

Mp3 Mustapha Tettey Addy - Come And Dance



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In 1992 Ghana's masterdrummer reunited with Rolf Exler and Michael Kttner to explore musical landscapes between traditional westafrican percussion and jazz-infused sound meditations on 'Come and dance'. 7 MP3 Songs WORLD: African, WORLD: World Beat Details: Mustapha Tettey Addy was born in 1942 in Avenor, one of the villages in the capital city of Ghana, in Accra. He is a member of the Ga people and he was born into a family of well known drummers. His father, Kpani Kofi Addy, was also a highly respected Akon priest who taught him to play the gongs at an early age. Mustapha Tettey Addy not only learned the traditional songs and ritual dances like Kpele, Akon and Otu, but also the meaning and the curative properties of medicinal herbs. Both music and the cure of diseases are closely connected in Ghana. In 1963, after his father's death, Addy, because of his great knowledge of Ga drumming, dancing and ritual, was appointed Dadefoiakye, a master drummer by the other members of his family. At this time he was working at the University of Ghana as a drummer and dancer, Mustapha Tettey Addy was given many opportunities to widen his professional experience through touring, TV appearances etc. At the University he also met several specialist drummers from other regions of Ghana and began to build his comprehensive knowledge of the many drumming, dancing and singing traditions of his country. Amongst his teachers was the great Ewe drummer Husunui Afadi Adono Ladzekpo. When he left the University in 1965, he began several years of travel in Ghana and neighbouring Ivory Coast working by himself, with friends or as an guide to visiting scholars and ethno musicologists. During these years he widened his range of skills learning drumming techniques from Ghana as well as from Ivory Coast and Nigeria. Apart from becoming a virtuoso performer, Addy was recognised in his country for his important work in the preservation and development of West Africa's rich cultural heritage. At the end of the 60's Mustapha Tettey Addy was invited to several eastern european countries as well as visits to Western Germany,

England and the United States. In Dsseldorf he found a new home, from where he instigated several tours with his band 'Ehimomo'. He also built up a reputation as a percussion teacher, conducting numerous drum workshops for beginners and advanced scholars, thereby increasing the interest in West African percussion. Between 1972 and 1981 Mustapha Tettey Addy recorded seven LP's for the 'Tangent'-Label in England, for 'Arion' in France and for 'Insel Hombroich' in Germany. But the most successful production resulted from a cooperation with 'Die Werkstatt' in Dsseldorf, an international academy for dance and culture. Here he recorded the classic 'Come and drum' (CD WW 101-2) in a church in Dsseldorf, on one afternoon in 1979, together with his son Abdur Rahman Kpani Addy, with jazzdrummer Michael Kttner and percussionist Rolf Exler. In 1982 Addy moved back to Westafrica, where he started to collect and to arrange the Obonu music, which is rooted in the Ashanti region. He started to work at the institute for African studies and he travelled extensively around his country visiting various tribes to learn about their music and ceremonies. In 1986 Addy started his new group which was called 'The Drummers' and later ' The Obonu Drummers'. In 1988 he moved one step further and founded the 'Academy of African Music and Arts' (AAMA), based near Kokrobit in the costal region of Ghana. In this picturesque clifftop location Addy created a conceptually and architecturally unique centre. It was a place skillfully designed to primarily preserve traditional forms of art, crafts, dance and music. AAMA attracted many artists, musicians and teachers from around the world as well as supporting panafrican cultural exchange and encouraging and developing new talent. A lot of curious percussion enthusiasts travelled to this well known place, where Mustapha Tettey Addy himself gave concerts every Sunday afternoon. In october 1991 Mustapha Tettey Addy and his Obonu Drummers went into a studio in Accra to record a landmark album in his career: 'The Royal Drums of Ghana' (CD WW 102-2) featuring the royal music which he had collected and developed. In ordfer to do this, Mustapha Tettey Addy had obtained the exclusive permission of the kings and elders of the various tribes to use their big Obonu drums outside of their ritual context. The album reveiled, for the very first time to an international audience, "the music of 12 tribes", which is normally played only at enthronements or funerals . In 1992 and 1993 - ten years after his last visit to Europe, Mustapha Tettey Addy came back with his Obonu Drummers to present the royal rhythms to a western audience. On two extensive tours 'The Royal Drums of Ghana' was performed in Germany, England and the US, where they played a string of WOMAD festivals. For a sequel to his classic 'Come and drum' the masterdrummer also reunited with his friends Rolf Exler and Michael Kttner

in Dsseldorf. On 'Come and dance' (WeltWunder CD WW 105-2) they explore acoustic landscapes between traditional West African percussion and jazz-infused sound meditations. In 1995 for two years Addy left the Academy in Kokrobit, to concentrate on a life as a farmer. Several attempts were made to lure him back into the spotlight until an old friend of Mustapha's, Rikki Stein of Pan African Arts Management presented him at the March des Arts et Spectacles Africains (MASA) in 1997 which was attended by several hundred international presenters from all over the world. Predictably, their performance in Abidjan's Palais de Congrès was warmly received and plans are now being made to tour Mustapha Tettey Addy and the new Royal Obonu Drummers in various parts of the world during 1998/1999. Master drummer, anthropologist and researcher in the field of traditional music and dance, Mustapha Tettey Addy has been at the forefront of Ghanaian musical development and innovation for more than three decades. With internationally released albums, and tours and workshops carried out in Europe and the United States, Addy is among the most respected musicians on the African Continent. In his own words: "The music I present stems from a lifetime of research carried out in villages throughout Ghana and the surrounding countries. I collect the music and arrange it in my own style. I am not a composer. My research has shown that the cultural heritage honed and developed over the centuries by our ancestors provides more material than I could use in a lifetime. I therefore have no need to compose - only to interpret in my own fashion. Also I feel a pressing need to assure that this extraordinary body of work is preserved for posterity. As well as being a musician, I am a farmer, growing sweet potatoes and yellow yam. I am also interested in natural healing, inherited from my father who was a famous medicine man. As far as I am concerned, these three aspects of my daily activities are closely interconnected."

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