From zones of conflict comes **music for peace.**
Seven years since the last bullet was fired, a decade of fighting in Sierra Leone found resolution as people stood and spoke. Some had perpetrated terrible crimes against former friends. Some had faced horrible losses: loved ones murdered, limbs severed. But as they told their stories, admitted their wrongs, forgave, danced, and sang together, true reconciliation began. This is the story of “Fambul Tok” (Krio for “family talk”), and it is a story the world needs to hear.

Fambul Tok originated in the realization that peace can’t be imposed from the outside, or the top down. Nor does it need to be. The community led and owned peacebuilding in Sierra Leone is teaching us that communities have within them the resources they need for their own healing.

What is Fambul Tok?

Around a crackling bonfire in a remote village, the war finally ended.

The artists on this album have added their voices to a high-energy, urgent call for forgiveness and deep dialogue. They exemplify the creative spirit that survives conflict, even war. From edgy DJs and soulful singer-songwriters, from hard-hitting reggae outfits to transnational pop explorers, they have seen conflict and now sow peace. They believe in the power of ordinary people - entire communities ravaged by war - to work together to forge a lasting peace. They believe in Fambul Tok.
Your tax-deductible donation to Fambul Tok was made through its US program partner Catalyst for Peace, a US registered 501(c)(3) private foundation. 100% of your donation will go to Fambul Tok and its peacebuilding work in Sierra Leone.

The groundbreaking grassroots peacebuilding of the people of Sierra Leone has also been documented in the award-winning film Fambul Tok, and in its companion book, Fambul Tok. You can purchase the book and the home-use film DVD or license the film for community screening at FambulTok.com.

Right now, war-torn villages in Sierra Leone are meeting, organizing, confessing, absolving, reconciling, healing and forging a sustainable peace. Your contributions will support ceremonies and follow-up activities in almost 200 communities across the country this year.

Support Fambul Tok at FAMBULTOK.ORG

WAN FAMBUL ONE FAMILY
many voices ...

Wi Na Wan Fambul BAJAH + DRY EYE CREW
featuring ROSALINE STRASSER-KING (LADY P) and ANGIE 4:59

Nasle Man ABJEEZ 5:33

Say God IDAN RAICHEL PROJECT
featuring VIEUX FARKA TOURE 4:59

Ba Kae VUSI MAHLASELA 5:05

Guttersnipe BHI BHIMAN 6:52

Shim El Yasmine MASHROU LEILA 5:10

Ahoulaguine Akaline BOMBINO 4:03

Global Threat SIERRA LEONE’S REFUGEE ALLSTARS 5:12

Seeing Hands DENGUE FEVER 4:12

Wansi Wagulu SABA SABA 3:46

Gun Thing BAJAH + THE DRY EYE CREW 3:57

New Day NOBLE SOCIETY 3:22

Like us on Facebook.com/FambulTok to unlock the FREE BONUS TRACK
Ahoulaguine Akaline THE KING BRITT REMIX 3:49

Visit FambulTok.com/Bonus to download the FREE BONUS TRACK
Wi Na Wan Fambul THE ECCODEK REMIX 3:57

Available for a donation at FAMBULTOK.COM/WANFAMBUL

Produced by Modiba Productions | Marshall Henry, Project Coordinator
A Catalyst for Peace album. All proceeds support the grassroots peacebuilding of Fambul Tok in Sierra Leone. Donate and download at FambulTok.com.

All images from the film, FAMBULTOK, © 2011 Catalyst for Peace
Music is our “way to tell stories, share history, unify people and help them focus on something positive ...
[We want to] unify the masses, preach non-violence, and stand for change and development within Sierra Leone.”

