



# ROCKY DAWUNI

BRANCHES OF  
THE SAME TREE



A black and white photograph of Rocky Dawuni, a man with long dreadlocks, smiling and sitting against a wooden plank wall. He is wearing a light-colored patterned shirt. The image has a distressed, grunge-style border.

“When we recognize we are all branches of the same tree we begin to see our common roots — this is the cornerstone of true Oneness.”

- Rocky Dawuni

## 01 SHINE A LIGHT

"Shine a Light" is a song of upliftment and self empowerment that was rhythmically influenced by elements of the New Orleans sound, reggae and Brazilian samba. It's a song about the power of positive affirmations.

Wo hooo, Woohoo, Woohoo

### CHORUS

Everyday in every way  
I'm gonna let my whole light shine  
Everyday in every way  
I'm gonna let my whole light shine  
On and on and on and on  
For the world to see

People I am ready  
To chapter a new beginning  
And every little step I'll take will reach  
for a higher ground  
It's not gonna be easy  
Faith will let it be  
And I know with you by my side it's all  
gonna be all right

But I say hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright

### CHORUS

Light up the darkness  
With a positive spirit  
Oh let the sun shining in with a wave of  
a joyful sound  
Whether high or low  
I will not be afraid  
To lift my head up reach and touch the sky

I say hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Woohoo, woohoo, woohoo, woohoo  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
For the world to see  
Woohoo, wohoo, wohoo, wohoo  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Wohoo, Wohoo, wohoo, wohoo

All over the world I say  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Hey, I believe we can  
Shine a light so bright  
Wohoo, wohoo, wohoo, wohoo  
(Repeat til fade)

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: EDWARD DIXON  
BASS: MARK SIMS  
GUITARS: BRIAN JORDAN  
KEYBOARDS: MICHAEL HYDE  
MANDOLIN: JOHN PRPICH  
PERCUSSION: KHALIL CUMMINGS  
ARRANGEMENT: ROCKY DAWUNI  
AND SWAN MONTGOMERY  
BACKING VOCALS: ANTHONY BREWSTER,  
ROCKY DAWUNI, AND SWAN MONTGOMERY  
BACKING VOCAL ARRANGEMENT:  
ANTHONY BREWSTER AND ROCKY DAWUNI  
RECORDED AT RADD SOUND STUDIO  
ENGINEER: JOHN PRPICH  
MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM





## 02 ROCK YOUR SOUL

"Rock Your Soul" is a very personal song of love and relationships.  
It's about how we can transcend life's challenges if love leads our intentions.

Soul, soul, soul  
Rock your soul

Baby, you know one day you gonna be a star  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is  
Rock your soul  
Some may claim I'm just a ghetto superstar  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is  
Rock your soul

Together we will build a community  
With love and harmony  
Away from the pettiness of jealousy  
Love will lead us day to day for one day  
All must fade away  
We do the right we will be ok

Baby, you know one day you gonna be a star  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is  
Rock your soul  
Build foundations that nobody can pull apart  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is  
Rock your soul

Time will reveal every hidden character  
In the end none of that will matter  
Following the words of the Holy Master  
When we are true girl  
Breaks us through girl  
It takes two girl  
Me and you, me and you

Baby, you know one day you gonna be a star  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is  
Rock your soul  
They still claim I'm a sufferer superstar  
Baby, you know all I wanna do is

Rock you baby, rock you baby, rock your soul  
Love you baby, love you baby, love you so  
Rock you baby, rock you baby, rock your soul  
Love you baby, love you baby, love you so  
Rock you baby, rock you baby, rock your soul  
Love you baby, love you baby, love you so  
Rock you baby, rock you baby, rock your soul  
Love you baby, love you baby, love you so

Soul, soul, soul  
Rock your soul  
(Repeat til fade)

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: MICHAEL HYDE  
BASS: MARK SIMS  
KEYBOARDS: MICHAEL HYDE  
KEYBOARD OVERDUBS: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
BACKING VOCALS: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
BACKING VOCAL ARRANGEMENT: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
& ROCKY DAWUNI  
MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM  
PREPRODUCTION: MICHAEL HYDE STUDIO, LOS ANGELES

# 03 BLACK STAR (FEAT. SAMINI)

“Black Star” borders on hip hop, reggae and dancehall. The track celebrates Africa, calling for a new vision from the modern generation of Africans. It reaches for unity and strength among Africans as well as anyone around the world who shares the belief that the roots of mankind can be found in Africa.

