



**LEO MKANYIA
“DAR ES SALAAM”**

**PRESS KIT
2025**

ABOUT LEO MKANYIA

Leo Mkanyia is a Tanzanian guitarist, composer and vocalist, born in Dar Es Salaam in 1981. Son of a renowned African jazz guitarist, Leo blends traditional Tanzanian music with afro-jazz, blues and global influences.

With his Swahili blues band, he has performed across Africa and Europe including festivals like Sauti Za Busara, Bayimba, and the London African Music Festival.

His music reflects Tanzanian realities - addressing migration, gender, politics, and love - while preserving classic muziki wa dansi with a modern twist.

LEO MKANYIA
MEDIA KIT
2025

SOCIAL MEDIA



BIOGRAPHY

NEW SINGLE 04/09/2025

“DAR ES SALAAM” IS A VIBRANT TRIBUTE TO THE CITY THE ARTIST CALLS HOME. COMPOSED IN 2015, THE SONG EXPRESSES DEEP AFFECTION FOR DAR ES SALAAM —ITS BEAUTY, RAPID GROWTH, SUNNY WEATHER, LIVELY BEACHES, EVOLVING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND BUZZING NIGHTLIFE. THE LYRICS DRAW A POWERFUL COMPARISON TO NEW YORK, CAPTURING THE CITY’S ENERGY AND TRANSFORMATION. INITIALLY RECORDED IN UGANDA IN 2019, THE TRACK WAS COMPLETED IN DAR ES SALAAM THAT SAME YEAR, FEATURING LOCAL SINGER AND GUITARIST SHABO MAKOTA. THE COLLABORATION BRINGS AUTHENTIC SOUNDS FROM THE CITY ITSELF, BLENDING NOSTALGIA, PRIDE, AND GROOVE INTO A LOVE LETTER TO TANZANIA’S COASTAL GEM.



LEO MKANYIA
DAR ES SALAAM

LYRICS

DAR ES SALAAM, MIMI NAKUPENDA WE,
MIMI NAKUPENDA WE,
JIJI KUBWA LA WA TANZANIA,
PENYE NIA PANA NJIA
HAKUNA KINACHOSHINDIKANA
DAR ES SALAAMA

SANS OUBLIÉ
SANS OUBLIÉ QU'IL FAIT CHAUD MAIS C'EST BON
SANS OUBLIÉ
SANS OUBLIÉ QU'IL FAIT CHAUD MAIS C'EST BON

DAR ES SALAAM, KINONDONI, ILALA NA TEMEKE,
UBUNGO, KIMARA, VINGUNGUTI, SINZA KWA WAJANJA
DAR ES SALAAM.

KAMA BADO HUJAFIKA DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM,
KAMA BADO HUJAFIKA DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM,
HII NDIO NEW YORK YA AFRICA, DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM.
KILA BAADA YA NYUMBA BAR, DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM.
NA HIZO ZOTE ZINAJAA, DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM.
DAR ES SALAAM YA MONEY MONEY

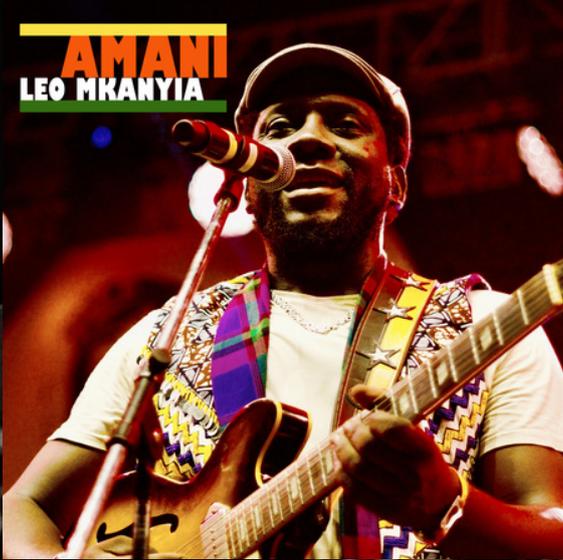
NEW SINGLE 04/09/2025

SINZA KIMARA BODA BODA, DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAA,
VINGUNGUTI BAJAJ, DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM,
MBAGALA KARIAKOO , MWENDOKASI MPAKA MASAKI, DAR ES
SALAAM,
ANDIAMO SULLA SPIAJJIA, AMORE MIO A KIGAMBONI DAR ES
SALAAM. LA MATTINA MI PIACE

(PHONE VOICE)

CALL- HALLO HALLO PORT CONTROLLER UNANISIKIA!?
RESPONSE-NDIO NAKUSIKIA, ENDELEA!
CALL- MIMI NI NAHODHA WA MV AFRO FUSION
RESPONSE- EEH HE EEH HE
CALL- TUNATOKA KATIKA VISIWA VYA NGOMA NGOMA,
TUNAELEKEA KATIKA PWANI YA MIZIKI ZIKI.
RESPONSE - SAWA SAWA ENDELEA
CALL- NA TUNAPOKUWA SAFARINI
RESPONSE - NDIO NDIO
CALL- MELI YETU INAKUMBWA NA DHORUBA MARA KWA MARA
KIASI KWAMBA MABAHARIA WETU
KIJITOSHA BAHARINI. RESPONSE- HAYO NI MATATIZO YA BAHARI
CALL - NA WENGINE WAMEDANDIA MELI NYENGINE NA SASA HIVI
WAPO ULAYA WANOSHA VYOMBO.
RESPONSE- MAMA MIA
CALL - LAKINI SISI TUPO FITI KALIKITI KAMA TIKITI TUNAENDELEA
NA SAFARI TUNAPITA KARIBU NA PWANI
YA DAR ES SALAAM,
RESPONSE- EEH EHN,
CALL- SEE YOU SOON.
RESPONSE- SEE YOU,
CALL- BYE BYE
RESPONSE- BYE BYE

PREVIOUS SINGLES



AMANI
LEO MKANYIA

AMANI (PEACE) IS A HEARTFELT SONG COMPOSED IN 2014, PROMOTING UNITY AND HARMONY IN TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR, AND ACROSS THE GLOBE. RECORDED IN KAMPALA, UGANDA IN 2019.

07/08/2025



IJUMAA
LEO MKANYIA

"I ADMIRERED THE MIX OF TANZANIAN DRUMMING WITH BLUES MELODIES AND DANCE. LEO MKANYIA HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE AND MODERN STYLE, WHICH HE CALLS SWAHILI BLUES."

RACHEL BOYLE - NEW YORK TIMES

03/07/2025

TOURING

2011 | LONDON AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

2013 | BAYIMBA FESTIVAL, UGANDA

2015 | DOA DOA FESTIVAL, UGANDA

2023 | ACCES MUSIC CONFERENCE, DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA

2024 | EAST AFRICAN TOUR, TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA,
BURUNDI, CONGO

2012-2015-2025 | SAUTI ZA BUSARA, ZANZIBAR TANZANIA