- BAJAH
Mi fambul dem
As unu yeri
D bata crack
Una grap go vote oh

Chorus
As d bata dae nak
We dae go vote
Lek wan fambul
As d bata dae nak
We dae go vote
As d bata dae nak
We dae go vote
Lek wan fambul
As d bata dae nak
We dae go vote

Leh we go
Peace na Sa Lone
E for dae tae go
Fambul tik dae ben
But e nor dae broke
We lek boku tok
But we nor lek for fet
Make up yu mind
For peaceful elections
Yeah for peaceful elections
Make up yu mind
For peaceful elections
Leh we go! Leh we go
Leh we go vote leh we vote
Chorus and Beat
"We try to use the power of music in such way by creating a loving and positive ambiance for our audience to shed light on cultural and social problems in an often humorous and direct way so that we [are] all in a relaxed state of mind [and] can see, recognize, heal and find the strength to change for the better." - ABJEEZ
Idan Raichel is broadly recognized as one of the most innovative and popular musicians in Israel today and was recently voted Israel’s Musician of the Decade. In 2002, his group The Idan Raichel Project burst onto Israel’s music scene, changing the face of Israeli popular music. The band offered a message of love and tolerance that resonated strongly in a region of the world where headlines are too often dominated by conflict. With a blend of African, Latin American, Caribbean, and Middle Eastern sounds, coupled with sophisticated production techniques and a spectacular live show, the Project has become one of the most unexpected success stories in Israeli music history.

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Vieux Farka Toure is one of the fastest rising stars in African music. The son of the legendary Ali Farka Toure, Vieux has built on his father’s “Saharan Blues.” Despite multiple world tours, Vieux has not forgotten his roots and has been a champion of humanitarian causes. He launched his own “Fight Malaria Campaign,” which coincided with the release of his debut album and his first U.S. tour. The “Fight Malaria Campaign” donates money to distribute mosquito nets to women and children in the region of Mali where Vieux was born.

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Lasting peace in the Middle East “will be achieved through knowing people from other countries as neighbors – because a neighbor is not your enemy.”

- IDAN RAICHEL
Vusi Mahlasela, simply known as 'The Voice' in his native South Africa, is celebrated for his distinct, powerful voice and his poetic, optimistic lyrics. His songs of hope connect Apartheid-scarred South Africa with its promise for a better future. Raised in the Mamelodi Township, where he still resides, Mahlasela became a singer-songwriter and poet-activist at an early age, teaching himself to play guitar and later joining the Congress of South African Writers. After his popular debut, Mahlasela was asked to perform at Nelson Mandela’s inauguration in 1994. He continues to spread Mandela’s message as an official ambassador to Mandela’s HIV/AIDS initiative, 46664.

"I learned from [Nelson] Mandela and [Desmond] Tutu that forgiveness is within you ... If you don’t forgive, you are the one who suffers the most."

- VUSI MAHLASELA
“I ultimately want people to look at the world from all angles and viewpoints.”
- BHI BHIMAN

Bhi Bhiman is an American singer-songwriter of Sri Lankan Tamil descent, born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He writes songs in the grand folk tradition, penning both passionate protest songs and tender love songs with style. His skill is in stitching his music with a subtle political consciousness that doesn’t feel like homework to the listener, with a sweet wistfulness touched with sadness. But don’t be fooled: Bhiman belts out his songs with a voice that’s more sixties soul and Nina Simone than post-modern, semi-precious folk.

Guttersnipe Bhi Bhiman

I jumped the first train I saw, it’ll surely take me home
If I had a mama, at least I’d have a place to go
I’m just a guttersnipe, I got no place to wipe my nose
I jumped the first train I saw, it’ll surely take me home

A buzzard riding the rails
I steal my meals when all else fails
I’m right at home on the line
I’m well on my way to feeling fine

I’ve been to Juarez, I been to Houston, Baton Rouge
I got some good friends, some folks to really help me through
I’ve been all over, I spend my time just like I do
I stay out of trouble, but its got a way of finding you

A buzzard riding the rails
I steal my meals when all else fails
I’m right at home on the line
I’m well on my way to feeling fine

I’m a railroad urchin
Searching for peace of mind
I’m in need of some churchin’
And out here all I have is time

I can’t get my money right, I can’t even put my two cents in
I pray the lawmen, I hope they wont catch me again
I’m just a vagabond, I live to see the light of dawn
The train beats a rhythm, and I love to sing along

