

Short music biography of Okoe Ardyfio

Okoe comes from the village of Avenor, which is the birthplace of some of Ghana's most well known traditional musicians, most notable, Mustapha Tettey Addy. Okoe began learning drumming from Mustapha's nephew, when he was just ten years old, and he has been teaching drumming and dancing and performing since 1977. In 1995, he was invited to join Mustapha's band "The Royal Obonu Drummers" and to teach in his music academy in Kokrobite.

It is here that he met Master Drummer Simon Annoh, who was also a member of Mustapha's band and a teacher at the academy. Together with Mustapha they performed all over West Africa and Europe. They were invited to play in Scotland by the Prince Charles Trust.

Okoe and Simon have travelled to Ireland in 2002 to help raise funds for schools in their town with a charity group in Listowel, County Kerry. Okoe has played at an International Music Festival in Singapore, leading ten selected musicians from Ghana. They have also travelled to Ireland in 2005 for the Trip to Africa programme.

In Ghana, they lead a dance ensemble called Akrowa. It consists of 12 singers, dancers and percussionists. The group performs traditional songs and dances from Ghana and across West Africa.

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