Redemption music you know!

There is a rumble in street  
The whisper getting loud  
Now there is no doubt what this is all about  
Black star arise show the people what you know  
See the rising sun, lift over the cloud  
When our voices sing it ring aloud  
Black star arise show the people what you know  
These are the days when the greatest mystery  
Reveal to one and all so easily  
From the darkest hour of the night  
Comes the break of brand new dawn  
Like a star in this day and age

CHORUS

Rally round the flag  
Rally round the flag  
Africa awaits its creator  
Rally round the flag  
Brother wave a flag  
Africa awaits Black Star

Remember who you are  
Remember where you are from  
Then you gonna know which way the wind will blow  
Educate your mind, dedicate your heart  
That is the only way this victory will grow  
Black Star arise show the people what you know

Rise ye mighty people once again  
Seize and chart your course of destiny  
By the power of Jah love we surely will overcome  
A guiding light in this day and age

CHORUS

Africa awaits Ethiopia

SAMINI:

Weve been here, we are still here  
Generations come and go black people still dey  
Rise and shine make we give Jah the glory  
Heights alike and be part of the story  
Don't allow negativity to destroy we  
If dem can't beat we dem haffi join we  
Dis be time wey, we are doing it our way  
Destiny inna we act yeah ! Yeah!  
Begiliwoo, bigiliwoo woo,  
na na na na yeah, yeah, yeah  
Sa -Saminimini and Dawuni  
We are Black Star, yeah

From the darkest hour of the night  
Comes the break of a brand new day  
Like a star in this day and age

CHORUS

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: EDWARD DIXON  
BASS AND KEYBOARDS: MICHAEL HYDE  
GUITARS: DAMON AARON  
BACKING VOCALS: IJEOMA NJAKA, ROCKY DAWUNI  
GUEST VOCALS : SAMINI  
RECORDED & MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLOOM  
PREPRODUCTION: MICHAEL HYDE STUDIOS, LOS ANGELES





## 04 AFRICAN THRILLER

"African Thriller" fuses Afrobeat, reggae and dancehall with highlife guitar riffs and percussion. I sing it in West African Pidgin English and the call and response vocal style is an invitation to dance and celebrate.

Boom! Boom! For everywhere! (3x)

### CHORUS

African thriller, na dancehall ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo  
Everything we go do be hot, hot  
African thriller, na dancehall ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo  
Everything we go do be hot, hot

Dis be musical campaign  
We go hit you without pain  
Some of you go dey complain  
But the dancehall keep on moving  
So my people eno go be long  
Before the weak hand go make strong  
Now you know sey nothing be wrong  
To move to this tempo all night long  
Na liberation music  
Boom! Boom! For everywhere  
We go dey rock rock rock rock  
With new foundation  
Boom! Boom! For everywhere!

Mama Shake it till ego dey be (5x)  
Hot! Hot!

African thriller, na dancehall ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo  
Everything we go do be hot, hot  
African thriller, na champion ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo  
Everything we go do be hot, hot  
Now you know I got the moves  
To supply you with a groove  
Na de rhythm go control conscious rockin'  
Dancehall party

So my people gather around  
Feel this excitement from head to toe  
Everybody open your eyes na dis be time  
Wey we for do so  
Na dis be good vibration  
Feel the rush rush, rush of the sweet sensation

Mama shake it till ego de be  
Hot! Hot!

