

2010

## Rara

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### Recommended Citation

Jose, Kathuska (2010) "Rara," *mOthertongue*: Vol. 16 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/mot/vol16/iss1/17>

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## **Rara**

by Kathuska Jose

They come marching down on Easter

*Vaksin* bind beneath their fingers  
wooden sticks hammer metal pipes—  
their voices chanting in unison.

Yellow flags wheeling across air  
Baton scraping against *güiro*  
festive feet begin to follow—

They come marching down on Easter

### **Definitions**

**Rara:** a festival of music performed by Rara bands during Easter week in Haiti

**Vaksin:** bamboo trumpets usually made of metal

**Güiro:** percussion instrument; originated from the Taino Indians