



# MUSIC FOR FREEDOM



A dancer from African Footprint International welcoming us into Fort William, Anomabo, Queen Elizabeth dedicated to Africa's Youth in 1954.



A MUSICAL JOURNEY INTO AFRICA. MARCH 5-18, 2010  
[WWW.MUSICFORFREEDOM.ORG](http://WWW.MUSICFORFREEDOM.ORG) - [WWW.AND-ALBERT.COM](http://WWW.AND-ALBERT.COM)





*A Northern Ghana village, Logshegu, getting ready for a playground being built. Finished in early 2009*

**"Music for Freedom is a Movement for Musicians, Artists and their supporters to forge the links of a freedom chain from Africa to their own places of heritage throughout the world. In so doing it will contribute to African unity and development as well as our own enlightenment"**

**David Murden, Founder. Music For Freedom. [www.musicforfreedom.org](http://www.musicforfreedom.org)**

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*Rocky Dawuni our North Ghanaian Ambassador of Music and his Ghanaian friend Padre Cesare in Rome at the "Journeys of the Spirit Festival" expressing their own joy of Freedom!*

# Statement of Aims



*The people of Singa walk along the slave track to greet their visitors in the 2007 Festival of Freedom*



*Two boys from the North Ghana Gourani tribe playing and singing using bits of tin can and metal from scrap to create their own songs and music and rhythms of the soul. This tribe, colloquially known as FraFra, are rather like the Welsh in their love of Music.*

## To journey into Africa

On March 6th we will take up to fifty musicians to Africa on a journey of a lifetime: On a journey of musical exploration.

We will visit with the people of Ghana, travel through the villages from Tropical Coast to Savannah Bushland and return to the very roots of our music. On this musical mystery tour we will meet local musicians and our two cultures will fuse to create new music. Each and every day we will film every band, every artist that joins us on the trip, giving them an opportunity to share and create music with the local people.

## To create new music

Whilst we are on tour we will record and document this musical journey and upon our return to the UK a studio album of some of the finest cuts will be created. A special double album consisting of the studio cuts and the live 'african' cuts will be sold on behalf of the Projects in Africa

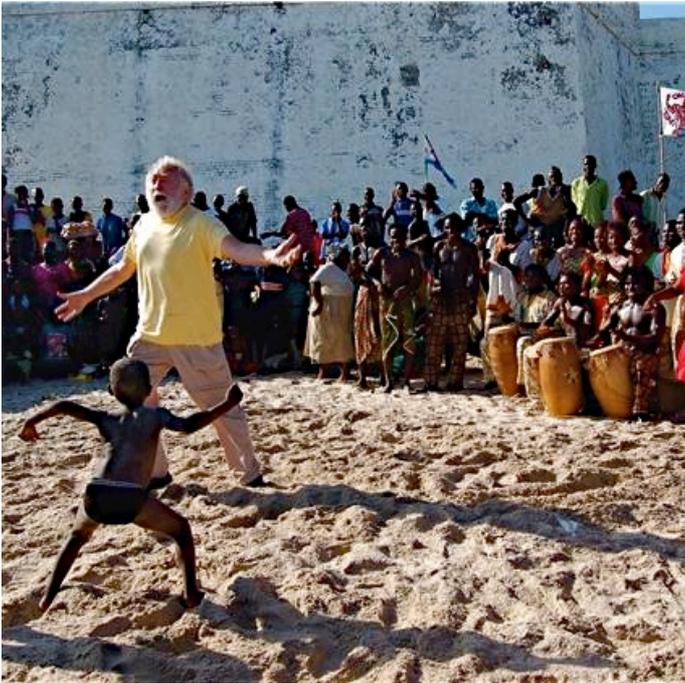
## To create an opportunity for new artists to be heard

Getting your music heard in today's corporate landscape is not easy. Benefitting from the combined publicity and momentum of this magical trip to Ghana we hope to promote the careers of dozens, perhaps hundreds of talented artists often struggling to find an audience

## To make a difference in Africa

By experiencing and sharing in their empowerment we hope to show young Africans that they have all the talent, joy and resources that are needed to build, create and enjoy a wonderful future. We want to try to demonstrate to young Africans especially how they have helped make our world a better place in the hope that they feel the "Respect" and motivation to believe in their own incredible possibilities.

# Founding Principles



David Bellamy with African Footprint International, Anomabo beach, Fort William



This river, the White Volta, gets swollen to about 7 miles wide in the rainy season bringing fertility and fish ponds to life around our villages. It takes nearly two hours just to cross it wending your way through the tree tops by canoe!

**Respect** the origins of their own rhythms of life and music

**Recognise** the value of Africa's real wealth in people, heritage and environment

**Restore** the relationships of trust to help create the potential for sustainable development

**Redeem** the Slave Routes by creating education and communication 'Gateways to Freedom' for Africa's young people to see their future and potential.