A buzzard riding the rails
I steal my meals when all else fails
I never heeded the signs
But I’m well on my way to feeling fine
Formed in 2008, Mashrou' Leila ("night project") has quickly emerged as one of the most exciting, original and successful bands in Lebanon today. The group began without any preconceived expectations when American University of Beirut students posted an open invitation to musicians, looking to jam. The overnight sessions (from which the group got its name) served as an outlet for the stress of college and the unstable Lebanese political situation. From these late-night marathons, Mashrou' Leila developed their unique brand of Middle Eastern rock that draws on traditional Lebanese and Armenian music, fused with Western rock. The group’s songs wittily discuss war, politics, materialism, lost love, immigration, and homosexuality.

Smell the jasmine
Taste the molasses
Remember, remember, remember to mention me
Brother, just don’t forget me
My lover, my prize
I would have liked to keep you beside me
Introduce you to my parents, have you crown my heart
Cook your food, clean your house
Pamper your children, be your housewife
But you’re in your house, and I’m in another
I wish you never left
This jasmine
Forgets me
The jasmine
And smell the jasmine
And remember to forget me

"People need to come to terms with the real world – it’s not perfect."

- MASHROU’ LEILA
"I sing about the war and its consequences on our life in order to contribute to the peace process ... All these peoples loved the music, they danced together and renewed their relations by accepting each other in spite of their differences."

- B O M B I N O

7. Ahoulaguine Akaline

BOMBINO

© 2011 by CUMBANCHA MUSIC PUBLISHING | Written by GUOMOURLAMOC TAR

Ahoulaguine Akaline

The elder Tuareg guitar player Intayaden originally performed this song. He was exiled to Libya during the drought of 1973. This song is in homage to his homeland, and reflects the pain he endured when he had to leave his family and friends behind. Bombino rearranged this traditional song during the second Tuareg rebellion when he was exiled in Burkina Faso. This song focuses on his homeland, and reaches out to other Tuaregs reminding them to think of their country as well. The trance-like chant about Niger and Mali transports the listener.

I greet my country where I left my parents
I greet my country
I greet my country where I left my love
I greet my country
I greet my country where I left my community
I greet my country
You know that I am suffering from it
I greet my country

Guitarist Omara “Bombino” Moctar was born in 1980 into a family of nomadic Tuareg herders in the region of Agadez, Niger at the edge of the Sahara. During the Tuareg Rebellion in 1990, Bombino and his family fled to neighboring Algeria for safety. By 1997, Bombino had returned to Agadez and began life as a professional musician, only to face another rebellion, a government ban on guitars, and exile. While Bombino lived in Burkina Faso, he met filmmaker Ron Wyman, who encouraged him to record. The result was 2011’s Agadez, which debuted at the top of the iTunes World Chart and put Bombino on the world stage.

BombinoAfrica.com
INTRO
A global warming is on the treat
A global warming is on the treat for you and me
A global hunger is on the treat
A global hunger is on the treat for you and me ha ha

Stop making more weapons
Either make them to limitation
Don’t you see the danger?
That will come if you continue
Global warming is on the threat
Global hunger is on the treat
We see no benefit
Out of dem things ya so
Disarmament
Disarm yourself
This ah modern revolution
Modern revolution
Disarmament
This ah modern revolution
Yeah yeah ho yeah
Disarmament
Disarm yourself
This a modern revolution
Disarmament
This ah modern revolution
Slow down ... you hear that
drop your weapons
Disarm yourself
Out of dem things ya so
Just disarmament is a modern revolution
It’s getting hotter and harder
For you and me!
Oh no no na na na

Too much combustion and pollution
Causing the world sooo risky
Carbon dioxide wanna overcome
Global warming is on the threat
Global hunger is on the treat
We see no benefit of the thing you do
Disarmament
Disarm yourself
This ah modern revolution
Modern revolution
Disarmament
This ah modern revolution
Yeah yeah ho yeah
Disarmament
Disarm yourself
This a modern revolution
Disarmament
This ah modern revolution
Slow down ... you hear that
drop your weapons
Disarm yourself
Out of dem things ya so
Just disarmament is a modern revolution
It’s getting hotter and harder
For you and me!
Oh no no na na na