African thriller, na dancehall ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo  
Everything we go do be hot, hot  
African thriller, na champion ruler  
Woyoo! Yoyo! Yo

Everything we go do be hot, hot

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: CC FRANK  
BASS: ALHAJY IBRAHIM  
RHYTHM GUITAR: ACKAH BLAY  
TENOR GUITAR: AKWASI DANKWAH  
PERCUSSION: SUNDAY OLAJUYIN  
TRUMPET: EDWARD OSEI TUTU  
TROMBONE: EMMANUEL AYEETEEY  
BACKING VOCALS: IJEOMA NJAKA AND DESSY D'LAURO  
SYNTH BASS / KEYBOARD OVERDUBS: DEAN GANT  
RECORDED AT MASTERMIX STUDIO, ACCRA, GHANA  
HORN ARRANGEMENTS: OSEI TUTU  
REMIXED BY JEREMY SOLE

# 05 CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

“Children of Abraham” is about recognizing shared destiny and choosing the path to peace over any path to war. It was inspired by a trip to Israel and Palestine that moved me deeply led me to think hopefully about the possibilities of peace and coexistence. My interaction with the people, and visits to mosques, churches and synagogues inspired the track.

## CHORUS

Children of Abraham  
Will you put your weapons down?  
Children lay your weapons  
Children of Abraham  
Will you put your weapons down?  
Children lay your weapons down

Your armies are marching with guns ablazing  
Mothers wail at the lack of understanding  
Separate branches of the same great tree  
One can't be free hold another in bondage

Come on lets make peace work!  
Save today for the sake of tomorrow  
Come on lets make peace work!  
Ooh, children!  
Come on lets make peace work  
The fruit of war is blood tears and sorrow  
Come on lets make peace work  
Children Of Abraham  
Hear me now

## CHORUS

Find lasting solutions  
To these endless confrontations  
There must be a way than  
Hatred and destruction  
Overcome the philosophy which takes an  
Ideology wrap it round  
In theology to spread disharmony

Come on lets make peace work!  
Save today for the sake of tomorrow  
Come on lets make peace work!  
Ooh, children!  
Come on lets make peace work  
Bitter is the taste of sad bread of sorrow  
Come on lets make peace work  
Children Of Abraham  
Hear me now

## CHORUS

La la la la, La la la la la la, la la la la  
Oh, children  
Lala la la, La la la la la la, la la la la  
Peace works  
La , la la la la  
Oh, children  
Come on let's make peace work  
Come on let's make peace work  
Oh, children of Abraham  
Children of Abraham  
Children of Abraham peace works

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: ROCK DEADRICK  
GUITARS: SAM WRIGHT  
BASS: RONNIE MCQUEEN  
TURNTABLES: DJ DREZ  
BACKING VOCALS: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
BACKING VOCALS: CC WHITE  
RECORDED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM





## 06 WE NEVER STOP

“We Never Stop” is a track to put everyone on notice that roots rockers are back! We love to play music and the feeling of positivity and togetherness that it brings.

Roots rockers, We never stop yeah! Roots rockers!

Now behold the roots rockers are back again  
Turn the ignition let us get a fire started now  
When we rock we never stop,  
We keep the people moving  
Rocky rock it never stop  
Some are only in it just to win the gain of fame  
Now they see the humble wear the crown of  
The champion sound  
When we rock we never stop,  
We get the whole world dancing  
Rocky rock it never stop

Let's sing along long, long one more time  
All together will be so much fun  
Rocking the nation, causing sensation  
Let's get along long, long take one more chance  
Start this up and we will never stop  
Rocking the nation, positive vibration, yeah, yeah

Roots rockers, We never stop yeah! Roots rockers!

Now every moment dready step up to the microphone  
Those who feel the tone know the song  
Will remain the same  
When we rock we never stop  
We free the people with music  
Rocky rock it never stop  
Rock to early in the morning  
Through the thunder and rain  
Those who know the rhythm know that  
This a rolling cornerstone  
When we rock we never stop  
Brother it's a movement!

Let's sing along long, long one more time  
All together will be so much fun  
Rocking the nation, causing sensation  
Let's get along long, long take one more chance  
Start this up and we will never stop  
Rocking the nation, positive vibration

Wo ooo, yeah, Well be rocking until  
Early morning Monday  
Never stopping until late night on Tuesday  
Well be ready come the dawning of Wednesday  
Then we rock until late hour of Thursday  
We never stopping when we thank God for Friday  
Then we rest upon the dawning of Saturday  
Well be rocking until midnight on Sunday  
Then we start it all again

Let's sing along long, long one more time  
All together will be so much fun  
Rocking the nation, causing sensation  
Let's get along long, long take one more chance  
Start this up and we will never stop  
Rocking the nation, positive vibration

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: ROCK DEADRICK  
BASS: RONNIE MCQUEEN  
GUITARS: TONY CHIN  
KEYBOARDS: MICHAEL HYDE  
BACKING VOCAL ARRANGEMENT: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
& ROCKY DAWUNI  
BACKING VOCALS: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
RECORDED & MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLOOM

# 07 THE SIGN

“The Sign” is an Afro Roots track that stresses the awareness of spirituality in our everyday lives, learning to trust one’s inner voice and accepting that a higher power guides the course of our lives.

