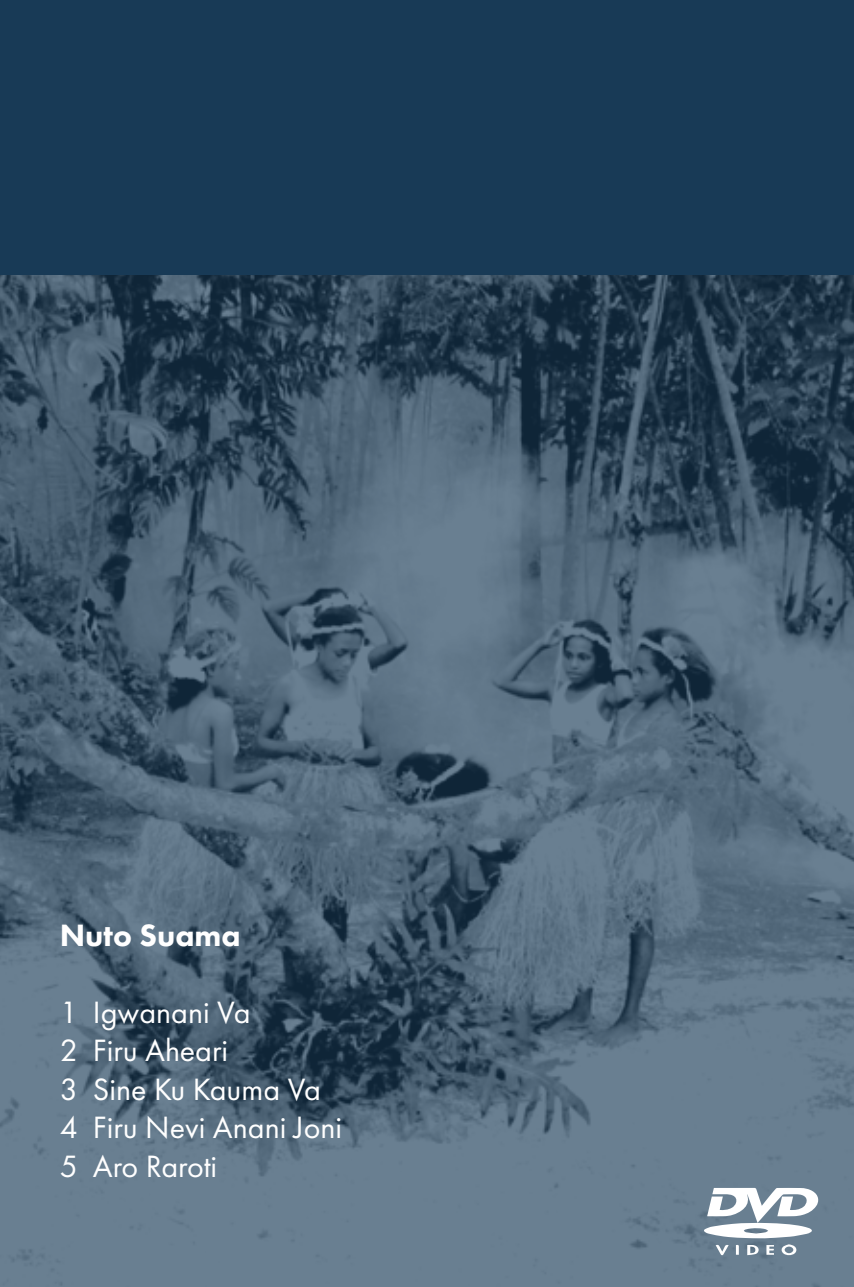
Recordings: David Kamholz, on location on Mambor and neighboring islands.

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.



## Nuto Suama

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

**DVD**  
VIDEO