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'Born Troway' in action

## Celebrating World Music Day

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By Titilayo Olurin  
July 9, 2011 03:00AM

The promotion of culture through music was the emphasis of the World Music Day celebration held on Saturday, June, 25 at Freedom Park, Lagos.

The event, jointly organised by the British Council, Alliance Francaise and Goethe Institut, attracted music lovers from all over the country. This underscored the very essence of the celebration which originated in France in 1982 and has since become an annual event worldwide.

Anchored by actor Ropo Ewenla and Mfon Umana, Director of Public Relations, Alliance Francaise, the event marked the 22nd edition of the World Music Day as observed in Nigeria; and featured performances by various artists including, Eji Oyewole, Yinka Davies and Alaba Pedro.

In line with the spirit of the celebration, the performances were out in the open for everyone to enjoy free of charge. The female folk group, Adunni and Nefertiti, launched the performances for the day with a blend of contemporary and traditional music that cut across different ethnic groups in Nigeria, including Igbo, Edo and Yoruba.

This paved way for a a group of youths, 'Born Troway', whose performance addressed the problem of water pollution. Another issue was the alienation of some youths from the mainstream of society, as the group sang, "E dey pain us, dem call us born troway but we no be born troway."

### Afrobeat flavour

A performance by Bodun and the Black Beats Band of Africa, followed. The audience was thrilled to the musician's style and movements which are reminiscent of Fela. According to the

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comperes, Bodun is one those helping to reawaken the Afrobeat tradition in Nigeria. It was definitely not the last Afrobeat performance of the night.

**Jazz and Highlife**

UK-based Jazz percussionist Lekan Babalola also performed with the Lagos Brass Band. The band rendered soul searching songs with various instruments, dominant of which was the trumpet. Among the tracks rendered were, 'Majoba Lo', a Yoruba gospel number; 'Igwe' by Midnight Crew and 'Nigbati Mo Ji', composed by Kayode Adesina.

Performing with this band was Oladimeji Fagbemi who also paid homage to Fela with the Afrobeat legend's popular songs, including 'Water No Get Enemy'.

Edaoto continued the Afrobeat flavour as he thrilled the audience to his lyrical finesse and dexterity with the Afro genius Band.

Then came Highlife veteran Eji Oyewole, who was backed by his band, the Afro Bars. The flutist and saxophonist from Ibadan displayed some of his great skills acquired from 50 years as a musician. The six piece band played a blend of Jazz and Afro rhythms, which Oyewole described as "Jazz the African way." 'Esimi Agbaja' was among the songs he performed.

Yinka Davies' appearance with the Five and Six Band, made for some of the most unique moments of the event. According to Ewenla, Davies "represents the very expressive talents of Nigerian artists." It was hard to miss the energetic display of the musician as she carried the audience along. But the best was yet to come.

**Homage to Kennery**

As soon as Seinde Jones came on stage, he became an instant love among the crowd. His performance, which was reminiscent of Orlando Owoh, in no little way paid tribute to the late Kennery music maestro. Jumoke Oke's performance with Davies consisted of chanting praises. Her song, 'Eko Ni'le', received a loud applause from the audience.

Alaba Pedro was described as an artist whose music unites West Africa, particularly, Nigeria and Ghana. He played Highlife of yester-years and his song 'Ekaete' was a popular one. Dafe Oghoghme and the Afrikan Liberation treated the audience to traditional music with a unique blend of local and foreign instruments. His first song was titled, "Nigeria never be Country."

Bez could be said to have represented young emerging artists at the concert, but that did not hinder his assured handling of the guitar. Veteran musician, Fatai Rolling Dollar, was also not one to disappoint his fans who seemed to be a considerable number of the audience at the event. Set on warming their hearts, the multi-instrumentalist delivered a brilliant performance.

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Posted by **isaac** on Jul 10 2011  
I think the choice of celebrating culture as the theme is really apt. Pop culture seems to be eroding every strain of our culture and whatever values they represent, only more indigenous music genre should have been featured

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