

SONGS OF PEACE

1. Experience

Tell students you are going to play a song. Ask students to close their eyes and to lay their heads on the desks, and to concentrate on the **feelings** and **images** that cross their minds while listening. Then, play Dobet Gnahore's song 'Amonbolo' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLAtEx7wcb0>)¹.

After the exercise, ask students to come up with the feelings, images and colours they thought about while listening to the song. What do they think the song is about? Where do they think the artist comes from?

The song 'Amonbolo' is a prayer for peace in Bete (a language spoken in the Ivory Coast). The song also says that, as long as the earth goes around, wars will continue and innocent people will die.

The singer Dobet Gnahoré is from the Côte d'Ivoire. She settled in Marseille in 1999 due to the Civil War. Her father, Boni Gnahore, is a master percussionist.

2. Reflection - Some questions for discussion in the class:

- Can you think of any examples of art and music promoting peace?
- Do you think arts, and music in particular, are important in order to create a peaceful world? How?



Right: Dobet Gnahore, by Dan Mullen, Creative Common Licence (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs).

Left: A child farming in Ivory Coast. Gates Foundation, Creative Commons Licence.

3. Action - Ideas to exchange and connect

After the exercise, students can:

- Create a song about peace, record it and send it to their partner school.
- Research peace songs from around the world and perform one, applying changes in the language, rhythm, or instruments chosen. Send the song to the partner school.
- Write to their partner school about a successful example of music, or art, being used to promote peace.

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¹ Catherine Cassis, 2008. Dobet Gnahoré - Amonbolo- Bridgestone Music Festival 2008.