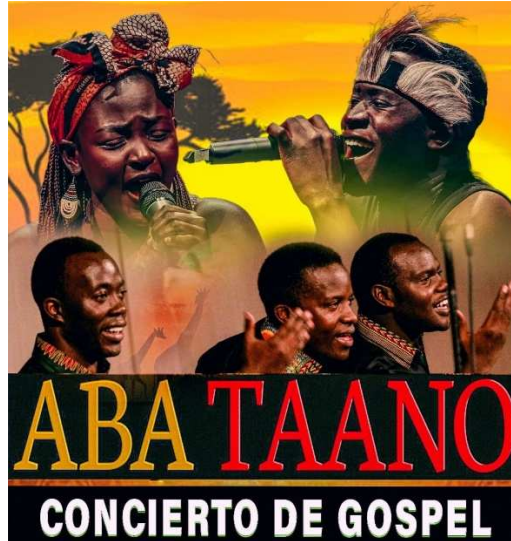


# Aba Taano



**Nabbaale Harriet, Kimeze Joshua, Kiyemba Rogers, Mayanja Louis y Ssentenza Derrick**

**Cappella Vocal Quintet – The Joy of África**

**Aba Taano in Got Talent Spain at 2023 October**



Aba Taano is a gospel quintet created in Kireka, a suburb of Kampala (Uganda), in 2008, under the name THE FIVE (in their mother tongue, Luganda) under the direction, then, of Jingo George. Currently, the ensemble is led by the founding member of the quintet: Ssentenza Derrick. Their style incorporates South African gospel, some Pan-African gospel, ethnic songs and pop. From the beginning, they have been influenced by renowned choirs or ensembles, such as the Soweto Gospel Choir, Lady Smith Black Mambazo or UMOJA. However, even though there are only five of them, their sound is extremely powerful, but often more

intimate than that of their mentors, and reaches directly to the hearts of their audience.

In total, Aba Taano has released 5 studio albums, 3 concert albums, 1 online concert and numerous music videos. Aba Taano has also created a virtual library of African Voices (Kyawa, by Eduardo Tarilonte). They have collaborated on the soundtrack of the film HIS HOUSE composed by the Spanish composer Roque Baños. They have sold more than 50,000 CDs, performed in more than 2,000 concerts, in 14 countries in Europe (including the Vatican where they sang in September 2021) and have won 11 international awards. In 2022 they have recorded the REMOVE video, which will open the documentary about chess, which will be broadcasted soon. They were chosen to participate in the Moscow competition in May 2020.... and re-invited in 2021, but the pandemic and war have made the festival impossible. Everywhere they are praised for the beauty of their voices and the enormous work that sustains them. At the end of 2023, they created the musical UBUNTU, THE SPIRIT OF AFRICA together with the group of dancers and percussionists of the UGANDAN STICKS AND THEIR RWANDA DRUMS. They are 5 warm voices, four boys and one girl full of humor, joy and dynamism.

### AWARDS AND TROPHIES

The first prize of all they achieved, even before reaching the Voice Olympics in Riga (Latvia) was in July 2014. A festival where 29,000 singers attended. 429 choirs. Great choral meeting. In May of the same year 2014, the director of those Olympics Games had the idea of sending all participants an invitation to create their own version of the official song of the Games. The song was called, *My Song by Eriks Esenvalds*. Latvian composer. The deadline was May 15 at 00:00 hours. Aba Taano sent his version at 11:55 this same day... .. (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrGbfwKNZfM>). And they won!!! That was their first trophy. Then in July, they won **their first gold medal**, in the Spirituality and Faith category.

After that succes, they decided to go the following year, in 2015, to the “Cantate Domino” competition in Kaunas, Lithuania. There, they swept and won **2 silver medals, 1 Gold medal, the first prize of the Festival, the "Audience" prize, and the Expressiveness Prize**. They were all so impressed that even Korean conductor Maestro Jae-Joon Lee wanted to take them to Seoul.

In 2015 they created a virtual African Voices bookstore with Eduardo Tarilonte.

In May 2018 Germany in Leipzig at the prestigious A Cappella Competition, they won **second prize**. However, there was no first prize! It became vacant. Thanks to this award they had the opportunity to sing at the Gewandhaus, one of the 10 most important venues in Europe. There they also won the **Audience Award**. And knowing that Leipzig is the city where Johann Sebastian Bach spent 27 years of his adult life, and knowing the gigantic amount of music that the inhabitants of Leipzig have heard, it is quite an honor to have been awarded the audience prize.

Then in June 2019, at the Tampeere A Cappella Festival in Finland, they won the **2<sup>nd</sup> prize**.

In December 2020 they manage to do an online concert from their country: Uganda (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RvUxw59Hw4&t=453s>).

Since 2020 they have returned to Spain 8 times, gathering more and more concerts. In 2021 they were invited to sing at the Vatican and in 2022, they were invited to close the Invisible Film Festival in Bilbao.

## **Critics**

### ***Critic of Concert in AUD. G MENENDEZ PIDAL. EL ESPINAR (SEGOVIA)***

...The high voices of Aba Taano rise towards the sky in prayer, while the basses make up the substrate, the nourishing earth, source of all life- ...From a pop song that we have heard so many times, such as "Stand by me", Aba Taano made a sensational version, without commercial concessions and full of original resonances...The excited audience, standing up, applauds Aba Taano at the end. And since love is not incompatible with humor, the group gives us a gift outside of the program with the tip "La cucaracha". And, listen, you need to be very good for "The Cockroach" to resonate with strength and "surprising grace". *Alberto Martin Baró . © El Adelantado de Segovia 2014 August.*

### ***Critic of Concert in O BARQUEIRO.***

"They knew how to transmit all their spirituality, all their simplicity and all their energy, infecting the large audience that progressively went from expectation to improvised and spontaneous participation. Excited and exciting musical moments especially when we hear the renowned Malaika (Angel in Swahili). Listening to them, we hear the voice of Africa live and direct." - *Julia Maria Dopico Vale. Diario de Ferrol. 26 de Julio 2015.*

### ***Critic of Concert in HUESCA***

"Theirs was an overwhelming success, supported by incontestable virtuosity and a repertoire with numerous nods to all audiences. (...) his quality and talent are incontestable" *Diario del Alto Aragón, 19/12/2016 JAVIER AQUILUÉ*

### ***Critic of Concert in BERLIN, PASSIONKIRCHE KREUZBERG***

Aba Tanoo's appearance in Berlin today was a blessing. I think anyone who is passionate about a cappella music will enjoy performing it and learn from it. Those who don't become passionate about it will most likely do so after experiencing it. So I don't hesitate to suggest that you put an Aba Tanoo live concert at the top of your bucket list. Berlin loved Africa and Africa loved Berlin today. Thank you Aba Tanoo. Come back to Berlin soon. Until then, *Nkosi Sikelel*

*i'Aba Tanoo & Nkosi Sikelel i'Africa. - Alexander Schröder. BapelinaVI- 27 Abril 2019*