Global Threat
Sierra Leone’s Refugee Allstars

Sierra Leone’s Refugee Allstars

8. Global Threat
SIERRA LEONE’S REFUGEE ALLSTARS
© 2011 by CUMBANCRA MUSIC PUBLISHING | Written by GOUMOUR AL MOCTAR

As they languished in a refugee camp in Guinea during the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone of the 1990s, the members of Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars could not have imagined what the future would hold for them. They captivated fans across the globe with their uplifting songs and pure energy live shows. In just five years, the group has been the subject of an acclaimed documentary film, toured the world, appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, had their music featured in a major feature film, and recorded with Aerosmith and Keith Richards. The band is a tangible example of the redeeming power of music and the ability of

SierraLeonesRefugeeAllstars.com

“We bring our positive messages into the world so we can expect a positive change in the world. And, most importantly, bring about peace.”

-SIERRA LEONE’S REFUGEE ALLSTARS
Formed in L.A.’s Silver Lake neighborhood in 2001, Dengue Fever trace their roots to organist Ethan Holtzman’s 1997 trip to Cambodia when he fell for the sound of ’60s-era Cambodian rock, which still dominated radios and jukeboxes. Holtzman soon gathered a crew of like-minded musicians, including a Cambodian vocalist from a musical family and a powerful pop pedigree, Chhom Nimol. The band’s unexpected, catchy take on 1960s Cambodian pop and American surf rock has garnered praise and attention from fans and critics alike. Ray Davies of The Kinks called them “a cross between Led Zeppelin and Blondie.”

DengueFeverMusic.com
Wansi Wagulu  Saba Saba

CHORUS:
Up and down
Who is coming?
Might be the police
Run brother run

What do they call me?
The African Stick
When touched I burn
So move I dare you
Drop what you have and be gone
I pick it up to show you how we get down
Let them know Saba Saba
Is in the building
So open your eyes wide
Because anything can go wrong
Let your ears be on the ground
Be on the look out
Haters and snitches are trying to kill
The African dream
So you need to be on your guard
With every move you make
Who are you?
Walking through my block
Don’t tell me you’re just walking
Because you don’t know where you belong
Now you’re walking without a plan
You want me to believe that?
I call that game snitching
Life in Africa is bigger than a hustle
We as the youth need to work hard to get around

Up and down watch ya back
That be the police getting in my business
I’m at Mama’s Restaurant
Taking Rolex and Chapati
I’m arrested cause I have a fake ID
Actually it’s a CID
So dig in your pocket and give me your change
I need money to let you go
My Native
Let me let you know
How we get on in the streets
They make us be on the run all the time
We always scared he might drop in
We don’t even get time to take a jar of water
They treat us like Basinga Singa
Because they have their heads wrapped
All the time
We on the run
We getting over walls
What should I say?
What shouldn’t I say?
I’m trying to reach out to people in my society
Up and down we run from the police, we run
Bavubuka All Stars here we go

Before I make this mic useless
Who is that bringing noise?
I’m asking you to take a hike

The master is here
There’s confusion when I step in
If you on that baby shit
We heading to the front line
This world we living in
We here for a while like ladders
If you get the hard way
You go down
It’s all in favor of the Lord
We Africans need to stay real with one another
Now thy are even building more jail cells
This is real son
Get off your seat like you being watched
Bring in all the comrades
That’s the like we living in
Always on the look out
All the same 50/50
Now I’m reaching out to my natives for help
If I don’t walk out, I will use force
Use all the power I have
To get what I want done
Me and my DJ like glue
If you want to bring it on, bring it on
Yeah we do it like this
We come from Uganda
And you better know we never quit
What are you waiting for?
Raise your hand up in a fist

