

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 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.

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