*Music of the Soul and Spirit opens us all to seek new horizons for each other's skills and heritage.*

### **Why are we doing this?**

The personnel of And Albert Foundation have been forging these links to the people and their particular environments and heritage of skills for 20 years. (See [www.and-albert.com](http://www.and-albert.com)) During that time it has sent many thousands of arts and craft products to display and sell to allow villages to become more self-sufficient and demonstrate their potential for progress. Their young people need to know they have a

future in Africa's awakening. Their own education and the advantages of world-wide communication allow them to realise this in new ways which rightly belong to them alone. When villages and tribes are visited and due respect and recognition is given first hand, creating the relationships of trust, the first steps are made for the motivation which lifts the depression of poverty and allows so many of their own initiatives to flourish.



*Help us Proclaim this throughout a thousand miles of a "Route of Freedom", reopening the Slave-Fort's "Gateway of no Return" to welcome back the pioneers of Africa's unity and unlimited opportunities.*

# Going back to our Roots

## with Reggae superstar Rocky Dawuni

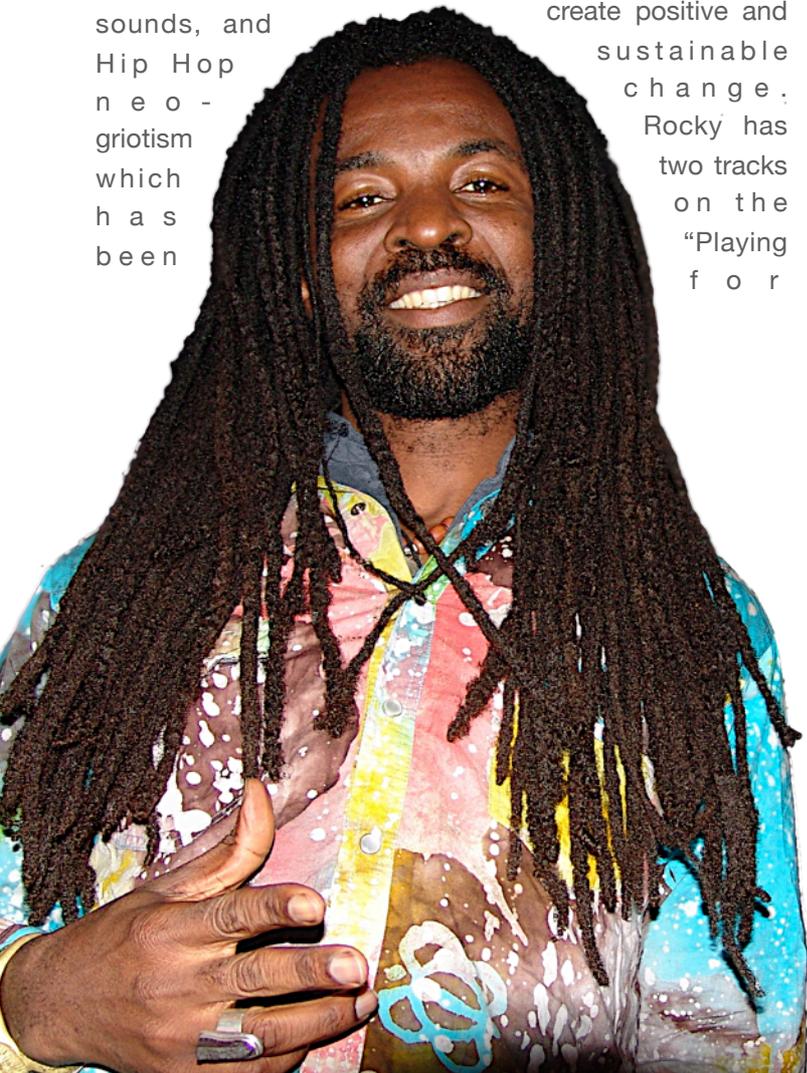


### All About Rocky

He is one of Africa's most popular musicians whose live performances have often been called legendary and whose popularity



spans the globe. His last CD "Book of Changes," blazed new paths with a progressive fusion of Reggae, Afro Beat, traditional African sounds, and Hip Hop neo-griotism which has been



dubbed "infectious" and "a classic" by tastemakers. Rocky's 5<sup>th</sup> studio album titled "Hymns for the Rebel Soul" was exclusively pre-released in October 2009. The first track of the album "Download the Revolution" is featured on EA's "FIFA 2010" video game. When not touring the world playing on some of the largest festival stages, Rocky is involved with UNICEF, Product (RED), The Carter Center and The Global Fund and other proactive humanitarian, social and environmental organizations- in his belief and commitment to create positive and sustainable change. Rocky has two tracks on the "Playing for

Change: Songs Around the World" album which has become a world wide



Rocky singing for MFF outside the Colosseum

phenomenon including a cover of "War" by Bob Marley which features him and Bono. We caught up with him in Rome where we filmed him singing his latest hit 'Walls come tumbling down' outside the Colosseum!

