

“The Journey”

The Journey of Kweku Mainoo and his Sahara Acoustics begun over time as a collaborative journey between friends, musicians poets, politicians, teachers ordinary people and market women from both West Africa, Europe and other parts of the world

In 2006 Kweku went on a musical adventure in West Africa, which brought him to places by road as far as Timbuktu and Essakane

and to Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, The Gambia, Burkina Faso and Mali “The journey” embraces elements, experiences, encounters,

both positives and negatives as well as inspirations along the dusty West African roads, mostly in overloaded bush taxis.

Sometimes we were on the road for over three days not to mention breakdowns and complications at temporary border post erected

but “honest:” officials who ask for ID cards even thou you show them a passport. This sometimes makes one wonder how the journey

could be completed. However good always triumph and we always found a way by his grace.

The lyrics and topics covered in the songs expresses love, trust, betrayal, loyalty, harmony responsibility, compassion, and the need

to watch out for the lesser ones in society.

The fear of the Supreme Being “Nyame” for it has been said, “The fear of the omnipotent is the beginning of wisdom”

The topics and subjects covered is so broad hence I am unable to fit all onto one album so the Journey has a second part which will

be released on a second album already recorded named

“The Wilderness” which will be released in due course so watch this space...

Many thanks to the people I encountered on my journey especially Mr. Sangare, the shop keeper in Guinea Bissau who put me up

when our car broke down, also Ali and his family in Timbuktu, Dembo Konte and his Family in Gambia, Maisson Sundjiata in Senegal

and SandyCissey and his brothers in Calaban Curra, Lady G and my family for their support

Finally many thanks to Toumani Diabate and the whole family in Bamako, the musicians and the sound engineers in Africa Studio

May God bless you all in all your endeavour.

Biography

Kweku Mainoo is a Ghanaian born musician sound engineer based in Brighton UK.

Kweku has played with few bands in the past “African Eye” and “The Cabin Crew” until the formation of his present six-piece band,

Sahara Acoustics. The band has been performing gigs at festivals and venues like “the Sheep music festival” in Wales, Art Centres

and the Babylon lounge in Brighton ‘African Night fever’

Hear the man speak for himself:

“For a long time I have been writing and collaborating with musicians from different part of the world, experimenting and creating recipes for songs. Fusion with traditional and acoustic instruments.

“I was born and brought up in a very religious family, both my parents were prominent in the Methodist church so I was encouraged to join the church choir in an early age, It was during this time that I observed myself developed as a musician and a singer I was interested in instruments and singing and composing.

Instead of the conventional choir I was happier with the traditional choir called the singing band, which sang mainly traditional church songs with bongos, accapella and more innovative form of singing.

Unlike the choir, which did very rigid hymns. I therefore began my fusion in the church doing different harmonies bass, alto, tenor and treble.

“African roots and rudimentary structures has always been the core of my creation hence my recent quest to rediscover the origin and also to nourish my creative energy after living in the UK for several years.

Upon graduating as a computer programmer and a sound engineer, I have felt the need to contribute something to African music, and the least I could do was to use some of the skills and experience I had gained in the UK to help musicians back in Africa, by helping them to record their material professionally thereby enabling them to bring their work to a wider audience in a good recorded format.

This therefore was the catalyst, which set me off on my quest in September 2006 to West Africa covering Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Senegal then onto Timbuktu

My journey through Africa by road was one of the toughest journeys I have ever been yet the work I did with various musicians and the satisfaction it brought them as well as myself made my pains disappeared. I felt I had made a little difference to some talented musicians. This always made me look forward to the next challenge.

I have gained immensely as a person and a musician and have been humbled by my experiences.

I wish I could have carried on for much longer than the six months but was unable to keep going with my limited resources, I feel I have laid the foundation stone for the near future, from the experience I have gained I would like to be able to do this trip again for longer with a form of a mobile studio in a van as I found transportation was my worst problem and also invest in more durable and professional equipment even thou my G4 apple Mac and Motu sound card did well, towards the end it did not handle well when I put them to the hardest test, for example I had the opportunity to record Toumani Diabate and the Symmetric orchestra live ,but in the end

I noticed some files dropped out, I was well disappointed but like they say you get what you pay for I thank God my family, friends and all the people I encountered on my travels and also the BBC and crew at southern county radio for giving me the opportunity for others to sample some of my quest peace be with you ”

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+ **Songs**

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1. **Edano**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
2. **Nyame Asem**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
3. **Meaning of Love**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
4. **End Tribal Wars**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
5. **Medofo**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
6. **Yoyo**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
7. **World Leaders**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
8. **Marching Home**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists
9. **Y’akwantu**
Kweku Mainoo, other artists

Edano

Edano means that day, it talks about, that day of judgement. Everyone will be alone to face his maker or his God, no matter what your belief is at some point in our life and existence we all will face some form of being accountable for our actions whether to authority on earth or powers greater than earthly powers.

