

"WAWANI: SOUNDS OF CELEBRATION"

ACTIVITY SHEET



Who is Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté?



Hawa is an amazing singer and composer from West Africa! She grew up in the country of Mali, and is a musician within the **griot** tradition.

Griots originated hundreds of years ago in the West African Mali Empire. They are oral historians, singers, poets, and musicians who tell stories that celebrate the traditions of their community and heritage. Hawa comes from a long family lineage of famous griot singers, instrumentalists, and storytellers.

If you want to learn more about Hawa, check out her full biography [here](#), and [here](#)!

Listen to griot singing:

[Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté and her group, Trio Da Kali perform "Kanimba"](#)

[Hawa and Trio Da Kali perform with the Kronos Quartet](#)

[Hawa's father, Kassé Mady Diabaté performs "Simbo"](#)

Suggested Activities!

Learn about “Wawani”

Hawa’s song “Wawani” is part of a larger piece, called **Tegere Tulon** that she wrote for the **Kronos Quartet** as part of their **50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire** project. For this project, the Kronos Quartet asked 50 composers to write pieces for them that could serve as learning tools for young string quartets who are interested in playing 21st century music. **These pieces are all available online for free!** The 50 for the Future website also features lots of helpful information about each piece, as well as recordings made by the Kronos Quartet.

To learn more about the Kronos Quartet, click [here](#).

To check out the Kronos Quartet’s 50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire project, click [here](#).

To see Hawa’s page from the 50 for the Future website, click [here](#).

Learn about Tegere Tulon

Tegere Tulon is the name of the string quartet that “Wawani” belongs to -- “Wawani” is the fourth movement of the piece. The Kronos Quartet made recordings of all of the movements of Tegere Tulon, which you can listen to here:

[I. Funtukuru](#)

[II. Dulen](#)

[III. Kalime](#)

[IV. Wawani](#) -- *this is the movement we played in our video!*

Each movement features handclapping patterns, as they are all inspired by the handclapping songs Hawa sang as a child. With the help of her family, Hawa made her own recording of Tegere Tulon. In this recording, instead of hearing a string quartet play the piece, you’ll get to listen to Hawa sing the vocal line while her sons play the instrumental parts on guitars.

To listen to Hawa’s recording, you can click [here](#)!

Movie night!

In partnership with the Kronos Quartet, **Professor Lucy Durán and Moustapha Diallo** created an incredible **mini documentary** about Hawa and her piece. In this short film, we not only get to hear Hawa talk about writing Tegere Tulon, we also get to see young girls in West Africa perform the handclapping songs that inspired her piece!

To watch this short documentary, click [here](#).

Fun with onomatopoeias!

When describing the “Wawani” movement from Tegere Tulon, Profesor Lucy Durán writes:

“*Wawani* is an **onomatopoeic** term in Maninka for the sound that people make when **celebrating**. Hawa describes this song as a ‘sewa tulunke,’ a song for entertainment and enjoyment, specifically aimed at neighbors.”

What is an onomatopoeia?

An onomatopoeia is a word where when you say it, it sounds like the sound it describes.

Some examples are:



What are other words that are onomatopoeias? What are onomatopoeic sounds you make or words you say in your native language when you're celebrating?

Create your own handclapping pattern!

What is your favorite song to sing? Create a short clapping pattern to go along with the words of the song. Experiment with clapping on every word, or on every other word. You can clap twice on some words, and once on others. The sky's the limit! Keep your pattern short so you can repeat it as you sing. Share your song and clapping pattern with friends and family members. Teach them how to sing and clap along so you can all make music together!

For string players of all levels:

Watch our “Dive into the Music” video!

“Wawani” is a really fun piece for us to play because we get to make lots of cool and unique sounds on our instruments. We’ve made a bonus video for you where you can learn about the special techniques we get to use when playing this piece!

To watch Emma, Miho, and Karen talk about what it’s like to play “Wawani,” click [here](#).

What do these pizzicato and glissando sounds remind you of? Do any specific images, animals, objects, or ideas come to mind? Let your imagination run free!

For advanced string players:

Learn how to practice pizzicato!

If you enjoyed watching us talk about how to play pizzicato in our “Dive into the Music” video, Miho made a mini masterclass where she goes even more in depth about her tips and tricks for practicing pizzicato.

To watch “Miho’s Mini Masterclass,” click [here](#).

Have you played pizzicato before? Try using Miho’s 4 tips next time you’re working on a piece with pizzicato in it!

Find your new favorite string quartet!

Take a look at the other pieces in the Kronos Quartet’s **50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire** project. **The scores and parts for all of these pieces are available online for free!** You can also listen to recordings of the Kronos Quartet playing each piece, and read all about the commissioned composers on their website.

To browse through the Kronos Quartet’s 50 for the Future repertoire, click [here](#).