



# KWAME BEDIAKO

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## Biography

### Kwame “Akompreko” Bediako

Musician and poet Kwame “Akompreko” Bediako credits his musical upbringing to his elders and his general environment of his home back in Ghana (West Africa), where his roots first blossomed.

“Back at home there was always drumming, singing, and dancing. Traditionally almost everyone can sing and dance so embracing the professional idea was a slower process, but most things happen empirically anyway,” says Kwame.

In addition to his heritage/culture and elders, Kwame also attributes his musical talents and stage presence to Bob Marley and Tom Waits, two of his biggest musical influences. Kwame and his band, Wan Afrika, exudes positive energy in their live performances, while simultaneously addressing the joys and sorrows of humanity within the music. From this Kwame has earned another moniker as Africa’s High Priest of Roots Reggae.

“To educate and entertain is the goal. We are proponents of the knowledge of the self, and we advocate a One Africa. We are taking learning beyond the traditional classroom. The Akans say ‘Yeenom nsa na yee fa adwen.’”

The band has performed throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, his homeland Ghana, and with the 2012 United Nations sponsored "International Year of People of Afrikan Descent" (IYPAD) tour. Kwame has shared the bill with notables like the Wailers, Third World, Mutabaruka, Pato Banton, Sonny Ade, Wailing Souls, Sonny Okusun and many others. Kwame has been the recipient of many industry awards and honorable mentions including: Martin International's Chicago Reggae Music Awards "Best Artist" and "Most Culture-Oriented Band."

“The Lord gave the word and great is the company that publishes it, and the word here is One Africa, meaning a united Africa. One Africa is a phrase given not to dominate but to accommodate and to simply combine our resources so we can do for ourselves. It is to reflect a universal harmony through our spiritual integrities. The best way to advance even going forward is always along the lines of your culture. So when we say ‘Roots’ you say ‘Culture!’”

Kwame has released three CDs, all of which act as the gospels of One Africa:

Forward Ever (2013 - 2008): The release of our Special Edition CD 'Forward Ever' is now available for download on iTunes. Not just a re-print, these songs have been re-recorded and remixed over the last two years with the participation of some of reggae's finest including Sidney Mills of Steel Pulse, Georges Kouakou of Alpha Blondy and Junior Marvin of the original Wailers. A version of the classic Heptone's "Book of Rules" is sung in his native language of Twi calling for a return to the source, while another song, "One Man No Dub" remains in hot circulation on Ghana radio and in other parts of the world.

O.A.U. (2004): Kwame's release featuring guest guitarist Junior Marvin of the Wailers.

How Sweet It Is (2000): This critically acclaimed CD has been featured on WNUR, KCRW, WHPK, WLWU, and KRCL to name a few.

The next steps for Kwame and Wan Afrika is to launch C.A.R.E. and Sankofa Initiative Programs, and the release of his fourth CD “World Disorder. World Disorder is to be released this year, 2018.

## **Wan Afrika Productions**

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# **Kwame Bediako - Discography**

## **Forward Ever - 2013 Wan Afrika Productions**

One Man No Dub  
Make Love  
Better My World  
Steppin' Into Zion  
Black Star  
Sankofa  
Daliy Dose  
One Man No Dub (Dub Version)  
Sankofa (Dub Version)  
Steppin' Into Zion (Dub Version)

## **OAU - 2004 Sikafutro Productions**

Mr. President  
MaryJane  
OAU  
Silver and Gold  
Roots Rock Lover  
Kaliweed and Sunshine  
Osagyefo  
Rebelunion  
Selassie I

## **How Sweet It Is - 2000 Wan Afrika Productions**

One Good Word  
Heal I Nation  
De Guilty  
Free Afrika  
Curfew  
How Sweet It Is  
Luv Is  
Illusion  
Turn Me On  
Enemies Why

# Reviews

- Kwame's high energy, nonstop performance is truly spellbinding." - **Indianapolis Museum of Art**
- "A solid branch of Marley's influence." - **Reggae Report**
- "*How Sweet It Is* - a smooth and fresh sounding collection." - **Illinois Entertainer**
- "Wan Afrika and Kwame provide high energy, roots rock reggae with a cultural edge." - **S.R.O. Artists**
- "Kwame plays the music of the people." - **Lima Ohio News**
- "Hypnotic non-stop reggae." - **Wisconsin Week Paper**
- "Burning Spear and Bob Marley rolled into one." - **Chicago Music Magazine**
- "Traditionally in tune - Rastawise." - **Riddim Magazine**
- "Students can expect good music from Kwame & Wan Afrika - **Ohio University Post**
- "The band's experience and inventiveness permeate their performance." - **African Spectrum**
- "*How Sweet It Is* for the reconnection of all peoples to take root." - **Afrique News Magazine**
- "Roots to the core." - **Sikufutro Productions**
- "We had a great evening with 1500 people. The concert went very well." - **Colorado State University**
- "A top-notch performance. Thank-you for playing at the 2001 Taste of Chicago" - **City Of Chicago**
- "Kwame gave a killer performance to a crowd begging for more." - **University of Wisconsin, Madison**
- "It seemed the entire college turned out to enjoy the reggae rhythms." - **Oakton Community College**
- "This group brought quality music and dance to sold out audiences." - **Springfield Area Arts Council**
- "Your presentation enhanced our museum's mission." - **The Dusable Museum of African American History**

## **Link To Music**

<http://KwameReggae.com/music.html>

## **Link To Videos**

<http://KwameReggae.com/videos.html>