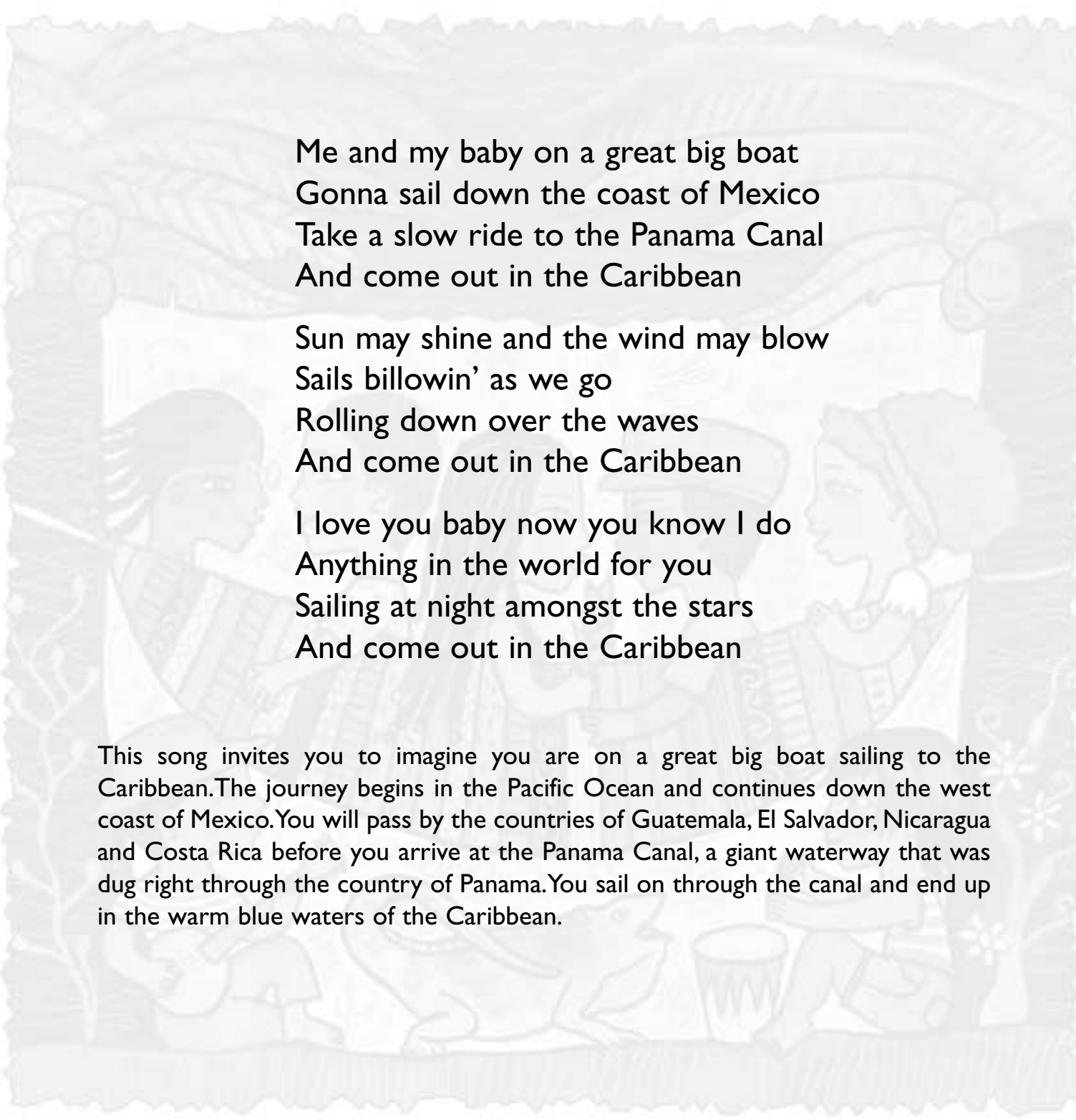




Taj Mahal

“Great Big Boat”

(Music & Lyrics by Taj Mahal)



Me and my baby on a great big boat
Gonna sail down the coast of Mexico
Take a slow ride to the Panama Canal
And come out in the Caribbean

Sun may shine and the wind may blow
Sails billowin' as we go
Rolling down over the waves
And come out in the Caribbean

I love you baby now you know I do
Anything in the world for you
Sailing at night amongst the stars
And come out in the Caribbean

