

Yekermo Sew is an African jazz piece by Mulatu Astatke.

Mulatu Astatke is Ethiopian, born in 1943, he was a powerful player and band leader in the 60s and 70s, and has recently made a huge come back with Volume 4 of the Ethiopiques series being devoted to the highlights of Mulatu's earlier releases.

Yekermo Sew is probably his best-known composition. After seeing the Jim Jarmusch/Bill Murray film "Borke Flowers" (which I did not particularly enjoy), I kept humming this captivating melody, and later learned that it was Yekermo Sew. Don't rent the movie, but do buy the CD.

It just so happens that Yekermo Sew is in G minor, and it just so happens that you can play it on the G minor Karimba - though it requires some tricky fingering. I move my right hand way over to the left side for several different passages, and at one point the right hand plays two notes on the left and then jumps way over to the right. Tricky, but not impossible. The exceptional fingering is noted in the tablature. There are other ways of doing this - ie, doing slides on the left thumb, or using the right index finger, or doing a different voicing of the notes (there are four different pairs of doubled notes on the karimba, which gives the opportunity of a different fingering for these notes). So, if the suggested fingering is too cumbersome for you, please do experiment with other options. OR just play it slowly.

The Tablature! THATS RIGHT, I was supposed to be talking about the tablature for Yekermo Sew. Thats what you just spent \$5 on - OK, it took me a total of 4 hours to arrange and notate this (there is an earlier version of Yekermo Sew tablature which I gave away on the Kalimba Magic web site, but THIS version is way better and has my original jam fully notated). I hope that about 20 people will purchase this from me, so I can get paid \$25 an hour for this transcription and arranging work.

OK - I am in a bad legal situation - I should be sending Mulatu \$0.10 for every one of these Yekermo Sew tablatures I sell. If I meet my target, I'll owe him \$2. We'll settle up when I owe him \$10, which might be in 2015. FOR NOW, lets just hope I have given him \$2 worth of publicity and good will through saying nice but true things about him. It would never stand in court, but hey, our world is changing fast, and if someone wants to take me to court for \$2 (or \$10), I'm up for the challenge.

OK, ok, back to the tablature.

You just paid \$5 for THIS LAME README FILE, the PDF version of the tablature (a complete but lifeless version of the information required to play this song on Gm Karimba), and the KTabS version of the tablature - to "play" this file on your Windows computer, download the KTabS reader for free at:

<http://ktabs.theirhouse.org>

Best of luck, enjoy this, and go watch me play the song on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4no_KAdAME

-Mark Holdaway
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