HAITI: SINGING FOR PEACE

From Haiti, singing for peace – one remarkable man travels the country sharing his message … and his music.

Located in the Caribbean, Haiti has long faced poverty as well political and social unrest (8")

In 2004 the United Nations established a peacekeeping mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH. (8")

Besides political unrest Haiti has also been hit by natural disasters such as the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 (10")

Despite this many Haitians are
determined to use their creativity to carve out a better future (10")

FADE IN
PEACE CONCERT, MC ON STAGE, JAMES COMING OUT ON STAGE

MC UPSOUND: (In Creole)
“Make some noise for James Germain!” (4”)

NAME SUPER: James Germain, Singer

JAMES GERMAIN: (In Creole)
“I didn’t choose music. Music chose me “ (3”)

JAMES SINGING ON STAGE

JAMES UPSOUND: (In Creole)
“Good evening everyone! Do you choose peace?” (7”)

JAMES GERMAIN: (In Creole)
“When I was a toddler, my mom used to sing stories for me. Those moments always made me happy.” (12”)

JAMES UPSOUND: (In Creole)
“I am here to bring this message: peace means good security for all. So that everyone can live well.” (8”)

JAMES GERMAIN: (In Creole)
“Mom used to sing for me before I went to bed. Later, when I went to school, I began singing. And when I saw how it
might change my life, I decided to start a career as a singer.” (16”)

SOPHIE BOUDRE: (In English)
“After the peace concert that we at the UN Mission in Haiti organized in Port au Prince, the capital. James came back to us and proposed to work on a workshop to engage youth from vulnerable neighborhoods, young artists, in creating, crafting messages for peace and composing songs for peace.” (21”)

JAMES GERMAIN: (at concert In Creole)
(Singing with audience) You left – when will you come back to see me again?
You left. When will you come back? The country has changed. (11”)

JAMES AT VARIOUS WORKSHOPS

JAMES GERMAIN: (in Creole)
“I come from a family with eight little ones and I was the youngest. When I was a kid, I was pampered a lot. My family gave me a lot of attention because I wasn’t like the others. They all came out the same colour. [Because I’m albino] I came out white…. (33”)

…My favorite audience is children, young
people. Those who I can help. If we want a brighter future, children must grow up well. We must prepare their future while we are here. Our mistakes must serve as examples to steer them in a better direction.” (21”)

VWA AYITI POU LAPE TOUR CONCERT PERFORMANCE, RAPPER

RAPPER UPSOUND: (In Creole)
“I’ll close my eyes, send my mind to the horizon, seek out beautiful words that can cure me. For Haiti which has been bad for a long time. He has travelled everywhere to borrow here and there.” (12”)

VWA AYITI POU LAPE TOUR CONCERT PERFORMANCE, YOUNG RAPPER, YOUTH SINGING TOGETHER

EMELINE MICHELE, JAMES GERMAIN AND BEETHOVA OBAS TOGETHER WITH YOUTH ON STAGE

SOPHIE BOUDRE: (In English)
So James, Emeline and Beethova like brothers and sisters, they know each other for very long time, they worked with about 200 youth in 10 different cities in creating songs and pieces that then they performed together, young artists together with their, you know, role models, most of the young people that we worked with were amazed to be sharing the stage with such legends as James, Emeline and Beethova who were their parents idols as well. (26”)

VWA AYITI POU LAPE

JAMES GERMAIN: (In Creole)
Why did I choose to do this project? I
think that young people need to meet each other. The goal is to get young people together everywhere so they can revive the country. (22")

We can be scattered, but we must meet at the same intersection. (7")

We work not only with peacekeepers. Traditional image of peacekeeping, preventing violence, patrolling in the streets of vulnerable neighborhoods with weapons, but there is another side of peacekeeping. It's engaging communities and creating the conditions for dialogue and mediation. Creating conditions for people to be able to express themselves and say what they have on their minds and advocate for their rights. (26")

The Haiti peace project brings young people together to interact and to get to know each other. Before this they didn't know each other. (15")

They helped us as young Haitians to
perform on stage and to have great inspiration as artists. (9“)

HARRIS ON CAMERA

HARRIS DARDOMPRE: (In French)
I can’t just talk about singing for peace – but it is also living the word, understanding the word. We are thirsty for justice, nonviolence and tolerance and we must do it by ourselves. (17“)

JAMES GERMAIN: (In FRENCH)
As an artist, I have a responsibility to convey a positive message. When we see what is going on in the world, and here in Haiti ... this problem of instability ... living together, I thought that I could add my flavour to the mix. ... (27“)

JAMES ON STAGE WITH YOUTH SINGING

(Not titled on screen – but translation is) We need peace! Fort-National... need peace! Haiti! Need peace! (7“)