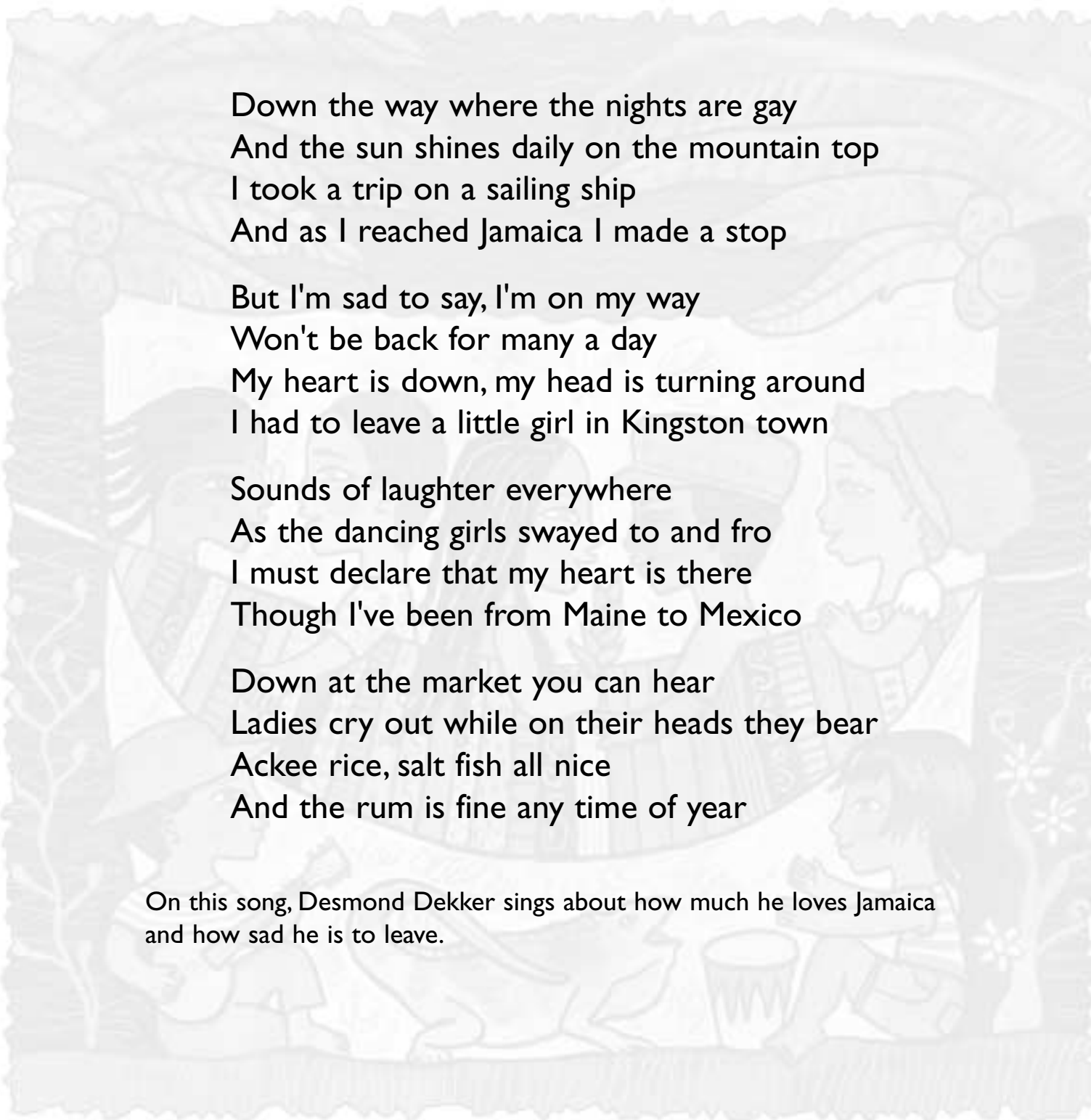
This song invites you to imagine you are on a great big boat sailing to the Caribbean. The journey begins in the Pacific Ocean and continues down the west coast of Mexico. You will pass by the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica before you arrive at the Panama Canal, a giant waterway that was dug right through the country of Panama. You sail on through the canal and end up in the warm blue waters of the Caribbean.



