

DELE SOSIMI

AFROBEAT AMBASSADOR



DELE SOSIMI keyboardS, vocal FEMI ELIAS bass
KUNLE OLOFINJANA drums, chorus SUMA JOSHI bass
EDDIE HICK drums MAURIZIO RAVALICO percussion & congas
PHIL DAWSON guitar MARCO PICCIONI-guitar
AFLA SACKEY congas, percussion, chorus
JUSTIN THURGUR trombone, chorus
TOM ALLAN trompet ERIC ROHNER Tenor sax, chorus
LINUS BEWLEY Tenor sax, chorus TAMAR OSBORN-Baritone Sax
BIOLA DOSUNMU Danse/chorus LYDIE ALBERTO Danse/chorus

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BIOGRAPHY

Dele Sosimi stands out as one of the most active musicians currently on the Afrobeat scene worldwide. Dele's career began when he joined Fela's Anikulapo-Kuti's Egypt 80 (1979–1986) and then subsequently with Fela's son Femi Anikulapo-Kuti's Positive Force (1986-1994). In both bands he was musical director and keyboard player. Since Fela created Afrobeat, Dele's Afrobeat pedigreee is therefore impeccable.

The music is a blend of complex but highly danceable funk grooves, Nigerian traditional music (including hi-life), African percussion, underpinning the jazz horns and solos from other instruments, as well as rhythmical singing.

Dele toured extensively around the world with Fela and Femi, re-orchestrating and arranging music and also handling the recruiting and training of new musicians. His keyboard work can be heard on Fela's Power Show, Original Suf- ferhead, MOP 1 (Movement of the People), Authority Stealing, Army Arrangeement, ITT (International Thief Thief), and Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense, and on Femi's albums «No Cause for Alarm and Mind Your Own Business». Dele has also performed often with Dr Tony Allen, the king of Afrobeat drumming. Following his first solo album, Turbulent Times" (Eko Star 2002), he was invited to select the tracks for the 3-CD compilation entitled, Essential Afrobeat" (Universal, 2004).

He was producer and co-writer of «Calabash Volume 1: Afrobeat Poems» by Ikwunga, the Afrobeat Poet (2004). He is a central member of the Wahala Project, whose single Wahala appears on Puma's 2006 Soccer World Cup Compilation CD. He has also featured on British rapper TY's album Closer (on the track «Sweating for your Salary»), with «Turbulent Times» featured on «The Afrobeat Sudan Aid Project» (2006). His current album «Identity» decribed by Songlines as «A sizzling set from Londons Afrobeat Leader» is still recieving rave reviews. (July 2008 Helico Records).

He has performed all over the world (for example, the Montreux Jazz Festival, Joe Zawinul's Birdland Vienna Dele was invited to perform as a guest alongside the late great Joe Zawinul at his Charity Event for survivors of Hurricane Katrina), the Treibhaus (Innsbruck), Paradiso, (Amsterdam), Bimhuis (Amsterdam) Oerol Festival (Terschelling, Holland), the Ollin Kan Festival (Mexico City), Afrikadey! Canada Afrobeat Summit in Calgary (August 2007), Sensommer Int Musikkfestival 2007 Oslo, Norway (August 2007) Festival Musicas Do Mar Portugal & Festval Art des Villes Art des Champs, France (August 2008), and in London (frequent appearances at the Jazz Café, Kemia Bar at Momo's, 'The Shrine', and the South Bank Centre (Queen Elizabeth Hall & Purcell Room), Soho Jazz Festival, to name a few.

Currently based in London, Dele is an educator and instructor in Afrobeat (via his Dele Sosimi Afrobeat Foundation, and as a Visiting Lecturer in Music and Media, LondonMetropolitan University). Dele performs in one of three formats, each as compelling and funky as the others—a 15-piece Afrobeat Orchestra (featuring a 5-piece horn section and dancers), a 6–9 piece band (the most frequently used format) or a trio/quartet (with bass and drums/percussion).

Sosimi is abetted by a group of musicians, most of whom have either played with him on previous records or have gigged with him on the live circuit. They all have chops to spare and the communication between them is near telepathic.



RELEASES LINKS

"Keep on sowing the seeds of Afrobeat music!"

Dele is always enthusiastic about meeting and interacting with the public as a means of 'spreading the gospel' of the Afrobeat message.

As a living walking encyclopaedia of Afrobeat music Dele Sosimi has an immense passion for the transmission of his musical knowledge.

And with boundless enthusiasm, Dele recounts his amazing life story and his direct experience with the giants of Afrobeat, such as Fela Kuti. The moral values/sense of engagement, instrumental discipline, love of music are inscribed in the DNA of Afrobeat - resulting in a world wide following.

Masterclass links

Perth Carnival Scotland Marchin band www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRAXUcM9yHE
Trinity Laban Students www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX1zfPyrwxM
Goldsmiths University Vocal Ensemble www.youtu.be/xg6ar0ya7z8
Copenhagen Jazz Festival 2011 www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-pve2nil1Y
Dele Sosimi encontra com o orchestra do Hot Club de Lyon www.yimeo.com/7851281



Releases about Dele:

Dele Sosimi «Identity» review by Chris May www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=38737

DELE SOSIMI : «LE GAMIN QUI JOUAIT AVEC FELA» Julien Le Gros

www.africultures.com/php/?nav=article&no=11705

RFI portuguese www.portugues.rfi.fr/cultura/20130506-festival-comemora-relancamento-da-obra-de-fela-kuti

Phd em afrobeat www.radiolaurbana.com.br/phd-em-afrobeat-sosimi/

WATCH & LISTEN:

www.youtu.be/BDL1jUe2Fv4 teaser Empowering church concert London www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3PTDgTDcTk «local champion» from the album «Identity» www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny5R6LxjZL4 EPK 2013 www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5I7KuxoDmc&feature=share single sanctuary www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHEWmdS0H1U Dele Interview

"Dele elevates Afro-jazz unto a new realm, the realm of cosmopolitanism, a confounding hybrid of Euro-classical and Afro-ritual."

(Xtrax magazine)

"The most fluent Afrobeat you're going to hear today" Max Reinhardt, (Straight No Chaser magazine)

"Joyous and totally uplifting. The afrobeat legend Dele Sosimi!" (Chris Hawkins, BBC 6Music)









www.delesosimi.org





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