Woo yeah yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, wo, yeah  
Everybody has a legal right  
To determine what they represent  
Our works must go further  
Than the beaten track  
Recognize every miracle  
Realize for whom we are fighting for  
As above so below let no chances drift away

## CHORUS

The sign, the sign, follow the sign  
The sign the sign, sign of the time  
My eyes can now see what my heart believed in  
Wona na na naa, follow the signs  
Wherever we go  
When life has meaning don’t fight that feeling  
Wona na na naa, follow the signs  
Wherever we go

I heard the rebuke of the wise  
Lost my head in the sweeping song of fools  
Now my aim is in a holy space  
I tell you no lie, I feel alive

## CHORUS

Wherever we go I see the sign  
Wherever we go I see the sign  
The sign, the sign,  
Follow the sign wherever we go  
The sign, the sign,  
Follow the sign wherever we go

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: MANAS ITIENE  
BASS: MARK SIMS  
PERCUSSION: LEON MOBLEY  
KEYBOARDS: JOHN MCKNIGHT  
GUITARS: JOHN MCKNIGHT  
SAXOPHONE: RANDAL FISHER  
TRUMPET: STEVE WHITE  
TROMBONE: JOHN MCKNIGHT  
BACKING VOCALS: IJEOMA NJAKA & KANDACE LINDSEY  
RECORDED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM





## 08 BUTTERFLY

"Butterfly" was originally written but never commercially recorded by Bob Marley. I was attracted by its lyrical simplicity combined with a sweeping island feel. Having Jack Johnson's drummer Adam Topol and long time Ben Harper collaborator Tom Freund on ukulele and guitars helped to give this song a unique flavor.

Softly and tenderly  
I'm a giving my love to you  
Butterfly, butterfly, I love you so  
On the streets where we live  
People are making love  
Tell me why can't we, why can't you and I?

I love you so, be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly, so be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly

Softly and truly I am giving my love to you  
Butterfly, butterfly please don't you cry  
On the streets where we live  
People making love  
Tell me why can't we, why can't you and I?

I love you so, be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly, so be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly

Softly and truly I am giving my love to you  
Butterfly, butterfly I love you so  
On the streets where we live  
People making love  
Tell me why can't we, why can't you and I?

I love you so, be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly, so be my butterfly  
So be my butterfly

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: ADAM TOPOL  
BASS/UKULELE/GUITARS: TOM FREUND  
STRING ARRANGEMENT: SWAN MONTGOMERY  
BACKING VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI, SWAN MONTGOMERY  
RECORDED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM



# 09 NAIROBI

“Nairobi” was based on a trip I took to Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya during a very tense time in the country. It was right before their national elections, and tribal and political differences threatened the nation’s stability and security. I wrote it as a love song for a city, country and people.

Riding on the train to Kibera today  
Oh, I promised myself that never again will I hurt you  
Nairobi I love you  
All over the city from place to place  
I reach out with joy to the people I meet  
Cause I love you, Nairobi I love you

## CHORUS

I, I love you, Nairobi Nakupenda  
I love you so  
I, I love you Nairobi Nakupenda  
I love you so

Standing in the rain on Kimathi Street  
I heard a preacher man pray for a reign of peace  
And I said “true Nairobi I love you”  
Young and old from every creed  
Everybody must join in unity  
I say so, Nairobi I love you

## CHORUS

Now twenty four seven everyday of the week  
I commit to seek and keep the faith  
‘Cause I love you Nairobi, Nairobi I love you  
All over the from street I’ll lift up with hope  
Cause I love you, Nairobi I love you

Beautiful city in the sun  
You are the one to whom I run  
When I have the gift of song  
Kenya arises! Kenya arises! Kenya arises!  
Kenya arise!