Desmond Dekker

“Jamaica Farewell”

(Music and Lyrics by Irving Burgie)



Down the way where the nights are gay
And the sun shines daily on the mountain top
I took a trip on a sailing ship
And as I reached Jamaica I made a stop

But I'm sad to say, I'm on my way
Won't be back for many a day
My heart is down, my head is turning around
I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town

Sounds of laughter everywhere
As the dancing girls swayed to and fro
I must declare that my heart is there
Though I've been from Maine to Mexico

Down at the market you can hear
Ladies cry out while on their heads they bear
Ackee rice, salt fish all nice
And the rum is fine any time of year


On this song, Desmond Dekker sings about how much he loves Jamaica and how sad he is to leave.



Kali

“Tambou Dan Tche Nou (Drums in Our Home)”

(Music and Lyrics by Charles Labinsky and Vasco Noverraz)



Drums in our home
Can bring joy to our hearts
Drums have a spirit
That makes us feel good

We need the drums everyday
When we are walking
When we are breathing
Drums are the soul of the country

They can make us dance
They can bring us together
They can make us sing

This song is all about people getting together and having fun playing music with their drums

Keith Franks & The Soileau Zydeco Band

“Three Little Birds”

(Words & Music by Bob Marley)

Singing don't worry about a thing,
'Cause every little thing is gonna be all right.

Woke up this morning
Arose with the rising sun,
Three little birds
Was on my doorstep
Singing sweet songs
A melody pure and true
This is my message to you

The song tells of three little birds whose beautiful melodies give a message of hope and happiness.

Karl Zero and the Wailers

“Coconut Woman”

(Words & Music by Harry Belafonte & Lord Burgess)

Coconut woman is calling out
Coconut woman is calling out
And everyday you can hear her shout
Coconut woman is calling out
And everyday you can hear her shout
Get your coconut water
Man it's good for your daughter
Coco got a lot of iron
Make you strong like a lion

A lady tell me the other day
No one can take her sweet man away
I ask her what was the mystery
She say coconut water and rice curry
You can cook it in a pot
You can serve it very hot
Coco got a lot of iron
Make you strong like a lion

Coconut woman says you'll agree
Coconut makes very nice candy
The thing that's best if you're feeling glum
Is coconut water with a little rum
It could make you very tipsy
Make you feel like a Gypsy
Coco got a lot of iron
Make you strong like a lion

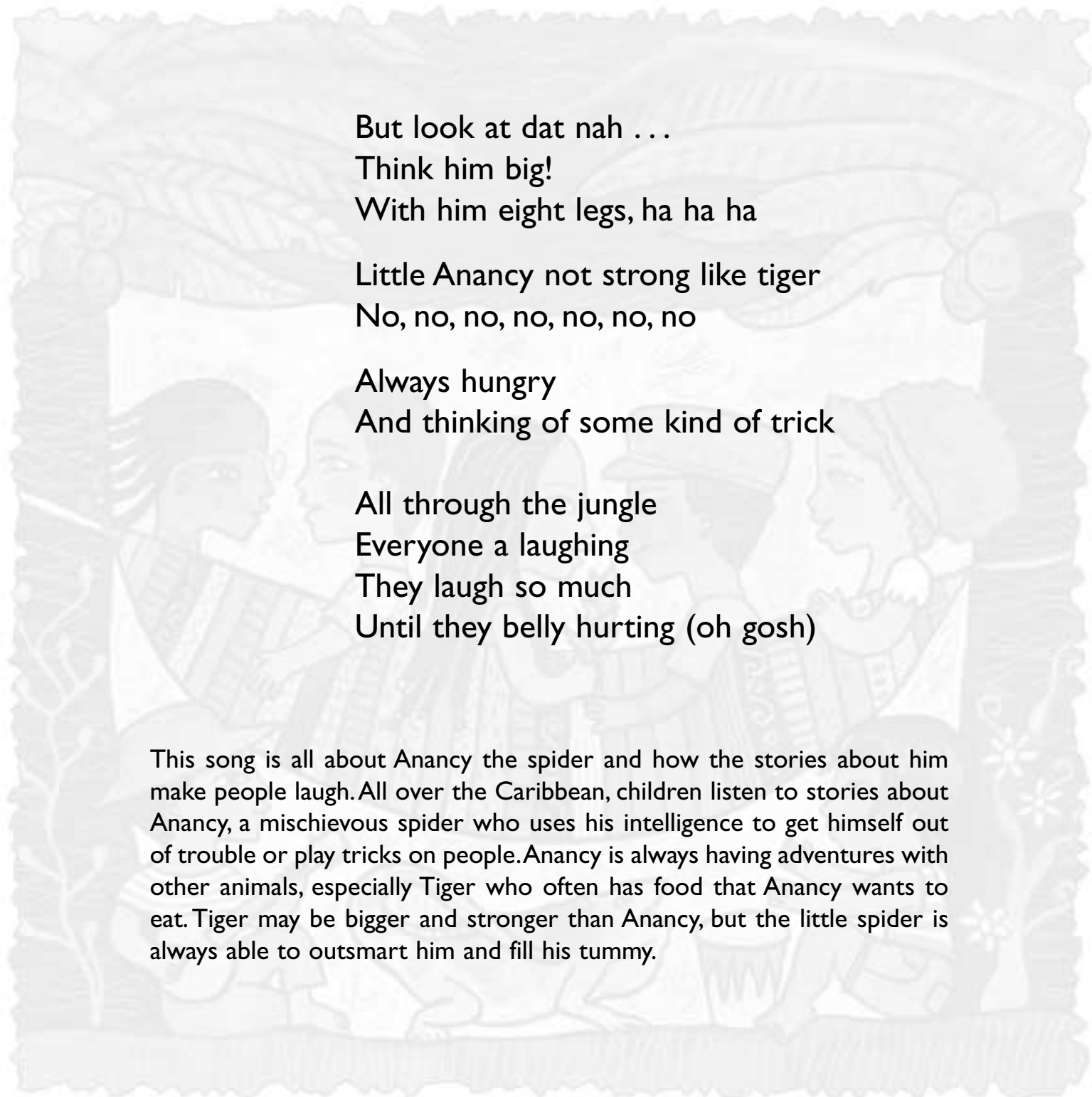
In this song, a woman selling coconuts tells how good they are for the body and the soul.