Saba Saba, Ugandan hip hop/Lugaflow artist & cultural activist, has been performing since 1994. Performing as Krazy Native, he was a founding member of the Bataka Squad, a Ugandan hip-hop group that originated the use of the Luganda language in hip hop music (a movement referred to as “Lugaflow”). His music addresses daily struggles and triumphs of African life, while honoring his culture through the use of his native language and musical references to traditional music and drumming. He co-founded the Ugandan Hip Hop Foundation and since 2003 has organized a yearly hip-hop summit in Kampala, Uganda.
Say if you wanna live by the guns
you surely gonna die by the guns

CHORUS
I'm sayin its a gun thing, put em down put em down
youngblood what you know about guns?!
cause you know it is the right thing to put em down, put em down
the wrong thing is killing our sons!
I sayin its a gun thing, put em down put em down
youngblood what you know about guns?!
cause you know it is the right thing to put em down, put em down
dont need no guns for the revolution!

I've been where they chop people up with machetes
I've been where they forcing you to kill our own son
Your own son, your own blood and blood-son

I've been where they destroy the young girls with guns
I dont know why in my area too much of gun blasting, even when im sleeping
I can hear a police siren someone's life is missing a baby is crying i think a mama's dying.
A very young lady is now losing a life from a stray bullet cause they missed their target and hit the wrong object
I dont think you guys are perfect
I think you must be off your mind, you got eyes that must be blind, have no pity for mankind you dont want to be in a war zone, where people get rot in the street and they turn bones, no feed to eat unless you gonna boil stone
I wish you was with me in my motherland when it was possible to see people eat out of dirty sand but you’ll never understand unless I make you to, and it is real

Say if you wanna live by the guns
you surely gonna die by the guns

your mom is not happy when you're moving with guns around (eh eh)
and when you get caught you start crying, crying for mercy (eh)
But no way, no way, cause you've already killed somebody

Why all these big superstars wanna talk about guns, talk about the money, talk about the people that they kill everyday, stop singing gun songs try to be a God son

sing another new song, song for the young
sing for the unborn, song for the poor
Have you ever been in a war?! NO!
Im down on my knees man, stop singing gun songs
sing another new song
“When people are made aware of things they are then able to make changes.”

- NOBLE SOCIETY

12. New Day

NOBLE SOCIETY

© 2008 | Written by WAYNE S. HENRY and ERROL A. GOODEN | Produced by DIEGO CAMPO
Artist appears courtesy of LUSTRÉ KINGS

Comprised of vocalists Jahdan Blakkamoore, Delie RedX, and guitarist/producer Diego “Fuego” Campo, the hip-hop/reggae group Noble Society was recently named by the Huffington Post as one of the Top 10 artists to check out. Born in Guyana, Blakkamoore brings fire to the stage with his brand of soulful vocals and provocative lyrics. He has recorded and performed with Branford Marsalis’s Buckshot LeFonque, Dead Prez, Matisyahu, and Lee Scratch Perry. Group founder and producer Campo studied under flamenco guitar master El Entri in Spain and also studied Jazz composition in the United States. He has produced and worked with diverse African, reggae, and hip-hop artists.

NobleSociety.com

New Day Noble Society

There is a day coming when all mankind will be at peace
There is a day coming where all war must cease
There is a new day coming, a new day rising
and there is a new sun rising in the east

How wonderful and great that would be to see mankind living in harmony
No war, a world free of hate and crime
Is this possible? Some people just cant visualize
I know who’s responsible for all the hate and all the lies
Its those ignorant ones who ruin what was made for one and all to enjoy
The fruits of this life

There is a day coming when all mankind will be at peace
There is a day coming where all war must cease
There is a new day coming, a new day rising
and there is a new sun rising in the east

That’s why we look to the east
what a beautiful thing to see all Jah little children sing and give em praise no matter what creed or age

no matter what color or shade, yes Im so amazed to see the prophecy fulfilled
thats right, La writes ill cause he’s so real
Plus I got my style in abundance, love - I give it, man when I see it it’s vivid
I done did it, couldn’t tell you if a brother ain’t lived it
saved a city like I was Isaiah Thomas, word is my promise, noblemen they pay us homage
quiet nonstop going to college, Im being honest
man, a whole new way of being, do you know what I mean? can you see what im seeing? Word is paradise, married to the rhythm, throw the rice and in a crisis never have to worry who the nicest
flow’s priceless, twenty four karat, white gold, platinum and the ice kid
this a new day ...

