



GLOBAL STUDIOS AND AUDIOTOPIAS

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8:30pm

presented by

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We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles.

GLOBAL STUDIOS AND AUDIOTOPIAS

PROGRAM

Dustin Wong & Takako Minekawa

15 Minutes

Top Link Music Band

Prince Buju

Awudu

Zinabur

Sammy

Meridian Brothers

¿Dónde Estás María?

Cumbia del Pichamán

MC Yallah & Debmater

Global Studios and Audiotopias, a project led by sound engineer, music producer, recording studio director, and musician Emily Evans, explores virtual hybridity as a model for musical collaboration and composition.

Audiotopia, coined by scholar, writer, journalist, teacher, and curator Josh Kun, describes music's ability to create a unique virtual world for the listener in which "contradictions and conflicts do not cancel each other out but coexist and live through each other."

Using remote technology, *Global Studios and Audiotopias* presents the *virtual* and the *global* alongside the *actual* and the *local*. The project features artists from around the world including Francis Ayamga's Top Link Music Band (Bongo, Ghana), The Meridian Brothers (Bogotá, Colombia), Dustin Wong (Los Angeles, US), Takako Minekawa (Tokyo, Japan), MC Yallah (Kampala, Uganda), and Debmater (Berlin, Germany).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The sounds of **Dustin Wong & Takako Minekawa** are a coalescence of the complexities of life, with the sheer joy of imaginative creation. Based in Tokyo Japan, Wong and Minekawa are part of a growing DIY community. Their artistic focus is to create the unexpected. They use their considerable technical skill to create the psychedelic, surreal, and conceptual, with dexterity and inventiveness.

The **Top Link Music Band** is an ensemble based in Bongo, Ghana and led by drummer Francis Ayamga. The band includes musicians from in and around Bongo, the town where Ghanaian star King Ayisoba was born and raised. This is a collection of styles, all recorded via Francis Ayamga's Top Link studio.

Prince Buju is a traditional artist who plays the kologo, a lute-like instrument with two snares. He is joined by his band including four drums, Dundo, kolgo, traditional horn, and two dancers. As described by writer and musician Serge Timmers, "Simple, uptempo riffs are being accompanied with crude vocals to create a number of protest songs. Prince Buju claims that all of us are at war and that we need to change our ways to make this world a better place to live in. These elements of protest, harsh but rhythmic music and raspy vocals give the whole an incredible punk attitude."

Awudu is a traditional artist who plays the goje, a one- or two-stringed instrument from West Africa. His band includes three drums, maracas, metal clips, and one Dundo including two bass drums.

Zinabur is a traditional artist and vocalist with King Ayisoba with performances including the Welcome to the Village Festival in 2019. This ensemble includes only one instrument, a shaker, and backing vocals.

Sammy is a Gospel artist, whose band includes two drums one Dundo, two shakers, kologo, and backing vocals.

From Bogotá – Colombia, **Meridian Brothers** is a tropical psychedelic band. The group started as a solo laboratory for sound of the composer Eblis Alvarez, and went live in 2007 with a group of university friends: María Valencia (sax, clarinet and percussion), Eblis Alvarez (vocals, guitar and direction), Mauricio Ramirez, replacing Damian Ponce in 2016 (drums), Alejandro Forero (keyboards), Cesar Quevedo (bass) and Juan Camilo Montañez (sound engineering).

The always changing style of the Meridian Brothers explores different lines of Latin-american music from the past and present, giving a particular and histrionic view of it, creating an alternate dimension to the nowadays pop scene in the continent. Departing from styles such as salsa, boogaloo and going through experiments with genres such as noise, vallenato or tropicalia, the Meridian Brothers have earned the reputation of a cult band in Latin America.

The Meridian Brothers

Eblis Álvarez (el-guitar, Tiple, vocals)

Alejandro Forero (keyboards, electronics)

María Valencia (Percussion, Keyboards, sampler)

César Quevedo (el-bass)

Mauricio Ramírez (drums)

Paula Sofía Contreras (cello in ¿Dónde estás María?)

Mateo Rudas and Bibiana Rojas (cameras)

Recorded in Isaac Newton Studios in Bogota, Colombia

MC Yallah is a Kenyan rapper based in Uganda and an affiliate of Nyege Nyege. She recently released her debut album on the Nyege Nyege sub label – Hakuna Kulala. The album sees her paired with electronic musician **Debmaster** to explosive effect. A heady and powerful blend of sounds, they made their presence felt at Unsound Festival in Poland, placing amongst the top five best performances according to Resident Advisor. Another album is coming in 2021...

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