



Authentic regional coverage 



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Aar Maanta

the pop star bringing Somalia to the Mississippi



"When my son was born we searched for Somali lullabies and found there was nothing available. All I had were my memories," he says. "That was the spark for this project."

Some of the lyrics have been written by the Somali children, some as young as eight years old.

A Somali pop star has been bringing music into the lives of children in a district of the US city of Minneapolis known as "Little Mogadishu on the Mississippi" to help them learn about the language and culture of their homeland.

Aar Maanta, usually based in London, saw an urgent need to bring the Somali language into the lives of the children, some of whom were born in the US and could not speak their mother tongue.

The children live in the Cedar-Riverside neighbourhood of Minneapolis in the US state of Minnesota - an area with a large Somali population.

Their songs were released this month on what has been described as "the first bilingual English and Somali children's album in world music".

It is called Ubadkaa Mudnaanta Leh, which means "Children Have Priority".