

VOICES & RYTHMS

Valérie EKOUME
Singer & Vocal Coach



© Samuel Nja Kwa

Guy NWOGANG
Drummer/Percussionnist
DrumBooks Author



© Sonia Bela

VALÉRIE EKOUME

BIO

Stepping into Valérie Ekoumè's world will be one of the most interesting and fulfilling experience you may have. In her colorful world, Love is King and Afropop is the music she chooses to express it.

From a musician family, Valérie EKOUME is a French Cameroonian singer based in France.

Since early on, she is passionate about music and especially about singing. She grew up listening to various musical styles from congolese rumba, pop music artists (as Michael Jackson), to cameroonian Music. In 2004, she started to actively work with **Manu DIBANGO** in the **Soul Makossa Gang** and the Maraboutik Big Bang. Touring with this great musician for 8 year, was for Valerie one most incredible experience of her life, there is some things you cannot learn in school...

2005 is the year she decided to join the American **School Of Modern Music**, in Paris specialized in musician training. She stayed there 5 years and learnt harmony, composition, piano etc... In parallel the singer took, advanced vocal classes and completed a training in coaching vocal at the Studio Harmonic, which gave her the ability to teach vocal technics.

After Djaalé in 2015, her second opus "KWIN NA KINGUE" has been released in November 2017 In this new album, and with the help of Guy Nwogang, Valérie EKOUME digged deeper into her cameroonians roots, the result is Bikutsi or even Essèwè which are popular rhythms from Cameroun.

the singer belongs to this new multicultural generation and is influenced by it.

GUY NWOOGANG BIO

“**Dipita Na Wélisanè**” which means faith and perseverance in duala, are words that perfectly describe Guy NWOOGANG ‘s philosophy.

The author of two methods that teach the Cameroonians rhythms, “**12/8 Accents**” and “**Cam Rhythms Air Lines**”, was born in Cameroon where music is more than an institution.

As a young boy, he often skip school and went to the famous club “Le Madison” to listen and watch the drum guy play. Growing up, he developed more skills to the point of being noticed by local great musicians who will give him the opportunity to travel and perform on many great stages in Africa and abroad.

Wishing to improve himself even more, he decided at age of 22 to fly to France and integrate **Christian Bourdon’s Akanga Music School**, this was best decision ever since he started to work with internationally know artists as **Stevie WONDER, Manu DIBANGO, Maceo PARKER an Salif KEIATA**, only to name few.

Guy as several strings to his bow, not only he is a drummer but he is also known as a very gifted percussionist, able to speak the universal languages of percussions.

LET'S PLAY, SING AND DANCE

«Having fun while learning about an other culture », this one sentence summarize perfectly what this workshop is about.

Valérie Ekoumè and Guy Nwogang will take advantage of this one hour session to share their culture through rhythms and voices and based on one song from the singer's repertoire



First of all, let's introduce ourself !

During a brief moment, Valérie and Guy will talk with the participants about their experiences as musicians and introduce them with program and the song they will work on.

Let's learn !

The group will be divided in two, some of them will work the Makossa's clave with Guy and the other one will be learning the song with Valérie. Time's up, let's switch !

Let's do it !

The time has come to gather, to sing, clap and dance for real. No holding back, just sharing the joy and once again having fun.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RHYTHMS !

Working with Guy:

Rhythm is life.

Working with Guy will be an opportunity for the children to learn the Makossa's clave, a rhythm which is very popular in Cameroun and originally from the people from the cost. If there are percussions on site, we will use them, if there is not it's ok we will use our body (and soul 😊).

Working with Valérie:

Rhythms is everything.

Even if we are using ours voices, it's still about the rhythm because, before even singing we have to get use to the words and practice them in order to stay in time. And then we sing. It's always amazing to see how quickly children can adapt to a new language. Most of the time they just dive into it without even thinking at all !

Requested Materials:

A piano or keyboard and percussions (if possible).

Objectives

“**Sharing and Transmission**” are the major keywords of this workshop. The main thing being to send a strong and positive message in a **spirit of togetherness**, through active and **collective participation**.

Introducing a different language, a different rhythm through voices and and body expression to young people will hopefully kindle a desire to learn even more about that culture or maybe another one ?

For who?

Everybody of course !

