

MASTER'S RECITAL

Folachade Abiala, *drums and percussion*

Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College of CUNY

Graduate Recital Advisor, Daniel Blake

Program Notes

Folachade Abiala, Comp. arr.

Joy and Sorrow

Duration: 4:05

We live in a world where daily we experience joy and sorrow. The feeling of joy cannot be analyzed in the way one would analyze sorrow, and vice versa. Accepting sorrow in the quest for happiness is necessity but not always an easy plight to experience. One can easily note that during the process of childbirth and before the emotions of happiness and joy (the arrival of the newborn) are felt, the experience of suffering and sorrow (anguish of labor pains) is first endured by the mother. The composition of this song comes from this observation that our true happiness is sometimes birth in the midst of pain. It is in fact a necessary part in the quest for happiness that we may have experienced pain along the way. The issue is not to avoid the pain we feel or to minimize its impact in our lives, but to recognize that you can't have one without the other. Hence the title of this song, "Joy and Sorrow."

Folachade Abiala, Comp. arr.

Paradox

Duration: 4:38

In traditional African society, the hunter plays an essential role. We see him belonging to the world of humans, but by his feelings and choices, we see him in a mythical and mysterious space as he communes with the forest and animals in role of a hunter. The composition of "Paradox" through rhythm and melody results from the traditional dynamics of powerful vectors of the memory of hunters of African societies. If art, under its double form of music and dance represents a vehicle, it allows a transfer of the real space (forest) in which the performance moves into a symbolic space (spiritual connection) that appears when the hunter is at work. Hunters have their own sacred music that they experience during hunting expeditions. This piece is a story, an anthem to revive the philosophy and legendary figures of hunting and experiences of the hunter himself.

Folachade Abiala, Comp. arr.

September 5TH

Duration: 4:37

Music is a language. We learn it, we use it and we pass it on from one generation to another. This language is not a fixed creation, but a multifaceted work, constantly changing through the ages and space. This transmission is the result of "September 5th." This song was composed on September 5th and dedicated to a child who was born on that date and who was able to assimilate the Bass line. From the experience of September 5th, the creative process that is at the root of language is reflected in our ability to pass it on to our children in our daily practices and in the ability of children to appropriate this treasure of humanity.

Folachade Abiala, Comp. arr.

Daytime Dream

Duration: 4:05

A human in his/her daily life thinks, dreams, hallucinates, and imagines. In short, things are linked in his/her head through points of resemblance, which can be found through analysis. The "Daytime Dream" song analyzes the elements of a man's daily life. It has been composed in a process of condensation, with that of dramatization, which consists of transforming thought into action. This is the example of some things that happen to us when we suddenly have this strange feeling of having already experienced a scene or a situation. Why do we sometimes feel like we've already experienced a certain scenario?

Folachade Abiala, Comp. arr.

Sacred Iron

Duration: 4:53

Music in traditional African society is the preferred tool of communication between humans and the divine world. No ceremony or rite is performed without the support of rhythm, music and dance. "Sacred Iron" was composed to pay homage to these sacred rhythms that were played in the forests of southern Benin during specific occasions. This song highlights the sacred character of the cowbells, each of which conveys a stubborn message that often leads to a trance and a union with God. The arrangement of this song with other contemporary instruments such as bass and drums set, testifies that music is not a fixed language but is rather evolutionary in time, space and circumstances.

Marcus Miller (b, 1959)

Sublimity 'Bunny's Dream' Arr. F. Abiala

Duration: 6:44

Behind his nonchalant air, Marcus Miller is a dynamic musician who is one of the busiest and most consistent musicians of his generation. During a visit to the island of Gorée in Senegal, the symbol of the slave trade, he decided to pay tribute to Africa and to repeat the slave journey in his own way through music. Today he returns to the roots of the rhythms that have permeated his life resulting in a very personal repertoire, colored with a thousand influences. "Sublimity 'Bunny's Dream'" is a song from his album *Laid Back* released in 2018. Through the melody of this song, arranged with African percussion, he transports us to a horizon where Africanity flows from his legendary bass.