



KWAME “AKOMPREKO” BEDIAKO

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Biography Kwame “Akompredo” Bediako

Musician and poet Kwame “Akompredo” 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 four CDs, all of which act as the gospels of One Africa:

The release of our newest CD '**World Disorder**' is now available for download on iTunes, or on Spotify. These songs have been recorded and mixed over the last several years with the participation of some of reggae's finest including Sidney Mills (Steel Pulse) mixing production, Georges Kouakou (Alpha Blondy, Burning Spear, Wailers), Aston Barrett Jr. (Wailers), Christian Cowlin (Mixing - Wailers), Mike Dangeroux, Vince Varco and Kathyjo Varco.

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.

Kwame “Akompreko” Bediako - Discography

World Disorder – 2019 Wan Afrika Productions

World Disorder 3:39
Budumburam 3:59
Troublmakers 3:40
Stand Ready 3:29
Fight The Good Fight 3:33
Inna Roots 3:47
Princess Ghana 3:41
Lovell 3:48
Gentle Slavery 4:22
Desire 23 Verse 10 4:00
Jamboree 3:39
Zion Gates 4:40
BONUS TRACKS:
Chant Down Babylon
Walk And Roll

How Sweet It Is - 2000 Wan Afrika Productions 25th Anniversay Reissue (2015)

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

Forward Ever - 2008 Wan Afrika Productions (Re-issue 2013)

One Man No Dub
Make Love
Better My Worlkd
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
Ressurrection

Link To Music

iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/world-disorder/1462569111>

Spotify

<https://open.spotify.com/album/6eWQ02FW0cnUZ7rrhBUUsUS>

Link To Videos

KwameReggae.com

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

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0PvVas86Wo>

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**

STAGE PLOT

BAND NAME	VENUE	SHOW DATE / TIME
Kwame One Africa		
STAGE		
INPUT LIST		
1	7 Drum Mic + Vocal Mic	<p>NOTES:</p> <p>PA Requirements: 24 Channel - House and Monitor Console (16 in some cases). 3 Monitor mixes (minimum). 4 Monitors minimum (6 preferred). 2 Direct Boxes (minimum); 1 for keyboards, 1 for bass. 2 digital reverb or suitable effects processor (minimum). 15 mics Cassette Deck</p>
2	Bass DI + Vocal Mic	
3	2 Guitar Line Out + Vocal Mic	
4	Keyboard DI + Vocal Mic	
5	Lead Vocal Mic	
6	2 Background Vocal Mic	
7	Trombone + Vocal Mic	