

The Return — An Invitation to the Marley Family

To: The family of Bob Marley, and their management
From: Nigus Entertainment and Abyssinia Entertainment, Addis Ababa
With: StreamAfri (*broadcast*) and the Ministry of Tourism of Addis Ababa
Occasion: Genna to Timkat — 7 to 23 January 2027
Issued: [DATE OF ISSUE]
Status: An invitation. Not an announcement, and not a booking.

1. The invitation

Bob Marley reached Africa once, in 1980, at Zimbabwe's independence. He sang toward Ethiopia for his entire working life and never stood on its ground.

We are writing to invite his family to come — not to perform a date, but to be received by the country his music pointed at, during the two greatest festivals of the Ethiopian year.

The invitation is extended to the family as a whole and to whoever among them wishes to make the journey, together or one at a time. Nobody here is booked, and no part of what follows has been announced. This document exists so the family can see the whole proposal in one place before deciding whether any of it is of interest.

2. Why January

The Ethiopian calendar places its two largest festivals two weeks apart. The visit would open on the first and close after the second.

FESTIVAL	DATE	PLACE	WHAT IT IS
Genna	7 January 2027	Lalibela	Ethiopian Christmas. Tens of thousands of pilgrims in white at the rock-hewn churches, carved downward out of solid stone in the twelfth century and still in use. UNESCO World Heritage since 1978.
Timkat	19–20 January 2027	Gondar	Ethiopian Epiphany, and the largest festival in the country. The Tabot carried in procession, the crowd blessed with water at dawn at Fasilides' Bath. UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2019.

These two dates are fixed by the Ethiopian calendar and cannot move. Every other date in this document is a target, proposed by the hosts, and open to the family's amendment.

3. What is proposed

Seventeen days, in the order they would happen. The blocks are ranges rather than fixed days, and any part can be cut, moved, or closed to cameras at the family's word.

DAYS	PLACE	WHAT HAPPENS
7 Jan	Lalibela	Arrival and Genna . State welcome, coffee ceremony, private dinner with the hosts. Closed to press entirely, at the family's discretion.
8–10 Jan	Addis Ababa	Unity Park and the National Palace. The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum — the battle that kept Ethiopia uncolonised. The Science Museum, and a conversation with young Ethiopians.
11–13 Jan	Axum and Gondar	The historical route: the obelisks of Axum, the castles of Fasilides, Lake Tana and the island monasteries.
14–16 Jan	Adey Abeba National Stadium	A full three-day rehearsal block. Stage, sound, lighting and backline to the family's specification. Closed set — crew and family only.
17 Jan	Adey Abeba National Stadium	Concert night (proposed) . Ethiopia's newly inaugurated national stadium, capacity 62,000. This would be the first international concert ever staged in it.
18 Jan	Addis Ababa	Site visit and groundbreaking for a permanent Marley memorial museum, facilitated with the Ministry of Tourism of Addis Ababa. Joint press moment, jointly approved beforehand.
19–20 Jan	Gondar	Timkat . The procession of the Tabot and the dawn blessing at Fasilides' Bath.
21–22 Jan	Bishoftu	The crater lakes. Private programme, rest, and a closing dinner with the hosts.
23 Jan	Addis Ababa	Morning held clear. Protocol departure from Bole International.

The concert is described as proposed throughout, and remains so until the family says otherwise in writing.

4. How the family would be received

These are undertakings by the hosts, offered with the invitation, and each is written into the terms before anything is announced.

1. **Diplomatic treatment.** The family and their party are received under diplomatic protocol — state courtesies on arrival, government liaison throughout, and the standing of official guests of the city rather than visiting performers.
2. **Arrival without friction.** Private terminal handling at Bole International, protocol officers through immigration and customs, and luggage and equipment cleared ahead of the party.
3. **Security and ground operations.** Close protection coordinated with city authorities, a dedicated convoy with escort between every venue, and secured floors at the residence. Movements are planned with the family's own security leads, not around them.
4. **Hospitality.** Accommodation, hospitality and ground transport for the family and their party are carried by the hosts, in Addis Ababa and at Kuriftu African Village in Bishoftu.
5. **Privacy on the family's terms.** Which moments are filmed, which are broadcast, and which are never recorded is set by the family in writing before anyone travels. Genna itself can be closed to cameras entirely.

5. A permanent memorial

Not a plaque, and not a week of banners.

The hosts are working with the Ministry of Tourism of Addis Ababa to establish a permanent Marley memorial museum in the capital — a building that stays after the stage comes down. A candidate site is being identified with the Ministry.

Nothing is sited or permitted yet, and **no part of the museum depends on the family accepting the invitation to perform**. It is offered as a statement of what Ethiopia believes it owes, not as a term of a deal.

6. Broadcast

StreamAfri would carry the concert night across the continent and to the diaspora, under terms the family approves in advance.

- Archive and post-production are retained for the family.
- Territory, windowing and content protection are set in the agreement before any ticket is sold.
- Nothing is streamed that the family has not cleared.

7. What we are asking for

Nothing binding at this stage. Specifically, we are asking:

1. Whether the family, or any member of it, is willing to receive this invitation formally.
2. Whether a call can be arranged between the family's management and the hosts, at a time of their choosing.
3. Whether there is anything in the shape of the seventeen days that should change before it goes any further.

We would rather hear that the proposal is wrong now than build toward a date nobody agreed to.

8. What happens next

A private room has been prepared for this conversation. It holds the timeline, the calendar, the cost categories, and the documents — visible to the family, their management, and the hosts at the same time.

Access: [ROOM ADDRESS TO CONFIRM]

Access is by invitation only. There is no sign-up, the room is not indexed, and every document in it is marked confidential. Accounts are created by the hosts for named people the family nominates.

9. Standing of this document

Stated plainly, so there is no ambiguity:

- This is an invitation, not an offer of engagement and not a contract.
- No member of the family is booked, contracted, or announced.
- The concert is proposed and is described that way everywhere.
- Genna and Timkat are fixed; every other date is a target.
- Cost categories exist but carry no agreed figures. Nothing is costed until it is costed jointly.
- Photography accompanying this proposal is placeholder or licensed for review only, and is not cleared for publication.

Nigus Entertainment *(host)* [SIGNATORY NAME AND TITLE TO CONFIRM]

Abyssinia Entertainment *(host)* [SIGNATORY NAME AND TITLE TO CONFIRM]

StreamAfri *(broadcast)* [SIGNATORY NAME AND TITLE TO CONFIRM]

In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism of Addis Ababa.

Confidential. Extended to the Marley family and their management.