

P2P training, Afro Vocals in Tanzania

Our choir ensemble Afro Vocals from Gothenburg, Sweden was invited by the choir Kwaya ya Kiakabari in Tanzania, to an international cultural exchange in February 2023. The purpose with the exchange was to develop as singers, as a choir and make long-term contacts in Tanzania/Sweden. Between our workshops the program will alternate with various study visits in the area. The aim is to learn from each other, practice together in workshops and create new music.



The training took place between 14 February and 20 February 2023 at Kiabakari Lutheran Bible College in Kiabakari, Tanzania. The Swedish teachers that work on the school, Carl and Marita Hasselberg. They were also the ones planning and making the schedule, driving us to different places, connecting us with the choir Kwaya ya Kiabakari and their choir leader Sebastien Petro Chibuga.

Activities completed

- 4 workshops: Afro Vocals and Kwaya ya Kiabakari worked together in joint rehearsals. We started every workshop with a warmup, led by the two choir leaders and continued with learning from each other. Participants Afro Vocals: 6 singers and one guitarist/ conductor. Participants Kwaya ya Kiabakari: 15 singers and one conductor, one pianist/ drummer. We sang in different language such as Swahili, English, Xhosa, Swedish.



Choir leader Sebastien



- 4 concerts: The first concert was in the church of the bible school and the audience were students and teachers from the school and people from the village. The second concert was in the Lutheran Church in Musoma where we sang at the Sunday service. The third concert was in the hospital in Bunda where we sang for the children at the childrens department. The fourth concert was in the Lutheran primary school in Kiabakari. We sang for the children and teachers at the school. Three concerts was performed by both choirs where we sang some songs together and some songs from each choir's own repertoire. One concert at the hospital in Bunda Afro Vocals alone performed for the children end their families.



Choir Leader/ guitarist Åke Ziedén



Concert at the church of Kiakabari Lutheran Bible College



Afro Vocals singing at the Primary school



Afro Vocals singing at the hospital in Bunda



Performing at the church in Musoma



- 5 study visits: The Kiabakari bible College, The Lutheran primary school, Nyerere's museum Center in Butiama, the hospital in Bunda, home visit in Kiakabari.



Home visit



visit to the former president Nyereres Center

- 3 after joint choir activities: A visit to the Victoria Lake in Musoma, one welcoming dinner and one farewell dinner.



After choir activity near Victoria Lake



Joint dinner at the school



Result

- We learned four new Swahili songs that we will continue practice at home and perform with in our future concerts in Sweden. We also taught the Kwaya ya Kiabakari three new songs from our repertoire. In English, Swahili and Xhosa.
- We learned new singing techniques, singing in a straighter way, without vibrato.
- We got experience to sing with a big choir as we are a small group in Afro Vocals.
- We learned about each other's countries; about traditions, customs, values etc.
- We got to know new people from Tanzania where some have been come our friends. We will and have continued exchange though social media.
- It was a challenge to travel around in the heat to different study visits and concert. We learned that it is important to be flexible and everything does not come out the way we planned: late rehearsals, sickness and that everything takes longer time than we are used to.
- We learned new movements to use when singing.
- We learned that people we met in Kiabakari had been singing since they were kids and had a lot of experience of singing in church choirs.
- We have got to know each other as members of Afro Vocals. We have stronger bonds and joint experiences that will have a positive impact.

We thank ECS for supporting our P2P-training in Tanzania. This will be a memory of a lifetime and will strengthen us as a choir and longtime friends in Tanzania.



Afro Vocals and Kwaya ya Kiabakari