

TUNDE JEGEDE



SELECTED CREDITS

AFRICAN APOCALYPSE (2020)

KHARTOUM OFFSIDE (2019)

THE EMIDY PROJECT (2018)

(The Emidy Project was officially recognised by UNESCO as a world Slave Heritage Narrative of historical and cultural significance)

500 YEARS LATER (2005)

FRANZ FANON: BLACK SKIN, WHITE MASK (1996)

BIOGRAPHY

Tunde Jegede is a composer, producer, cellist and kora player who has been steeped in the traditions of European and African Classical music for the last 30 years.

From an early age, Tunde was uniquely schooled in both Western and African Classical Music. He attended the Purcell School of Music, UK's first specialist music school conservatoire and also studied the music of the Kora (African Harp-Lute) and the Griot tradition under the Gambian Master of the Kora, Amadu Bansang Jobarteh. From this unusual parallel education, Tunde gained a deep understanding and appreciation of both forms of music and their distinct legacies, and all these strands and influences have since informed his music and work as an instrumentalist, teacher, and international classical composer.

As a child, Tunde wrote poetry at the Keskidee Centre, where his father was the resident artist. There at the UK 's first Black Arts Centre, he was surrounded by singers, writers and poets such as Bob Marley, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Edgar White, Len Garrison and Walter Rodney. At the same time, he was also a chorister in a boys' choir that toured Cathedrals across the country and all these early influences contributed to his growing perception of music and the word.

By the age of 15, Tunde had been exposed to various musical idioms and his love of Western and African Classical music, gave birth to a growing interest in Jazz and its related art-forms. He was particularly interested in the connections between African Music and that of its Diaspora. He formed a Jazz trio at school and began to do arrangements as well as his own pieces and songs. These musical explorations added to Tunde's already diverse musical vocabulary and his understanding and appreciation of melody within composition began to take root. He then founded the Jazz Griots, a group that explored the connections between Kora music and jazz and began working with members of the Jazz Warriors including; Orphy Robinson, Cleveland Watkiss, Talvin Singh and Courtney Pine. It was through this circuitous route working with artists between the worlds of improvisation and spontaneous composition that Tunde came to composition.

In 1999 Tunde was appointed Innovations Composer for Orchestra Live (Formerly Eastern Orchestral Board) which brought him into contact with many orchestras in UK. As a composer his music has since taken him all over the world working in film, theatre and opera collaborating

with filmmakers, choreographers and theatre directors. His commissions for dance companies include; Random Dance Company (UK) Richard Alston Dance Co. (UK), Forces of Nature Dance Theatre (USA) Jant-Bi (Senegal) and Q Dance (Nigeria). He has also written many film soundtracks including the award-winning feature documentaries 500 Years Later and Hopes on the Horizons. Tunde has released four albums as a solo artist including his seminal debut album, *Lamentation*, *Still Moment*, a meditative album of solo Kora, *Testimony* and *Heritage*. He has written three full-scale operas, twenty symphonic works and his music has subsequently been performed in concert halls internationally by orchestras and artists including; The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonia, London Sinfonietta, Brodsky Quartet, Smith Quartet and the percussion soloist, Evelyn Glennie.

Through his work he has collaborated with some of the finest institutions, artists and musicians in classical, jazz and contemporary music including; the Royal Opera House (UK), Lyon Opera House (France), St Denis Festival (France), Silk Road Project, Trilok Gurtu, Caron Wheeler, Nana Vasconcelos, Muta Baruka, Kasse Mady Diabaté and Des'ree. In 2012 he was nominated as a TED Fellow and as an educator he has given many talks, lectures and presentations on his work at universities, schools and colleges including; Harvard (USA), Cape Town University (South Africa), University of Pittsburgh (USA), Cambridge University (UK), University of London (UK), St Augustine College (Trinidad & Tobago), Trinity College (Eire), Purcell School of Music (UK), Berklee College of Music (USA) & Royal Northern College of Music (UK).

As a pioneer of African Classical Music, he has a deep knowledge of traditional music and culture and he is a purveyor of Manding music as it interfaces with wider culture. Through his work as an African musician he is dedicated to reviving local traditions and building sustainable relationships between diverse artists and art-forms. He has achieved this by maintaining dialogues and crossing the boundaries of nation states by creating a legacy of global connections. His aim through all of this is to highlight each culture's positive attributes by reaffirming its rich heritage and confronting similar cultural paradigms and issues worldwide. Tunde founded the African Classical Music Ensemble and has gone on to perform and record with some of Africa's finest artists and ambassadors of heritage including; Toumani Diabaté, Oumou Sangaré, Juldeh Camara, Bodé Lawal, Bheki Mseleku, Seun Kuti and the Pan African Orchestra.