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
BACKING VOCALS: IJEOMA NJAKA  
BACKING VOCALS: KANDACE LINDSEY  
DUB POETRY: ONEKO ARIKA  
RHYTHM INSTRUMENTATIONS: PHARFAR  
RECORDED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM  
MIXED BY PHARPHAR



# 10 GET UP, STAND UP

I recorded this rendition of the Bob Marley and Peter Tosh song "Get Up, Stand Up" as I felt the need to do an African remake of this classic anthem in light of current world affairs. This version mixes Afrofunk with reggae touches and I sing it in West African Pidgin English.

## CHORUS

Get up, stand up  
Stand up for your rights  
Get up, stand up  
Don't give up the fight  
Get up, stand up  
Stand up for your rights  
Get up, stand up  
Don't give up the fight

Preacherman make you no talk  
Sey heaven dey under the earth  
I know sey you no know  
What this life be worth  
Not all that go dey glitter go be gold  
Half my story never been told  
Now you see ma light  
Wetin you go do  
Stand up for your rights

## CHORUS

Most people dey think  
Sey a great God go commot the sky  
Ego take away everything  
Make everybody be high  
If you know what life be worth  
You go look for yours for earth  
Now you see ma light  
Stand up for your rights

## CHORUS

We dey sick and taya  
We dey sick and taya  
We know wey we understand  
Almighty God is a living man  
You fit fool people sometime  
You can't fool all people all the time  
Now you see ma light  
Stand up for your right!

## CHORUS

Wetin you go do?  
Now wey you know  
Wetin you go do?  
Wetin you go do now  
Woyoo woyoyoyo

Never give up the fight  
We will never give up the fight

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
DRUMS: MANAS ITIENE  
BASS: MARK SIMS  
RHYTHM/LEAD GUITARS: JOHN MCKNIGHT  
KEYBOARDS: JOHN MCKNIGHT  
PERCUSSION: LEON MOBLEY  
TRUMPET: STEVE WHITE  
SAXOPHONE: RANDALL FISHER  
BACKING VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI, JOHN MCKNIGHT,  
IJEOMA NJAKA, KANDACE LINDSEY  
RECORDED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM

# 11 ISLAND GIRL

"Island Girl" is a song of loneliness, longing and love. The island of Hawaii inspired the use of the ukulele. It's a simple love song.

Hey, hey, hey. It's me again  
Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar  
They wait to see what other shoe will drop  
They pass remarks whenever they see us  
Behind our back they say "it will not last"  
From coast to coast from Europe to America  
Life is such a lonely road

## CHORUS

Island Girl, The only one I want  
Woman you are the only one I need  
Island Girl, The only one I want  
Woman gimme everything I need

Girl you are notoriously shy  
Let's take this step by step and never rush  
The way you move make me feel strong  
My heart keeps telling so  
Been around the world in far away places  
Nothin' there compare to you

## CHORUS

Maybe tonight  
We'll get it right  
Under the starlight  
Your place or mine  
Weather the weather  
Now til forever  
My heart keeps telling me  
Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!  
Been around the world in far away places  
Life can be a lonely road

## CHORUS (2x)

LEAD VOCALS: ROCKY DAWUNI  
BACKING VOCALS: ANTHONY BREWSTER  
UKULELE: TOM FREUND  
PUMP ORGAN: TOM FREUND  
RECORDED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL VAIL BLUM





**ALL SONGS PRODUCED BY ROCKY DAWUNI**

Except: "NAIROBI" Produced by Pharphar and Rocky Dawuni

Mastered by Bernie Grundman at  
Bernie Grundman Mastering, Hollywood, CA

**ALL SONGS WRITTEN BY ROCKY DAWUNI**

(Cumbancha Music Publishing, BMI)

Except:

"BUTTERFLY" by Bob Marley / arranged by Rocky Dawuni

(Songs of Peer Ltd obo Cayman Music)

"GET UP, STAND UP" by Bob Marley & Peter Tosh

(Fifty-Six Hope Road, Blackwell Fuller Publishing LLC)

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 **cumbancha**

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 **cumbancha**

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