Asheba

“Little Anancy”

(Words & Music by David Wilson)



But look at dat nah . . .
Think him big!
With him eight legs, ha ha ha

Little Anancy not strong like tiger
No, no, no, no, no, no, no

Always hungry
And thinking of some kind of trick

All through the jungle
Everyone a laughing
They laugh so much
Until they belly hurting (oh gosh)

This song is all about Anancy the spider and how the stories about him make people laugh. All over the Caribbean, children listen to stories about Anancy, a mischievous spider who uses his intelligence to get himself out of trouble or play tricks on people. Anancy is always having adventures with other animals, especially Tiger who often has food that Anancy wants to eat. Tiger may be bigger and stronger than Anancy, but the little spider is always able to outsmart him and fill his tummy.

José Gonzalez y Banda Criolla

“Bomba Te Traigo Yo (I Bring You Bomba)”

(Words & Music by José González)

From Borinquen* I come singing
With my beat making people happy
From the land I was born
I bring you this most delicious rhythm

Bomba, how sweet is my bomba
Strike the cowbell and play the congas
Bomba, how sweet is my bomba
Everybody dances, no one hides

In Loiza* they are celebrating
I can hear the drums singing free
They taste like sugar cane, pineapple
coconut and mabi*
And as Puerto Rican as our coqui*

Ay, so you can dance it from the heart
My sweet bomba I bring to you
Ay, so you can dance it from the heart
My sweet bomba I bring to you

*Borinquen - Taino Indian name for Puerto Rico

*Loiza - Town in the north of Puerto Rico with a strong African heritage and culture