In 2014 Tunde was appointed Artistic Director of the MUSON (Musical Society of Nigeria) Centre and School of Music in Lagos where he set up the Art Ensemble of Lagos and the NOK Orchestra. He is also the curator of Living Legacies, Gambia's first traditional music archive, and the director of New Horizons, an international music festival and educational initiative offering performance opportunities for young musicians from West Africa, through education programmes, cultural exchanges and international artist residencies.

Tunde Jegede is a C21 renaissance man and his life and work is a testimony to the extraordinary journey of a composer, cellist and master kora player. From his early beginnings in England and West Africa, to his many travels and musical encounters across the globe, it is a story that parallels the myriad journeys of music itself. One of origins and diasporas, traditions and renewals, and cycles that weave together to form a single voice and a musical legacy.

<http://www.tundejegede.org>

FILM CREDITS

Mami Wata (2023)

Composer
Directed by C.J. 'Fiery' Obasi
Fiery Film Company

His House (2020)

Musician (koras)
Directed by Remi Weekes
Regency Enterprises, Netflix

93 Days (2016)

Composer
Directed by Steve Gukas
Native Filmworks

The First Grader (2010)

Musician (Kora)
Directed by Justin Chadwick
BBC Films

To The Unknown (2006)

Composer
Directed by Andrew Vallance
Vallance Pictures

500 Years Later (2005)

Composer
Directed by Owen Shahadah
Halaquah Media

Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation (2015)

Musician (Kora & Ngoni)
Directed by Christopher McQuarrie
MGM Studios

Ara's Sojourn (2009)

Composer
Directed by Sunara Begum
Chand Aftara

Life & Lyrics (2006) Composer/Producer

Directed by Richard Laxton
Universal Pictures

Tunde (2004)

Composer/Featured Artist
Directed by Ron Wyman
Zerogravity Films

African Apocalypse (2020)

Composer
Directed by Rob Lemkin
Inside Out Films

Khartoum Offside (2019)

Composer
Directed by Marwa Zein
Ore Productions

Waking At Dawn (2012)

Composer
Directed by Onyinye Egenti
Egenti Films

The Nanny Diaries (2007)

Musician (Kora)
Directed by Shari Springer Berman
MGM Studios

The Idea (2006)

Composer
Directed by Owen Shahadah
Halaquah Media

In Search of Voodoo: Roots to Heaven (2018)

Composer
Directed by Djimou Hounsou
Fanaticus Entertainment

Agadez, the Music and the Rebellion (2010)

Composer
Directed by Ron Wyman
Zerogravity Films

Our Story, Our Voice (2007)

Composer
Directed by Owen Shahadah
Halaquah Media

Fantôme Afrique (2005)

Musician (Kora)
Directed by Isaac Julien
Isaac Julien Studio

Franz Fanon, Black Skin White Mask (1996)

Composer
Directed by Isaac Julien
BFI



TELEVISION CREDITS

Winged Bull in the Elephant Case (2018)

Composer/Featured Artist
Directed by Robin Friend
BBC Television

In Search of Wilberforce (2007)

Composer
Directed by Gillian Bancroft
BBC2 Television

First Kill (1997)

Composer
Directed by Coco Schriber
Lemming Film/IKON (Netherlands)

Ouaga (1988)

Composer
Directed by Kwate Nee Awoo & Kwesi Owusu
Channel 4

The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency (2008)

Musician (Kora)
Directed by Anthony Minghella
BBC1 / HBO (7 Episodes)

Hopes on the Horizon (2001)

Composer/Producer
Directed by Onyekachi Wambu
PBS Television (USA)

Africa I Remember (1995)

Composer/Featured Artist
Directed by Paul Balmer
BBC2 Television

Bachanal (1984)

Composer/Featured Artist
Directed by Peter West
Channel 4 - 1984

THEATRE CREDITS

Edward II (2019)

Musician (Kora)
Directed by Nick Bagnell
Shakespeare's Globe

Emidy: He Who Dared To Dream (2017)

Composer/Producer
Directed by Tunde Jegede
Xiom Productions
Officially recognised by UNESCO as a World Slave Heritage Narrative

The Griot's Tale (2013)

Composer/Producer
Directed & Produced by Tunde Jegede
Xiom Productions

Tell Them I am Young & Beautiful (2011)

Composer
Directed by Marcello Magni
Arcola Theatre

Opera Du Sahel (2005)

Composer
Directed by Germaine Agogny
Prince Claus Fund

Reckonings (2018)

Composer/MD (Cello & Kora)
Directed by Alesandra Seutin
Sadler's Wells

Mwindo: An African Ballet (2016)

Composer/Producer
Directed by Tunde Jegede
New Horizons Festival

African Messiah (2012)

Composer/Producer
Directed by Tunde Jegede
Royal Opera House

Fleuve Niger (2009)

Composer
Directed by Tunde Jegede
St Denis Festival

Red Fortress (2008)

Composer
Directed by Tony Graham
Unicorn Theatre

Cry of Innocence (2005)

