



# Emmanuel Kembe

*A voice for peace. A legacy of truth.*

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GENRE

Reggae & Afro-Fusion

ORIGIN

Wau, South Sudan

DEBUT

Shen-Shen, 1999

BASED

South Sudan

# Thirteen years of exile, carried home in song.

**E**mmanuel Kembe is a South Sudanese reggae and Afro-fusion musician known for songs that carried a message of freedom and reconciliation through thirteen years of exile. His 1999 debut album, *Shen-Shen*, became an anthem across displaced communities before he was able to return home himself.

## FULL BIOGRAPHY

Emmanuel Kembe was born on January 9, 1969, in Wau, South Sudan, into a country already shaped by conflict. By his twenties he was singing openly about injustice — about displaced families, about leaders who had stopped listening, about the ordinary decency that war erodes first. In 1994 that honesty cost him his home, and he went into exile for thirteen years.

Exile did not end the work; it relocated it. In 1999 he released his debut album *Shen-Shen*, recorded far from Wau but written entirely for it. Songs like "Freedom," "Love One Another," and "Papa Pray for Africa" moved through refugee settlements and East African radio, and returned home before he could.

In 2006, while still in exile, Emmanuel formed Kembe Music International in the United States, both to record his own work and to open doors for younger South Sudanese artists. He returned home to South Sudan in 2007, as peace held, and has since performed at United Nations peace concerts held across South Sudan, carrying the same message he was exiled for.

His sound sits where roots reggae meets Afro-fusion: mother-tongue melody, live horns, deep one-drop rhythm, and lyrics that refuse to look away.

## TIMELINE

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- 1969**  
Born in Wau, South Sudan.
  - 1994**  
Exiled for singing against injustice. Thirteen years away from home begin.
  - 1999**  
Debut album *Shen-Shen* released — reaches listeners across East Africa.
  - 2006**  
Forms Kembe Music International in the United States.
  - 2007**  
Returns home to South Sudan as peace holds.
  - Today**  
Performs at UN peace concerts across South Sudan; continues to write and record.

# Discography & Live

## DISCOGRAPHY



### Shen-Shen

DEBUT ALBUM — 1999

Recorded in exile — songs of freedom, longing, and hope that carried across borders and became anthems at home.

01 — Freedom

02 — Love One Another

03 — Ugandan Girl

04 — Papa Pray for Africa

05 — Mama Bentiu

06 — Suwata

#### Spotify

[open.spotify.com/artist/0INaPdW7xfLyew7CXWdnvf](https://open.spotify.com/artist/0INaPdW7xfLyew7CXWdnvf)

#### Apple Music

[music.apple.com — search "Emmanuel Kembe"](https://music.apple.com/search?term=Emmanuel%20Kembe)

#### Boomplay

[boomplay.com — search "Emmanuel Kembe"](https://boomplay.com/search?term=Emmanuel%20Kembe)

#### Audiomack

[audiomack.com — search "Emmanuel Kembe"](https://audiomack.com/search?term=Emmanuel%20Kembe)

## LIVE

Emmanuel Kembe performs with a live band blending roots reggae rhythm section, horns, and mother-tongue vocal harmony. A full technical rider and stage plot are available on request from management.

## PRESS

*Kembe sings the way a country remembers itself — patiently, and without flinching.*

EAST AFRICAN ARTS REVIEW

*A reggae voice that turned exile into an argument for peace.*

JUBA MONITOR

*Afro-fusion with the weight of testimony behind it.*

NILE SOUND JOURNAL

## MANAGEMENT & BOOKING

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