*mabi - Tropical drink made of fermented sugar cane juice

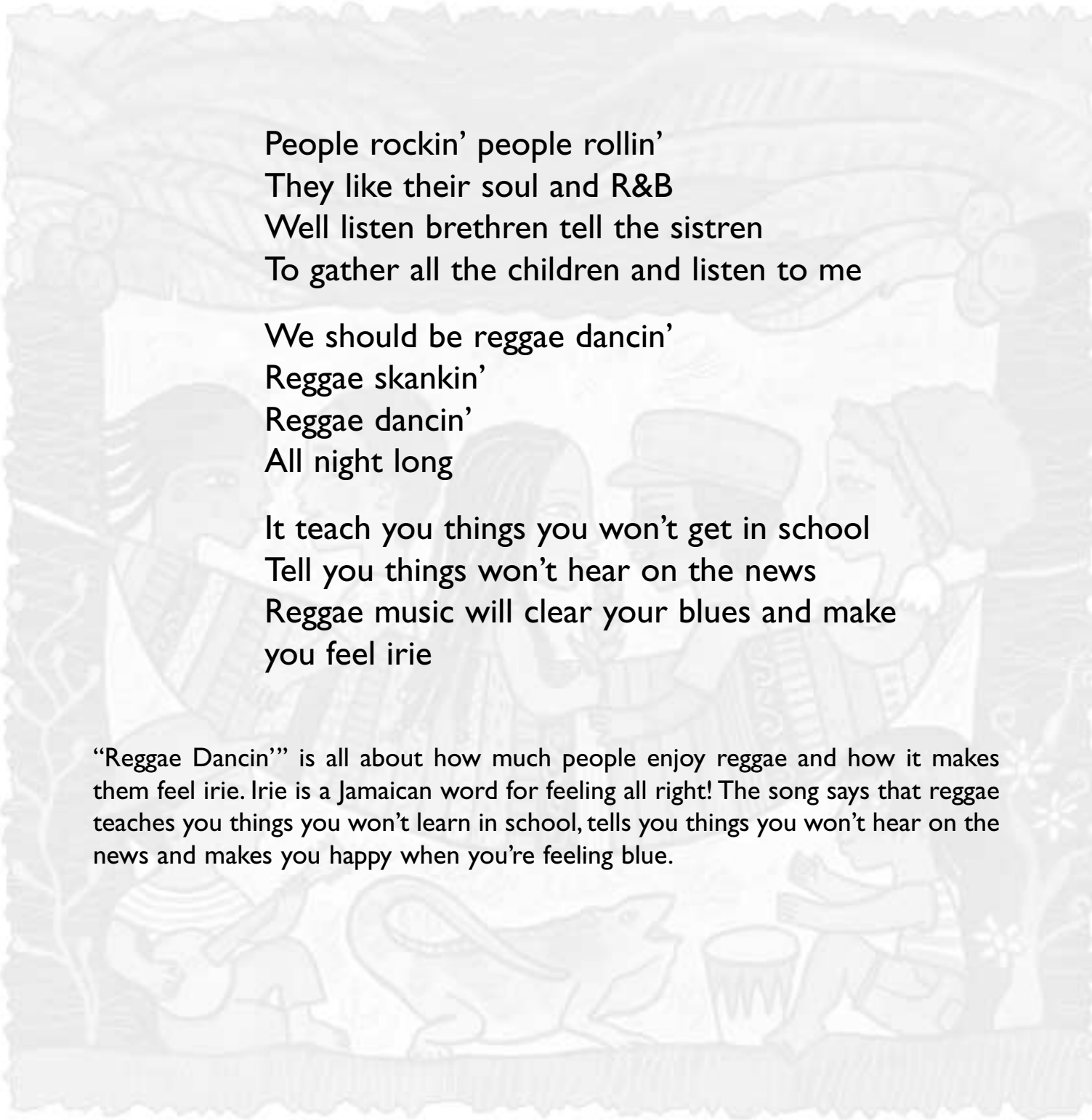
This song is about bomba, a style of music from Puerto Rico with African roots that developed in the coastal towns where most of the descendants of African slaves lived.



MissionIriez

“Reggae Dancin’ ”

(Music & Lyrics by Tevita Netane)



People rockin’ people rollin’
They like their soul and R&B
Well listen brethren tell the sistren
To gather all the children and listen to me

We should be reggae dancin’
Reggae skankin’
Reggae dancin’
All night long

It teach you things you won’t get in school
Tell you things won’t hear on the news
Reggae music will clear your blues and make
you feel irie

