



Dear Friend,

If you've ever traveled out of the country then you probably have an idea of how I'm feeling. Waves of excitement and nervousness have been in tandem for the past nine months. For me, the wildest thing about this trip is I won't be traveling with family or friends to a vacation destination.

Late June of 2022, I received a letter of acceptance for a professional development opportunity through the [Fulbright-Hays Scholarship Program](#). I had no idea what it all entailed. Since then, I've attended virtual meetings early on Saturday mornings to learn about the landscape, geography and social norms of Kenya and Uganda. Recently, we began learning about the indigenous Kiswahili language and having practice sessions with a professor who lives in Nairobi. Two months ago, passports were submitted and just last week, flight tickets were confirmed.

[It's official, I'm going to Africa - I can't believe this dream of mine is finally happening.](#)

Family and friends who are just as excited for me suggested I create a GoFundMe page. Some of you may remember when my daughter traveled abroad to Spain during her senior year in high school. Our experience with GoFundMe in 2019 left me a little deflated because a lot of time was poured into creating the profile. Ultimately, many preferred to by-pass the site because of administrative fees and send support to us directly.

While the trip to East Africa is mostly grant funded, necessities like medication, vaccines and a working Visa are starting to add up. As a small business owner since 2008, most of my income comes through performances, especially during the summer months. Over the past four years I worked tirelessly to book shows that would not only showcase myself, but shine the light on my awesome bandmates in [Shuga Blu](#).

We are thankful to the venues and communities that support live music!

Now that Spring is approaching, emails and calls are coming in for shows. I'm thrilled to have a few dates booked. If you are looking to [book a show](#), please visit my website at <https://www.keshenaarmonmusic.com/> or give my team a call at 414-309-4798.

I hope you'll consider becoming a sponsor for my travels to Kenya/Uganda. Your generous donation will help make it possible for me to grow professionally, provide invaluable information to my students and continue to positively contribute to Milwaukee's thriving music and arts scene. Thank you so much for your time and unwavering support. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Keshena Armon

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