### A bit of history

And-Albert Foundation organised a significant launch and film was made in March 2007, in Fort William, Anomabo, Ghana, and Singa village in North Ghana, by 10 tribes coming together, ex slaves and slave-master tribes, to dance and celebrate the freedom and creativity

of the African spirit in a "Festival of Freedom". This was made more poignant by its direct link to the 200 year anniversary of the British Parliament's Bill to begin the task of abolishing slavery once and for all. All forms of slavery still exist and need exposing to bring equality with Ethical trade and development to all the peoples of Africa. Thus the proclamation and celebration of this must continue to challenge and



Some of Rocky's Band in Rome

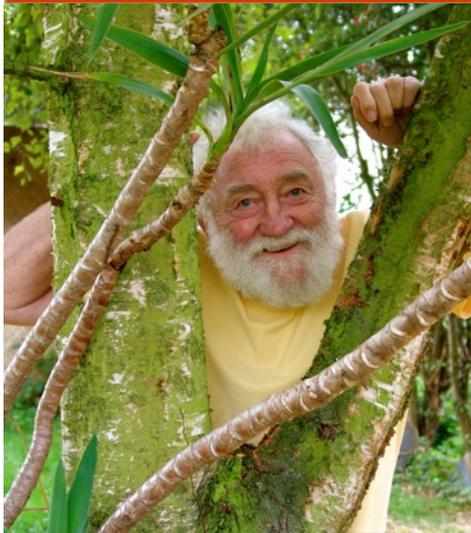
destroy the myth of Africa's dependency. Join in any of these subsequent celebration events throughout 2010 and



Left: Rocky's last interview to camera saying join the Movement. Respect!



MUSIC FOR FREEDOM - MARCH 6-18TH, 2010 - JOIN US!



*David Murden*  
 "Watch our Videos and find out more. If you like what you see, then we can't wait to hear from you"

*What will it cost?*  
 Eligible artists will be substantially subsidised but we are still looking for sponsorships

*David Bellamy*  
 "Catch my invitation on Youtube and join me in Africa for the experience of your lifetime"

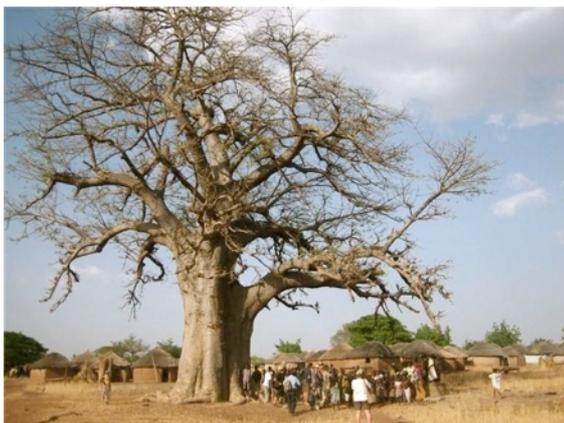
*How long is the trip?*  
 Two weeks. Advice notes are available for those coming out to Africa for the first time!

*Watch our Youtube Channel*  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/musicforfreedom2010>

*I want to get involved!*  
 Email [davidmurden@and-albert.com](mailto:davidmurden@and-albert.com) for details about how we can be of benefit to each other.

**The Ancient Baobab Tree**

In the picture kids are standing on our first attempt at a well in Singa



*The heart of Singa village, the mighty Baobab. We will be doing a gig here!*

(which unfortunately didn't work too good) but it facilitated the Government in creating 3 proper boreholes and even the Ghana Rotary in providing a solar powered pump to take the water into the village centre!

5 years ago the women were walking with 25 litres on their heads to the river almost 7 miles away each day and the water had many diseases in it including Guinea Worm which laid low the men for months at a time and children died at the rate of 1 in 5 before their 5th birthday often from water borne diseases.

The Foundation received much kudos, even undeserved, for bringing these changes, hence the 2007 Festival and our astonishing welcome to be augmented in March 2010.

Chief Zakaria is now a good friend who understands where he and his people are going. Their isolation is over and the curse is lifted and the real wealth of their land and people will bring them much deserved development.

In the last few years solar power has been tried out and there is a strong mobile signal and a computer lab is possible to link them to the slave route and Fort William and the rest of the world! This intervening gap of years begins to destroy the affects of slavery. Singa is surrounded by 40 villages, and acts as our hub. Further down the River is Yapei where the disused British warehousing and quays offer a direct link to Lake Volta and are just sitting there waiting for redevelopment. Hence the old slave trading route becomes a new ethical trading route.

