

ABI ODUN

Biography



The German-Nigerian singer and composer, is one of the most interesting, international commuters of a new Urban Roots Movement contributing to the current music culture with diversity and vibrancy. Abiodun is a traveller with a cosmopolitan consciousness and a universal message, that is as timeless as relevant. He manoeuvres playfully through an individual and contemporary sound universe and his music fuses classical elements of soul, blues, funk and rock with Abiodun's African roots.

Abiodun was born in London and is the son of a German mother and a Nigerian father. Growing up in Lagos (Nigeria) he was fascinated by music at an early age whereby his influences extended beyond his parent's vast vinyl collection. He absorbed the rhythmic songs of Fela Kuti, danced the Moonwalk with Michael Jackson and sang along to Bob Marley's "I shot the Sheriff." Music became both an omnipresent force in his life and a manifestation of the western and African culture that influenced his aesthetic. In 1986, Abiodun and his family moved to Germany and despite an initial culture shock, he developed and refined his musical abilities within a burgeoning music scene.

Abiodun started his recording career under the moniker "Don Abi" in 1993 when he released his first single "Criminality" with Vibe Tribe Soundsystem. A year later he was invited by pioneering German Hip-Hop producer Future Rock (LSD) to work on American Funk saxophonist Maceo Parker's single "Keep your Soul together". In 1995 Abiodun was featured on Germany's first Reggae Dancehall Sampler "Dancehall Power Vol.1" and has since then been a pioneering and vibrant force on the international music scene with over 25 releases to his credit.

He is a co-founder of the Afro-German musical collective "Brothers Keepers". Their song "Adriano (die letzte Warnung)" (Adriano the final warning) was released in 2001. It became an anti racism anthem selling well over 220,000 copies and making it to the Top 5 of the German pop charts. The sophomore album "Am I my Brother's Keeper?" was released on Sony Music in 2005.

As a Solo-Act Abiodun has released under the name of "Don Abi" two cross-genre albums: "Act of Love" (V2 Records 2003) and "No Philosophy" (Toolhouse Recordings 2007).

In addition to his solo career, Abiodun for many years collaborated with artists like Maceo Parker, UB40, Patrice, Gentleman, Xavier Naidoo, Gregory Isaacs, Keziah Jones and Burnt Friedman. In 2005 Abiodun played a key role on Bantu's album "Fuji Satisfaction" which, won critical acclaim and the Kora Awards as "Best Group West Africa" and "Best Group Africa".

Abiodun toured and headlined shows in Europe such as Rottweil Jazz Festival, Reggae Summer Jam, Bochum Total, Chiemsee Reggae Summer, Rototom Sunsplash Italy and Wiesen Sunsplash Austria.

Abiodun's new album *Break Free* (PD 10/2018) is a natural progression of his musical artistry over the past two decades. It re-presents Abiodun as an artist, who is constantly expanding the boundaries of his musical language without denying his identity. He expresses himself with a unique voice and style in English, Pidgin and Yoruba. The results are eleven songs: they are soulful and energetic but, at the same time, contemplative, fragile and sensitive.

Abiodun is supported on the album and at concerts by his band “The Ajazcorock”, consisting of experienced live and studio musicians:

Gert Kapo (Keys, musical director) was born in Tirana (Albania). He is the son of two professional musicians and started playing piano at the age of six. He won numerous prizes at national and international competitions.

In 2003 he completed his Master’s degree in classical piano at Musikhochschule Cologne and graduated with honors. He has a strong interest and passion for Jazz, Soul, R&B and traditional music of the Balkans, Africa and Latin America. He has worked with Luis Frank Arias, Maestro Guillermo Rubalcaba, Dominic Miller, Rhani Krija, Eda Zari and Sebastian Studnitzky.

Vincent ,Themba’ Goritzki (Gitarre) started his musical career in South Africa as a sideman of a well known and award winning singer Swazi Dlamini. The country South Africa and its people has been one of the most important experiences for him, musically and culturally. The name Themba relates to his integration in one of South Africa's townships in a Zulu community and was given to him by its people. His musical influences are of a broad repertoire including jazz, blues, funk, world music, rock, afro-pop, hip-hop, latin and many more. He has worked with Tim Heintz, Daniel Schnyder, Ernie Smith, Swazi Dlamini, Tshepo Mngoma, Mimi Ntenjwa, HopStop Banda and Diamondog.

Roman Fuchß (Bass) studied Jazz Bass at the Musikhochschule Cologne. He has performed many concerts with jazz, fusion, blues, rock and big bands and also participated in musicals, studio sessions and tv and radio broadcasts. He has a passion for Latin American music and has worked with musicians such as Alfonso Garrido, Roland Peil and Jemma Endersby.

Giuseppe „Big Finga“ Coppola (Drums) is an innovative drummer from the Berlin. He has been the drummer of Gentleman’s band “The Evolution” for many years and has ever since been touring extensively. He runs his own label and produces Raggae-Dance musicians such as Jah Mason, Junior Kelly and Gentleman.

Further information:

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