



KWAME BEDIAKO

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Biography

Kwame & Kwamekaze perform original roots rock reggae.

Musician/Poet Kwame credits his musical upbringing to his "elders" and the general environment of his home base in Ghana, West Africa, where his roots first blossomed. "There was drumming, and dancing, and of course singing," says Kwame.

With his five-piece band *Kwamekaze*, Kwame hits the stage and lets you know that the African Roots Ambassador has arrived. He sings of the joys and sorrows of humanity, never forgetting his humility.

The band has performed throughout the USA, Jamaica and Africa, 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".

To educate and entertain, Kwame incorporates his heritage into the performance. "I feel education goes beyond the classroom. We bring culture to the people. We teach knowledge of the self," he said. Kwame has the advantage of dual residency which enables him to keep his finger on the vibrant pulse of reggae music here in the US and throughout the Diaspora. Kwame and Kwamekaze are reflective of a universal harmony: **Bringing people together through music.**

Kwame has released three CDs:

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, WLUW, and KRCL to name a few.

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**