

SCRIPT GHETTO CLASSICS NAIROBI - KENYA, EXTENDED

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PRESENTATION

To bring young people from slum areas in touch with high culture, and to change their lives. That's the aim of the so-called Ghetto Classics in a big slum estate in Kenya's capital Nairobi. There a church organization looked into another way of showing the youth there's another life than being jobless, or to descend into criminality. They do that by giving groups of children lessons in playing classical music. The classes now exists for a year, and 20 students are enrolled. 17-years old Simon Otieno is one of them, and he already made up his mind.

BETA LENGTH 2:50

SOUNDBITE SIMON OTIENO PLAYING EUMONIUM

SHOTS:

- *wide Simon Otieno playing euphonium*
- *wide class room with students playing instruments*
- *medium shot Simon Otieno playing euphonium in class*

VOICE OVER

Simon Otieno is 17 years old, and every other week he comes to practice on the premises of St John's Church in Korogocho. Today they're doing march music.

SOUNDBITE STUDENTS DRUMMING

SHOTS:

- *wide exterior class room building*
- *wide general view Korogocho*
- *street market with clothes*

VOICE OVER

The class room building is in the heart of the Korogocho slum in Nairobi. 150,000 people live here under bad hygienic conditions. Unemployment and crime rates are high.

SOUNDBITE SIMON OTIENO WALKING

SHOTS:

- *Simon Otieno walking on dirty street with no pavement*

- group of children

VOICE OVER

Simon lives on a ten minutes walk from the church.
And every day again he's confronted with how things are in his Korogocho.
The classical music gives him a lot of inspiration.

QUOTE SIMON OTIENO

By playing the instrument it feels like I am charged inside. I can do anything I want in my heart.

SHOTS:

- wide shot class with students
- close windows with wide garbage dump
- wide garbage dump
- 2 students and Simon Otieno holding instruments
- set up shot father John Webootsa next to Jesus on the cross

But even during the lessons the stench of Nairobi's biggest garbage dump fills the class room.
The organizers want to show there's another world than this. Through classical music, which is normally exclusive to the wealthy, and brought to Korogocho by a church leader with a message.

QUOTE FATHER JOHN WEBOOTSAS

You don't need to be rich to do anything. That they could also do what the rich can do. So it will take out that inferiority complex.

SOUNDBITE ELIZABETH NJOROGI SINGING

Summer time when the living is easy.

The pastor got in touch with classical music through a performing friend.
She knows there can be a future in this.
Even in Kenya where classical music is still maturing.

QUOTE ELIZABETH NJOROGI

***Once the band is good enough they can perform locally.
They can perform locally there.
When something is happening at the chief's camp.
They can go there and perform and get paid for it.***

SOUNDBITE DIRECTOR PLAYING

SHOT:

- director giving trumpet back to student

VOICE OVER

Martin Wambua is the director of the group. He noticed how enthusiastic his students are.

QUOTE MARTIN WAMBUA

I have seen they've given their life to it. They have shown a lot of interest, and it has changed their life.

SHOT:

- *Simon Otieno playing euphonium outside*

VOICE OVER

Simon already decided to further studies,
and dreams about performing overseas.

QUOTE SIMON OTIENO

After going, let' say, going to Italy to play there.

SHOTS:

- *Simon talking to his mother holding baby*
- *general view house compound with many children*

VOICE OVER

A dream which is supported by Simon's mother.
She hopes her son will get another life than her.

QUOTE ALICE OLOO

***Now it's not bringing money because he's still practicing.
But I know it's going to help his future.***

SHOT:

- *Simon Otieno reading a school notebook*

VOICE OVER

And it's even for free because of donations of individuals and institutions.

SOUNDBITE SIMON OTIENO PLAYING EUPHONIUM

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