There is a day coming when all mankind will be at peace
There is a day coming where all war must cease
There is a new day coming, a new day rising
and there is a new sun rising in the east
“We see [conflict] daily in our own lives, close to us. Everyone seems to either be at war with themselves or their environments. Music seems to bring the people together for a purpose and allows interaction and reaction.”

- KING BRITT

13. Ahoulaguine Akaline

THE KING BRITT REMIX

© 2012 Cosmic Lounge Music (ASCAP) | Remix and additional production by KING BRITT
Remix written by KING BRITT | Artist appears courtesy of PIRATES BLEND

King Britt is a pioneering musician, widely recognized as part of the royal elite of the Dance Music world. Based in Philadelphia, King Britt has been forging a unique path as a producer, musician, DJ, label boss, and media revolutionary for more than twenty years. King always finds a way to escape the strictures of any single category of music by working across genres, in deep house, hip-hop, broken beat, nu-jazz, funk and afro-tech. After his debut in 1990, King went on to tour worldwide with Digable Planets—the Grammy-winning hip-hop fusion legends—while laying the foundations for his solo career as an in-demand remixer and producer.

KingBritt.com
Canadian producer, remixer, and multi-instrumentalist Eccodek (a.k.a. Andrew McPherson) works with inspired singers and gifted multi-instrumentalists from the four corners of the globe to find a common love for dub, funk, jazz, and cinematic electronics. Eccodek is the sound of cultures mingling, borders dissolving. It is the sound of the dub chamber, the goatskin drum and decaying vintage synths. Eccodek’s tracks are built on a foundation of global beats, soaring melodies, and textured electronica that has firmly established the project as a leader in global fusion.

Eccodek.com

“... the power of song is a potent thing.”

- ECCODEK
Special Thanks to Eric Herman, Marshall Henry, and Eileen O’Neill at Modiba Productions for their work pulling together this amazing group of musicians and songs, and for helping us broaden the reach of the Fambul Tok conversation in this new and exciting way. And HUGE thanks to the amazing artists who so generously gave of their talents to help spread the message of the power of the creative spirit not only to survive in the midst of conflict, but in many ways to thrive, and certainly to inspire. Gratitude to Henry Jacobson and Samuel Bathrick for making our rockin’ video (and to Bajah, Angie and Jocelia for making the music so rockin’; and to Bajah again for the inspiring interview). To RockPaperScissors for getting the word out. To Braden for not only making everything beautiful, but for doing so with grace and good humor. To Kurt Graser, for pulling the stills from Fambul Tok (the film), for all of our album art. To Hannah for all the details involved in making everything work. To Andy and the gang at flyte for bringing it alive online. To Tammy for making numbers sing (who knew they could be musical too?!). To John Caulker for being the kind of leader that sees others’ potentials and is willing to walk with them persistently enough until they can see it too. And especially and always—the Fambul Tok staff, volunteers, and participants, who are living out the healing power of community in ways that are not only transforming their own communities and countries, but enabling the world to learn from their example. This is all because of—and for—you.

Libby Hoffman, Catalyst for Peace

“With Fambul Tok, we hope to address reconciliation at the community level, to create space for victims and offenders to sit together, to have a dialogue on what went wrong, why they turned against each other— to start the long journey to reconciliation.”

-JOHN CAULKER, Executive Director, Fambul Tok

AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION AT FAMBULTOK.COM/WANFAMBUL

Catalyst for Peace, a U.S.-based international collaboratory, seeks out and supports grassroots peacebuilding that springs from local practices and culture: from the songs and tales, from the town meetings and ceremonies, from the liberating truth-telling, apology and forgiveness that end bloodshed, enmity, and endless cycles of bitterness.