

COMMUNITY SONGS IN GARIFUNA

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INTRODUCTION

The Following are four “community songs” by T. V. Ramos taken from a hymn sheet dated November 19th 1962. The hymn sheet was given to me by Mr. Solomon Cayetano of Dangriga now deceased. It is an exact replica of the songs on the hymn sheet including the topic “community songs”.

Although history has mainly named T. V. Ramos as the leader during the struggle for the recognition of a “Garifuna Day” etc., there were other leaders who worked alongside him, as referenced in the letters to authorities commencing 1941 and in folk tales or oral history. These leaders were:

- *Pantaleon Hernandez (father of Eugene & Joe Hernandez)*
- *Catarino Benguche (father of Nurse Patricia Benguche)*
- *Mathias Avaloy (father of Benjamin, Leonie ”Cook”, & Ned Avaloy)*

According to folk tales Catarino Benguche was the Secretary and was well known for his abilities in the writing and speaking of the English language.

THE SONGS

1. **Buchar Wadibu**

Sung to the tune of “Art Thou Weary Art Thou Languid”

Buchar wadibu gurewey hadibu san
Garagu yen dibu san ma
Guraby barani, rownya bamuga,
Eme-ra-gua-ba.

Aranse hadibu luma Bongio
Wa tibu saran Luagu?
Fudu wati luhabu, fudu wati lugudi
Luma low-ba.

Bigira diwa san bibuga agu-u
Hamon wadu-hen-u binadu
Mabuiga, wayentia, hownisunguby
Awan gura gien.

Ariha banya bisanigu, ariha banya bibanya
Anyagura geyegua ba-u?
Y-ri-ti hagarigu, y-ri-ti haguruen,
Aya hua gua.

2. Agamba Humaitia Lumali Hesu

Sung to the tune of "Listen To The Voice of Jesus"

Agamba humaitia lumali Hesu
Niduhenu nugo
Bimeti rogia hamalali irahunu
Magamba humuti Saran?
Beluhu ma naguburigu beluhuma irahunu
Wama Munadon
Madiseda humatia mararama humatia
Dison wa y.

Nidagume wamatia hababuri wamulenu
Ya Danigrig
Bugawoga wayentia bugawoga hayentia
Lu y fulasu le
Ligialme wayahuaha ligialme wasagriha
Gani haba nasiu won
Madiseda humatia mararama humatia
Dison wa y.

Huru wa my arabu ligia wan by programu
Habu Gar-nagu
Fayeime taxi fayeime renti
Derel dan won
Garani gilitia katey le by
Nebegu
Madiseda humatia mararama humatia
Dison wa y.

3. Marchad Wamatia Nebegu

Sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers"

Marchad wamatia nebebu
Kaimo lubaron wurib
Baruina wamai tia waguruan
Hesu ligiaba waba
Christi ligiatia Abureme
Lichuguna lagiyeru le
Lubaron wamatia wagani leby
Arudaha wamy wafadira lu.

Koras:

*Marchad wamatia nebebu
Kaimo lubaron wurib
Baruina wamai tia waguruan
Hesu ligiaba waba*

Meferidira wamaitia waganyeru
Marugaba lamugawa Mafe
Kaimo liudaran Christi
Meredaha wama tia ya
Adadagara tia winanile
Inigira hanufude gua
Kaimo tbaron nebegu
Hereti wamalali lu.

Koras:

A yante lurubu Sudara
Habuinchar luba Bondio
Nebegu lubaron wamatia
Ayangura fadrigu waba
Mafanrer gia wamatia
I isanigu waga aba Mutu
Ahan Wener sungua tuagu
Lubion Abureme.

Koras:

4. Haliayen San Nigrama

Sung to the tune of “*Where is my Wondering Boy Tonight*”

Haliayen san nigrama gunyel tia
Le wuguri-ra le hisienti nu,
Le irahu le lanina nigundagul,
Le now-u-wa ha naruna rugo.

Koras:

O, Haliayen san nigrama?

O, Haliayen san nigrama?

Inigira wi-u-wi-u gua nanigi

Luruma char-u-wow lichugu un

O, Haliayen san nigrama?

Haliayen san nigrama gunyel tia
Ansa mebelugil luby;
Ariha-ne hamuga yon leheru Numa,
Nigrama le now-u-wa ha.

Koras:

Haliayen san nigrama gunyel tia
Weredi numuti ha-y lumadagu,
Luwaria uma le lania ferdiguow
Luba hisienti nigrama nu.

Koras:

Haliayen san nigrama gunyeltia,
Fagua beluha yagura Pomona Ridge
Kame San Industrial School tuguya yen?
Luba furendei howni wasanigu.