

# THE *Lotte Senya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

## “An Ocean Away” from *The Family Resemblance*

*Music and lyrics by Masi Asare*

YOU KNOW, IT’S WEIRD,  
I NEVER REALLY FELT IT WAS A PART OF ME,  
THIS PLACE AN OCEAN AWAY.  
JUST A PHOTOGRAPH HALF BLURRED OUT,  
A FAR-OFF POLITICAL REGIME.

I GREW UP HERE.  
READ MAGAZINES, YOU KNOW, AND WATCHED TV.  
GHANA WAS AN OCEAN AWAY.  
JUST A PHONE CALL FROM SOME GREAT-AUNT,  
LIKE A STORY FROM SOMEONE ELSE’S DREAM.

AND I KNOW IN MY BODY I’M CONNECTED TO THIS PLACE  
IN MY SMALLEST CHROMOSOME.  
BUT I DON’T THINK ABOUT IT MUCH,  
EXCEPT WHEN I GO HOME.

AND SO THIS YEAR,  
THE MUTANT BRANCH GROWING ON THE FAM’LY TREE?

That’s me.

HERE’S THE SOUNDTRACK CERTAIN TO PLAY:  
“WE NEVER HEAR FROM YOU, WHO DOES THAT?”  
“YOU SHOULD CALL HOME, YOU KNOW, SHOW RESPECT!”  
AND ONCE THEY HEAR MY NEWS, WHO’S TO SAY?  
CHRISTMAS MIGHT NOT BE SO VERY MERRY, I SUSPECT  
THEY’LL BE WISHING ME AN OCEAN AWAY.

I CHART MY COURSE,  
I LIVE MY LIFE,  
I HAVE MY OWN INCREASING BILLS TO PAY;  
FROM NEW YORK TO PENNSYLVANIA,  
WHAT THE MAP FAILS TO PORTRAY:  
ME AND MY FAM’LY  
ALREADY ARE AN OCEAN AWAY.

