

The Singing Wells Project: Music of the Kalenjin



Artist: Lomut Traditional Dancers

Date: 6th March, 2012

Location: Lomut, Kenya

Tribe: Kalenjin, Pokot

Translated by: David Lomoywara ('Tough Bull')

The Lomut Traditional Dancers are lean and strong. They dress in a bright vivid blue with beaded necklaces. They are visually stunning and can jump very high.

Kitok Pokot: This song is about the traditional Pokot grass houses and how they are built.

Chepo Ktpsot: This is about someone whose wife runs away to her uncle's house and he asks his brother to bring her back. The brother brings her back in the end.

Chelimo: This is about a brother and sister fighting about a sheep. The boy wins in the end.

Kech: This is about a sheep who gets lost and the village goes out to find it. At first they aren't sure it's the right sheep when they find it but eventually they make sure it is by talking to the owner.

Chepng'aror: A child is married off to a poor family. She doesn't want to go because they are poor but eventually she is married. She is approximately 15 years old.

Kalokeya: There is a girl child that two men are fighting over. One is poor but adheres to the norms of the society and is a good citizen. The other is rich but he does not adhere to the traditions of the village. The villagers prefer the poor one and she goes with him. It is more important to follow traditions than to be rich.

Suma Agenge: This song is performed with the singers acting out the parts by limping dramatically. It is about an old man who comes to visit and he has a limp. The children all make fun of him and one by one they limp like he does. Eventually they feel bad about laughing at the old man and making fun of him.