

Meet Dr. Tanyaradzwa!

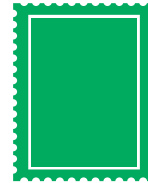


Makadini Vana! (Hello, children!)

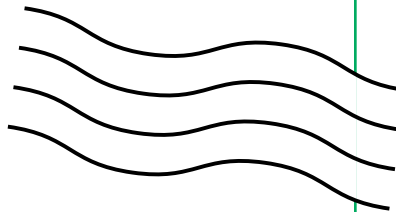
I'm Dr. Tanyaradzwa, and I'm a singer, composer, and teacher. You can also call me Nzou Mambano (nzo-wu mah-mbah-noh), which means "elephant," since that's my family's mutupo (which means "totem"). A mutupo is a special, sacred animal. Most families in Zimbabwe connect to their ancestors through an animal that is very special to them. I play a special instrument called the mbira. My music honors my culture, and has been sung by my people for thousands of years. I'm so excited to share it with you!

Nerudo Ruzere (with love),

Dr. Tanyaradzwa



Musical Explorers
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Dr. Tanyaradzwa

Zimbabwean Market

Mosi-oa-Tunya, Zimbabwe

We asked Dr. Tanyaradzwa ...

What language did you speak at home with your family?

Growing up in Harare, Zimbabwe, we spoke ChiZezuru and English at home. ChiZezuru is just one of 15 languages spoken in Zimbabwe!

What are your favorite foods from Zimbabwe?

Food is so important to us! We have a deep connection to the land; so we have a profound respect for the food that grows from the soil. I grew up eating Sadza reZviyo (a porridge made from sorghum), matemba (dried, salted fish), and muriwo (sautéed kale with onions and tomatoes).

I also loved to eat Bota rineDovi for breakfast (porridge with peanut butter), fresh avocados from the trees in our garden for lunch, and Mupunga uneDovi nehuku (peanut butter brown rice and a yummy chicken stew) for dinner.

What is your favorite tradition?

The month of November is called Mbudzi. We dedicate the whole month to remembering our ancestors. During this month, we rest. There are no celebrations or ceremonies. We honor our ancestors by displaying their pictures, cooking their favorite foods, and telling our favorite stories about them. I love hearing about the incredible people who came before me.