**All is well that ends well**

The Grandad of our Director, Jonas, in Burkina. In Pougyango one of the poor villages in North Burkina not all that far away from the Sahara. These incredible people (Mossi Tribe) live on the edge with barely sufficient to eat and had no clean water up to 2005. The *And Albert Foundation* installed a well and pump here about 50 yards from where he is sitting. This well existed during the 1930's put in by well(!) meaning Dutch charity guys. A good, solid, concrete, construction. The water came up so fast and furious the people thought it a sign of



an evil spirit so they filled it in with rocks and remained dependent on dirty water brought from miles away! Jonas is a Pastor and gets on very well now with the Chief and his people partnership deal: crafts and fruit trees; guest house and orphan training school.



# The Small Print *The Finer Points*

**Why?** One of the missing ingredients for poverty alleviation and subsequent development is **motivation, not money**. We can't pay back Africa for the loss of nearly 11 millions of its own peoples into slavery which became our gain in Western wealth beyond belief. We have tried to send enough "Aid". (\$73 trillion in 30 years). It simply hasn't worked and even contributed to dependency and depression of whole tribes leading to negative development. It has certainly created an "us" (strong) and "them" (weak) myth still being almost unconsciously devoted to by the energies of all our charitable pursuits perpetuating it. **It's the recognition of Africa's strengths which needs celebrating maybe not the increasingly outmoded charity methods.**

**How?** The growing Team in And Albert Foundation and Music for Freedom are creating a download programme for musicians to donate their choice of representative track. Their supporters can then pay a small amount for downloading and collecting any or all from the growing Music for freedom "library". Our friend and Ghanaian Musician and composer, Rocky Dawuni, already an acknowledged exponent of Reggae and fusion (the "New Bob Marley"), is launching the whole essence of our Project and its Proclamation, next year, starting at the Vatican and UK and thereafter right back to the Roots of Rhythm (Paul Simon) in West Africa and among the Diaspora in USA. We have adopted as our symbol the 'Adinkra Mpatapo' which means 'peace and reconciliation between tribes'. If we go back to the slaves' roots of rhythm, music and



faith, which they exemplified and spread across the world, so often not being even thanked, never mind compensated for. It has left this blank space awaiting at least a Western response. Black and White 'tribes' should work together, to say thank you in a meaningful way. This sensitively changes things for the better, and redresses the balance somewhat for a fairer future.

***We are asking musicians and their supporters all over the world to join in our MFF programme to pay due RESPECT for the music which has brought freedom and fairness to our histories for so many generations. It would be true to say our popular music is born out of their suffering and creativity.***

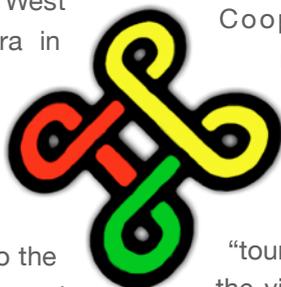
**Where?** For nearly 20 years the *And Albert* model of trade and sustainable development has been working through many villages along one main slave route in Ghana, Burkina, and thus right into the Sahara desert. We have promoted many craftsmen and artists and latterly musicians to help in their Recognition and the process of redeeming their vulnerability and poverty by many practical means including ethical trading, clean water, workshops, playgrounds and sport, plus underlying education and communication support now rapidly expanding with help from a great programme in the USA. It's all beginning to work so well we can invite a "Conservation Cooperative" of like-minded folk to visit these people and places as "Eco-Adventurers" rather than simply "tourists". We can stay in the villages not in western

style hotels! Long term relationships of Trust and Trade are thereby formed!

**When?** In March 2010 as many of us, including as many grateful and adventurous Musicians as possible, would like to join Rocky at the Ghana Independence Day Festival in Accra (March 6<sup>th</sup>) and thence follow through representative villages to a remote cross river village in North Ghana, Singa, where another Festival of Freedom will be held. This was the proclamation we made in Singa in 2007 on a film we made with David Bellamy, when together as 10 different tribes, we commemorated 200 years of the passing of the Slave Abolition Bill through the British Parliament! We walked together through the Gate of No Return, this time back from the beach, the other way, to say the Gateway to Freedom, after being closed for 200 years, was open forever! The Chief said "History was being made". Let's make some more in 2010!

The musicians and dancers and *And-Albert* project workers who follow along this Route of Freedom, will be filmed interacting and playing with local musicians and sports teams, so that the walls of ignorance and myth and false frontiers the Western powers created, will come tumbling down!

***All of us need recognition and affirmation of our skills and humanity in order to cooperate in keeping us safe in an insecure world. When we do, we look after each other very well and we realise our interdependence and environmental responsibilities. That's what all this will lead to. Who knows in what wonderful ways!***



The rough map of Ghana we painted on the wall of one of the village schools to "put them on the map". A good motivation for "Music for Freedom"!