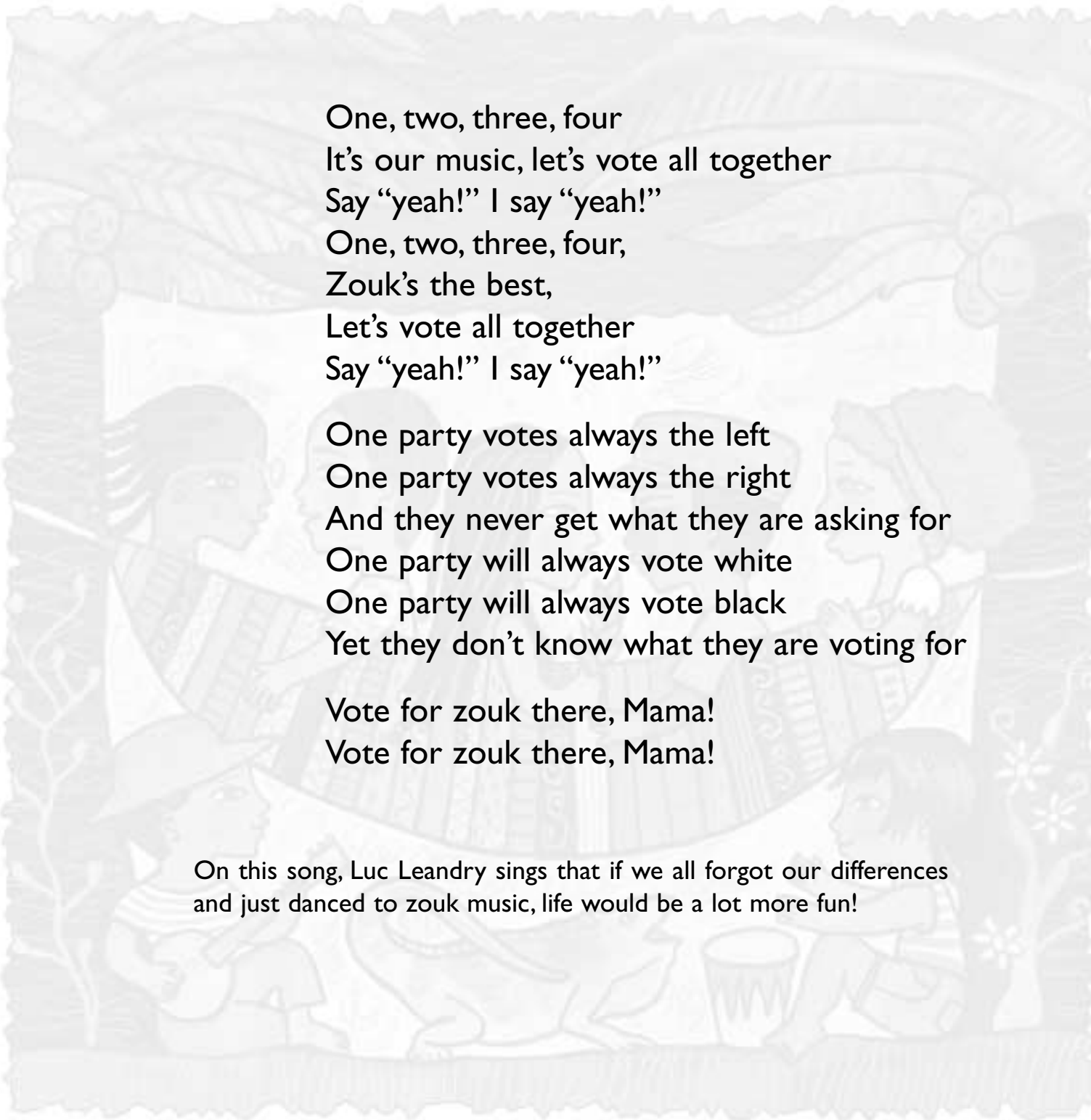
“Reggae Dancin’” is all about how much people enjoy reggae and how it makes them feel irie. Irie is a Jamaican word for feeling all right! The song says that reggae teaches you things you won’t learn in school, tells you things you won’t hear on the news and makes you happy when you’re feeling blue.



Luc Leandry

“Votez Zouk (Vote for Zouk)”

(Words & Music by Luc Leandry)



One, two, three, four
It's our music, let's vote all together
Say “yeah!” I say “yeah!”
One, two, three, four,
Zouk's the best,
Let's vote all together
Say “yeah!” I say “yeah!”

One party votes always the left
One party votes always the right
And they never get what they are asking for
One party will always vote white
One party will always vote black
Yet they don't know what they are voting for

Vote for zouk there, Mama!
Vote for zouk there, Mama!

