



AfroWest Music Hub

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## **FACT SHEETS**

**Artist: RIDDIM DOCTORS**

**Album Title: OPE (Gratitude)**

**Release Date: 9/21/2020**

*“Sikiru Adepoju the Mozart of his instrument—a virtuoso talking drummer”-Mickey Hart*

*OPE is a Yoruba Nigerian word, which means “gratitude.” OPE is the most suited title for the album following all the turn-and-turns encountered by Sikiru Adepoju and some key members of Riddim Doctors during the making of the album, which began many years ago. It is through the grace of Eledumare (the Creator) that the nine-track album became a blessing to humanity. The unwavering determination of Sikiru Adepoju and the support of his friend of many years Val Serrant cannot be measured. Sikiru’s stubbornness to give birth to his dreams no matter how long it takes should be emulated by anyone that dares to go somewhere higher. The essence of the album is to elevate people’s spirits and ignite the spirit of OPE in the listener. When the spirit of OPE is awakened in you, then you will see the good in every situation. Embracing the spirit of OPE “gratitude,” can reduce most of the tensions in our lives as we transform to be better and more loving human beings. Unleash the spirit of OPE in you!*

The album features known musicians such as, Giovanni Hidalgo, Zakir Hussain, Audio Angel (Rashida Clendening), Osam Ezzeldin, Bola Abimbola, Lindsey Schust, Paul Tao El-Shaddai, Sammy Fayoseh, including current Dead & Company keyboardist Jeff Chimenti, longtime Bob Weir collaborator and onetime Primus drummer Jay Lane and Widespread Panic bassist Dave Schools.

***Song #5 is a cover of The Staple Singers “I’ll Take You There”***

***Song #7 is a cover of John Denver “Take Me Home, Country Roads”***

## **1. Ajaja (I am The Spirit)**

“Ajaja”, is:- “The one Spirit, that rules The Universe!” The:- \*I Am That I Am\* Spirit, of All who gather to celebrate Life for a common good! The Song also pays homage to our Ancestors’ ever-living Spirits... in joyful remembrance of their contributions, & Presence at all times. The careful blend of percussion and musical instruments {including the Kalimba/Thumb Piano}; produces heart-warming, mellow music... to lift the Spirit of the Listener.

Ajaja Eeee

E mi lo

**Word:** Babatunde Olatunji

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Bola Abimbola, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Zakir Hussain, Ian Herman, Femi Ojetunde, Babatunde Olatunji and Douglas Val Serrant.

## **2. Goin’ Somewhere**

Zakir Hussain (Tablas) and Sikiru Adepoju (Dundun) spontaneously laid the foundation (on the Second Take) for Giovanni Hidalgo (Congas) to creatively finish in One Take, leading to the construction of this Living Drum-machine taking -off unfettered, into the 21st century. Keyboards and Steeldrum color this speedy musical vehicle, belching Thunder, stirred up by Lightning Hands!

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Giovanni Hidalgo, Zakir Hussain, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

## **3. Dide Afrika (Wake Up Afrika)**

The Artists present a blend of Percussion and Vocals in rich, gorgeous tones, The Steeldrum; Dundun (Talking Drums); tasty Keyboards and Sweet Guitar; create a delightful atmosphere for the listener. The vibrant Gong and the steady, significant ticking of the Agogo (Bell), alerts us to the fact that: Now Is The Time, for Afrika’s joyous;, Full-Awakening .

**Word:** Sikiru Adepoju, Femi Ojetunde, Tunji Oyelana and Douglas Val Serrant

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Bola Abimbola, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ian Herman, Femi Ojetunde, Lindsey Schust and Douglas Val Serrant.

## 4. Idaji (Sunrise)

The listener can enjoy expertly knit, sonorous and harmonious Sounds. There is no voice overlay in this number, but that of Percussive Instruments, Synthesizers, Drums, Sweet- Guitar, and the Gong. These are joyful, danceable Sounds, which portray a Sunrise of Happiness.

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ian Herman, Zakir Hussain, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

## 5. I'll Take You There

In this Dawning:- "Golden- Age," more people,(Planetwide), are awakening and embracing "The Staple Singers" Vision of:- "A Place"... where: 'Nobody's crying/ worried/lying to the Races; Or: flashing False Smiles.... "RIDDIM DOCTORS":- 'Take You There'...in their Rendition of this Iconic Song! Enjoy!

**World & Music:** The Staple Singers

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Audio Angel (Rashida Clendening), Jeff Chiment, Osam Ezzeldin, Peter Fujii, Jay Lane, Richard Nagan, Dave Schools and Douglas Val Serrant.

## 6. Ire Temi (My Success)

This track contains a series of affirmations for success. It begins by saying that success is achieved by working smart. We learn from nature how the butterfly preserves itself and its beauty, by exercising caution in all its movements. Experience has shown that it takes a lot of smartness to extract the nut from the palm-kernel. Human beings can use all this wisdom to advantage.

Eeee temi a dayo

Oluwa ti ma yowa

**Word:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Bola Abimbola and Paul Tao El-Shaddai.

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Paul Tao El-Shaddai, Peter Fujii and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Bola Abimbola, Paul Tao El-Shaddai, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ian Herman, Sammy Fayoseh and Douglas Val Serrant.

## 7. Take Me Home, Country Roads

“RIDDIM DOCTORS,” inject their unique Musical-Medicine to this John Denver Classic; ensuring:- Enjoyable-Experiences is heard by listeners whilst:-driving; dancing; relaxing; or otherwise.

**World and Music:** John Denver

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Audio Angel (Rashida Clendening), Jeff Chimenti, Osam Ezzeldin, Peter Fujii, Jay Lane, Richard Nagan, Dave Schools and Douglas Val Serrant

## 8. Palm Wine

Presented in the Highlife musical style, Palm Wine is very cool, danceable, and allows the listener to supply personal lyrics if he/she desires. Take one Sip of this music and be transported to clean, sandy beaches, inviting Blue waters, gentle breezes, and imposing Palm Trees. Enjoy your Holiday.

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ian Herman, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

## 9. Lana Dewa (Clear The Way)

In this track, we take up the theme of Marcus Garvey, only this time, we call on the Spirits of our Ancestors to clear the way for us in times of Difficulties or Crises. Relying on spiritual help, we can triumph over all obstacles and go on to succeed in all our Enterprises. Surely, each of us has an Ancestor that she or he can call upon in times of Crisis. The Ancestors are waiting to receive our call for help.

Lana Dewa Eeee

Lana Dewa

**Word:** Sikiru Adepoju, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Music:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Femi Ojetunde and Douglas Val Serrant.

**Performance:** Sikiru Adepoju, Saminu Adepoju, Peter Fujii, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ian Herman, Femi Ojetunde, Joe Smith and Douglas Val Serrant.