That day there won’t be any position, class or status whether you are a lawyer, a politician, a priest, a soldier teacher or a student even a musician you will be judged The concept of judgement day is prevalent to many religions and also on principle of ethical philosophy what goes up must come down, when you throw a ball to a wall it bounces back to you or if you spit in the sky it falls back in your eyes.

Nyame Asem

The will of the supreme will always prevail like Shakespeare puts it in J'ulius Caesar "what has been proposed by the mighty Gods will come to pass "what can be avoided whose end is proposed by the mighty gods"

No matter what trials and tribulations comes your way don't be despair put all in prayer and believe that he never fails even thou his timing might not be in our timings This song is a song for inspiration a song to uplift you to persevere and carry on no matter what adversity comes your way.

Meaning of Love

Many people talk about love but don't necessary understand or know the meaning of love. Love is one confused and used word some people think lust is love, some also think being with someone and just sharing a bed and intimacy with another person is love. I am not a love doctor or a scientist but the meaning of love is so simple that some time it eludes the most educated, cleverest or the uneducated, and dumb If and when we seek love we look for it at the wrong places but in a nutshell love is what you do for the one you love and not what you say. You can only love someone when you love.

End Tribal Wars

This song talks about tribal wars in Africa, however there are tribal wars in a lot of places in the world even in Europe. Tribal wars have been fought in Africa dating from pre colonial, colonial and post colonial era still we fighting and destabilising our society for just selfish gains and some times its all tribalistic which doesn't make sense, there are a lot of proverbs in different African societies which stress in strength in numbers. This songs talks to us about trying to find solutions and live with one another and end tribal wars.

Medofo

How many times do we feel someone we care about or love has betrayed us, sometime this can drive one to being angry to despair and confused. It's always good if and when we understand why the betrayal at least we can know our mistakes and learn from it, however if things just end or for no reason or for some reason that you not aware, its hard to move on so this is a question why have you betrayed me my love.

Yoyo

Yoyo is a song about indecision sometimes we find ourselves in situations and circumstances that we know that we want a change but cant seem to take the final decision we therefore become like a yoyo on a piece of strings going up and down, like a piece of wood in the river following the tides of time ebbing with the current "the tides of time"

World Leaders

The past decade saw a period where dialogue ceased to be a popular choice amongst the leaders of the world, which in the end saw the rise of terrorism, apathy despair outcry in many parts of the world. When people cease to communicate then the art of understanding one another also ceases to exist. This song therefore is a humble message to the leaders of the world to talk to one another, for in discussion will we find solution and harmony at least we can agree to disagree and co exist if we cant be in conscientious.

Marching Home

This is a song of Diaspora for some time a lot of people in the world have been displaced due to economic reasons, especially children of Africa have left for greener pastures else where in the world America, and Europe, as a result all the able young brains have left and the continent is not making progress in a way that would have been beneficial to all, we have become a continent of beggars, our institutions do not function as it should. So it's a cry for help for us to march home a lend a helping hand, to the young, to the old and the weak and feeble.

Y'akwantu

Y'kwantuo translate to be our journey, when our journey becomes hard there is no one to turn to but our maker, sometime we go through hardship that is so hard to bear, sometime we stand between the junction of hell and abyss. In times like this the only helper is the most high.

If we put our trust in man we sometimes get disappointed but if we trust in Him we never go hungry, just as the birds in the sky eat everyday, we wont be let down as a proverb in Ashanti says the God drives away the flies from the tailless animal, look at how the birds feed on the ticks that preys on the cows and the elephants.

Musicians

Kweku Mainoo lead vocals, hamonies, guitar Otis Tabasenge lead guitar bass guitar

Fanta Mardy lead guitar ryhthem

Mamadu Sidiki Diabate Korra

Mamadu Kuyate vocals :marching home/Nyame asem

Yacouba Sissoko Tamani

Foude Kouyate callabash ,shakers percussion M Diabate Djembe

Mba Ngoni

