



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC AND RELATED ARTS



Kwame Degbor

Kwame Degbor taught and performed Ewe drumming and dance for the Center for World Music from 2005 to 2008. He was born in the Kpando District of the Volta Region of Ghana, West Africa. His father was a chief; hence Kwame was “born into” music, as there was a large collection of drums in his father’s palace. At the age of six, he started competing with elderly drummers on the complexities of several different drumming rhythms: *Borborbor*, *Zigi*, *Agbadza*, *Asafo*, and *Adowa*. In Middle School, Kwame became the leader of the school’s Cultural Troupe, while at the Training College he was admired as a good dancer and drummer with a beautiful singing voice—talents that landed him into the college choir. He was considered to be one of the best performing arts students while in college.

After training as a teacher, he developed more in the area of dance and created a dance group in Agate village, where the Arts Council of Ghana was impressed with his abilities and appointed him a representative for the Hohoe and Kpando Districts in 1982. Kwame also became an integral part of the Centre for National Culture in 1982. In 1999 he graduated from the University of Ghana, Legon with a major in Theatre Arts (Dance). After completing his degree, Kwame returned to the Centre for National Culture in Ho and was put in charge of Performing Arts, where he continued training various traditional groups in the region.

Kwame also traveled outside of the Volta Region in order to teach dances in other parts of Ghana. In fact, he became so popular as a teacher that people exclaimed that “there is no village or dance form in the Volta Region that he does not know.” Kwame held three positions within the Centre for National Culture, Volta Region: Director of Programme, Artistic Director of the Folkloric Company, and Acting Deputy Director.