

FREDERICK KWASI DUNYO

Master Drummer

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Frederick Kwasi Dunyo was born in the Ewe village of Dagbamete, Volta Region of Ghana, West Africa. He has been drumming from the time he was a small boy, standing on blocks to reach the top of the drums. Since that time he has drummed, danced, taught and directed extensively in a variety of contexts both in Ghana, various cities in North American, Bermuda and Taiwan.

Kwasi was lead drummer with Sankofa Dance Theatre from 1977 to 1981, under the tutelage of Godwin Agbeli. He has performed with numerous drum and dance societies in Ghana. Kwasi is founder and artistic director of Kekeli Drum and Dance Ensemble (Toronto) as well as West African Cultural Exchange Centre in Dagbamete, Ghana (affiliated with the Centre for National Culture). His open and generous style and great love of music has earned him many praises.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Drummer

1959 - present

Togbui Apetorku Gbodzi Drum and Dance Society
Ghana, West Africa

Lead Drummer/Assistant Coach

1974 - 1976

Complex Dance Ensemble
Tema Food Complex Dance Ensemble Ghana, West Africa

Lead Drummer

1977-1981

Sankofa Dance Theatre
Ghana, West Africa

Coach/Instructor

1983 - 1992

Greater Accra Regional Dance Association
Centre for National Culture
Ghana, West Africa

Coach

Flamming Dono Drum and Dance Ensemble 1992 - 1997
Kekeli Drum and Dance Ensemble 1998 - present
Toronto, Canada

Coach

Baobob Young Performers and Akpokli Dance Ensemble 1995 - present
Ottawa, Canada

Agudze Drum and Dance Council 1996-1997
Dawa Percussion
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Bermuda Dance Company 1999 - present
Hamilton, Bermuda

Dzolali African Dance Company 2004 - present
St. John's, Newfoundland

Artist in Residence

1993 - 1997
University of Virginia, Department of Music
Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

Workshops (University Level)

1992 - present
University of Western Ontario, Waterloo, McMaster,
Saskatchewan, Guelph, Brock, Wilfred Laurier, York,
Carlton, Dalhousie and Humber College in Canada
Tennessee Technological University, William and Mary
James Madison and Hartford in the USA
University of Alberta, Edmonton
The Crane School of Music at the State University of
New York, Potsdam, New York

Workshops (Public & High School level)

1993 - present
Toronto District School Board, Halton District School Board,
York Region School Board, Peel District School Board,
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board,
and schools in Ottawa and Halifax - Canada
Charlottesville, VA, East Hartford, CT,
Simsbury, CT, Baltimore, MD, Washington, DC - USA
Bermuda

Faculty Member

World Music Programme 1998 - present
University of Toronto, Faculty of Music
Toronto, Canada

Department of Fine Arts 2003 - present
World Music Programme (Course Director)
York University
Toronto, Canada

World Music Programme 2003 - present
Royal Conservatory of Music, Community School
Toronto, Canada

Instructor

Worlds of Music, Toronto 1997 - 2004

Programme Director

Co-producer, consultant and instructor 2000 - present
Toronto District School Board
World Music Curriculum (Ghanaian Music)

Program Instructor

Staff Development Programme, Music Department. 2001 - present
Toronto District School Board

PERFORMANCES/FESTIVALS

Sound Symposium, St. Johns Newfoundland 1992 and 1998
Bamboo Club, Toronto many times
Black Sheep Inn, Wakefield, Quebec 1995, 1997, 2005
Worlds of Music, Harbourfront 1997 - 2003
First Night, Toronto 1997, 1998
Black History Celebration, Ottawa 1997
Black History Month, Dartmouth, NS. 1998
Folk Festival, Ottawa 1998
Central Canadian Exhibition, Ottawa 1999
Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival 1999
Guest performer, Bermuda Heritage Day 1999, 2000, 2001,
2002, 2005

Waterloo Park Music Festival	2000
Afrikadey Festival, Calgary	2000, 2001
Centre Point Theatre, Ottawa	2003
Special Invited Performance, Citizenship Court, Scarborough	2003
"Voices of the Diaspora: Songs of Ghana" concert with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale at the George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto	2005

AWARDS /RECOGNITIONS/GRANTS

"Atsrima"	1970 - present
Recognized player of traditional talking drum called the Tumpan or Topani, which sends messages from one clan to another	
Canada Council Grant, Visiting Foreign Artist	1992
Outstanding Traditional Music Performance Award Music Africa, Toronto	1997
Ontario Arts Council Grants	2000 - 2003
Chalmers Performing Arts Training Grant (OAC)	2002
Advanced Certificate in Performance Faculty of Music, University of Toronto	2001

PUBLICATIONS

DRUMS OF GHANA: 1 GAHU (CD)
SONGS OF GHANA: Part I: Bobobo Songs (CD)
SONGS OF GHANA: Vol. I Bobobo (book)