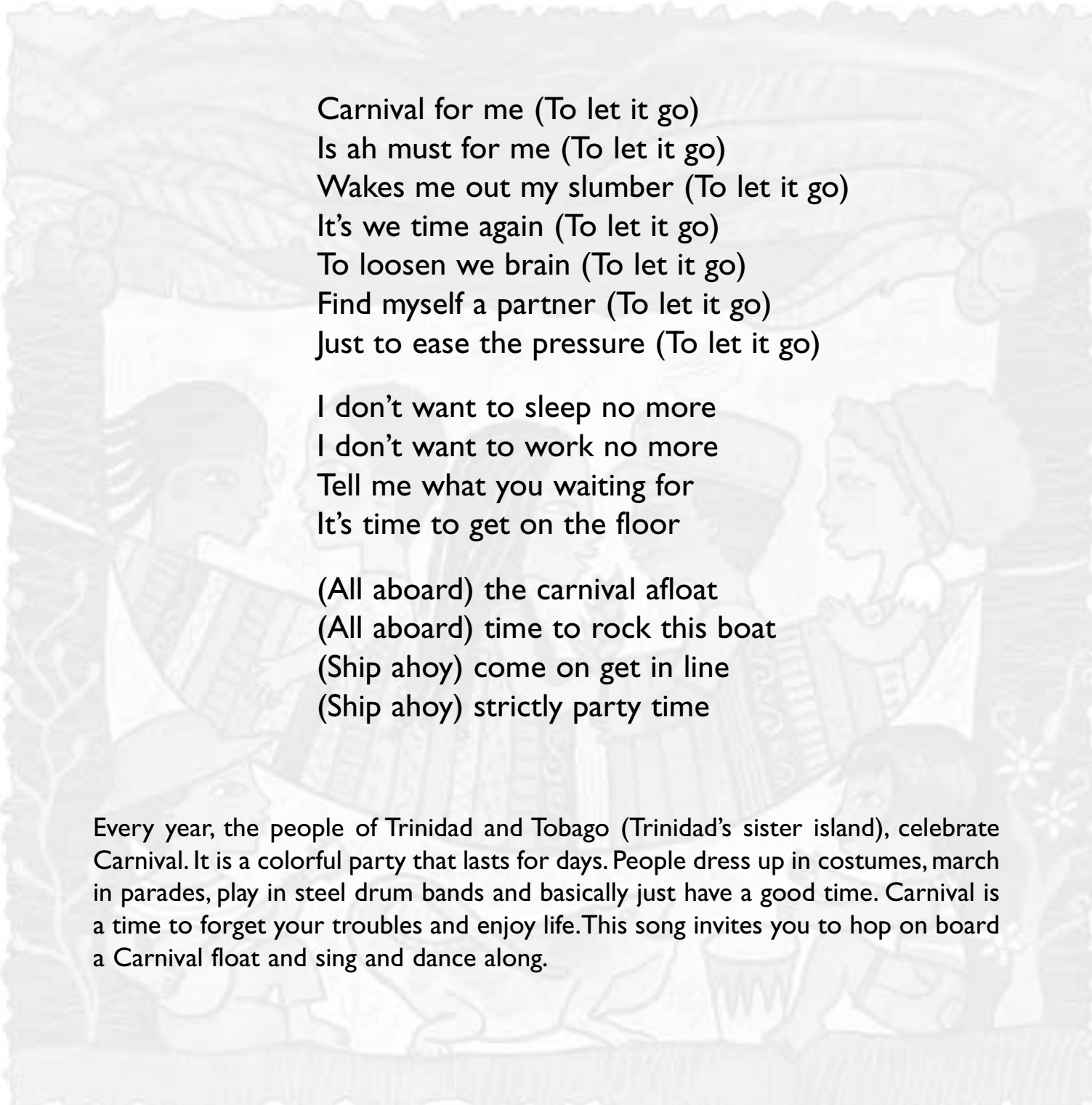
On this song, Luc Leandry sings that if we all forgot our differences and just danced to zouk music, life would be a lot more fun!



Atlantik

“All Aboard”

(Words & Music by Edwin Yearwood)



Carnival for me (To let it go)
Is ah must for me (To let it go)
Wakes me out my slumber (To let it go)
It's we time again (To let it go)
To loosen we brain (To let it go)
Find myself a partner (To let it go)
Just to ease the pressure (To let it go)

I don't want to sleep no more
I don't want to work no more
Tell me what you waiting for
It's time to get on the floor

(All aboard) the carnival afloat
(All aboard) time to rock this boat
(Ship ahoy) come on get in line
(Ship ahoy) strictly party time

Every year, the people of Trinidad and Tobago (Trinidad's sister island), celebrate Carnival. It is a colorful party that lasts for days. People dress up in costumes, march in parades, play in steel drum bands and basically just have a good time. Carnival is a time to forget your troubles and enjoy life. This song invites you to hop on board a Carnival float and sing and dance along.