Composer
Directed by Anton Phillips
Trinity College/Gye Nyame Productions



**Newsnight - The People's Princess
(2003)**

Composer
Directed by Tom Morris
Battersea Arts Centre

**Let The Elements Sing & Dance
(2000)**

Composer
Directed by Richard Alston
Richard Alston Dance Company

Hidden Routes (1998)

Composer
Directed by Sharon Wray
Phoenix Dance Company

Reminiscence (1996)

Composer
Directed by Bode Lawal
Sakoba Dance Company

The Prophet (2002)

Composer
Directed by Renu Setna
Gye Nyame Productions

Dancing in the Spirit (1999)

Composer
Directed by Wayne McGregor
Random Dance Company

Dance Tek Warrior (1997)

Composer
Directed by Corrine Bougaard
Union Dance Company

Othello (1986)

Composer
Directed by Joseph Marcell
Red Handkerchief Theatre Company

DISCOGRAPHY CREDITS

Voyages of the Heart (2024)

Composer
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music

Moon Waters (2020)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music

The Emidy Project (2018)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Papilio Collection

Adra (2019)

Composer
Chris Roberts
Ty Cerdd

Mali in Oak (2017)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede & Derek Gripper
Globe Music

The Elements (2014)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Papilio Collection

Testimony (2014)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Cello)
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music

Heritage (2014)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music

Face to Face (2012)

Musician (Kora)
Alex Heffes
Opus 10

Dance (2011)

Composer
The Smith Quartet
Signum Records

How Many Prophets (2009)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music

There was a Time (2009)

Composer/Producer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Xiom Music



Ascension Vol. I / II & III (2009)

Composer & Musician (Kora)
Alexis Ffrench & Tunde Jegede
AFM

Light in the Shade (2008)

Producer
HKB FINN
Alter-native Studios

Spoken Herbs (2006)

Producer & String Arranger
HKB FINN
Alter-native Studios

Acoustic Afro Hip Hop (2005)

Producer & Arranger
HKB FINN
Alter-native Studios

Remasterpiece (2005)

Composer & Musician (Cello)
Chris Coco & Sacha Puttnam
EMI Classics

God-Given (2004)

String Arrangement & Musician (Cello & Kora)
Siji
BBE

Vitalistics (2002)

Producer
HKB FINN
Son Records

Opus 18 (2000)

Composer
Brodsky Quartet
Vanguard

Flute for Thought (1998)

Musician (Cello & Kora)
Deepak Ram
Melt 2000

African Tranquility (1996)

Composer & Musician (Kora)
Contemplative African Music Compilation
Shanachie

One Love (1996)

Musician (Kora)
Courtney Pine
Antilles/Island

River of Sound (1995)

Musician (Kora)
Micheal Suilleabhain
Virgin Records

Flor de Verano (2008)

Composer & Musician (Kora)
Diana Baroni
PAO Records

Still Moment (2006)

Composer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Hetra Music

Forest Soul (2005)

String Arrangement & Musician (Cello & Kora)
Misty Oldland
Mistic Discs

Songs for the Inner World (2004)

Musician (Kora)
Talvin Singh
Naive Records

Orange Fox(2003)

String Arrangement & Musician (Cello)
Misty Oldland
Mistic Discs

Victory's Happy Songbook (2001)

String Arrangement & Musician (Cello)
Cleveland Watkiss
infracom

Trance Planet (1999)

Composer & Musician (Cello & Kora)
Compilation Album
Triloka Records

The Invisible History of the Black Celt (1997)

Musician (Cello & Kora)
Martin Okasili
WEA

Malian Royal Court Music (1996)

Composer & Musician (Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Triciom Records

Lamentation (1995)

Composer & Musician (Cello & Kora)
Tunde Jegede
Triciom Records



The Vibes Describes (1994)

Musician (Cello & Kora)
Orphy Robinson
Blue Note/EMI Records

The Beach of the War Goddess (1992)

Musician (Kora)
Caron Wheeler
EMI Records

Pyrotechnics (1992)

Musician (Kora)
Orphy Robinson
EMI Records

Living Magic (1991)

Musician (Kora)
Trilok Gurtu
CMP Records

Chimmurenga (1987)

Musician (Kora)
African Dawn
Ad Records

Abisun Ni (1985)

Musician (Kora)
Gaspar Lawal
Hotcap Records

When Tomorrow Comes (1992)

Musician (Cello & Kora)
Orphy Robinson
Blue Note/EMI Records

Fire Fairytale (1992)

Musician (Cello)
Paul Reid
Sony Music

Kadara (1990)

Musician (Kora)
Gaspar Lawal
Globestyle

White Wind, Black Tide (1986)

Musician (Kora)
Ewain MacColl & Peggy Seeger
Ad Records

Conversation (1984)

Musician (Kora)
African Dawn
Ad Records

BOOKS**African Classical Music: The Griot Tradition**

By Tunde Jegede
Diabaté Arts - 1994

The Silenced Voice

By Galina Chester & Tunde Jegede
Diabaté Arts - 1987

