

Babatunde Olatunji - Drums of Passion The Invocation (1990)

Written by bluelover

Saturday, 17 December 2011 08:56 - Last Updated Monday, 09 May 2016 14:52

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1. *Ajaja* 2. *Kori* 3. *Sango* 4. *Oba Igbo* 5. *Orere* 6. *Ogun la Ka Aiye*

This is the second new recording by percussion master Babatunde Olatunji for Mickey Hart's series "The World." In contrast to the preceding DRUMS OF PASSION: THE BEAT, which featured a modern rock-guitar sound lent by Carlos Santana, THE INVOCATION features eleven percussionists and seven vocalists in a work of rhythm and rapture. A review in Musician said of the album, "Its immense sound scalds you until you feel the humidity coming out of the ground....It resonates like a polyrhythmic high mass."

Olatunji's association with Rykodisc was brought about by producer and Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart, who was a Long Island high schooler when he first experienced Olatunji's magic. As he told Downbeat: "Olatunji was the one who turned me on to talking drums; he was a big influence on me. Now here I am almost 30 years later, playing with him and producing him. It's full circle." ---Editorial Reviews

This CD features Babatunde Olatunji at his best. Some people may be familiar with Olatunji and his style, but this CD is very different from the music he usually performs. It is more primordial, spiritual and emotionally charged. The music on here is an invocation to the Orshas, the Yoruba Gods, who were transposed across the Atlantic where their followers formed the religions of Santeria, Candomble and the like. I found the invocation to Sango (Shango in the Caribbean), the masculine Orisha of warfare, storms and fire, to be particularly moving. The emotion with which Olatunji performs on this CD is amazing. I am impressed with this CD. It is very moving,

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but I also must remind you that the music on this CD does hold considerable religious significance to the Yoruba people, and as such deserves a good deal of respect. --- Zekeriyah (Chicago, IL)

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