

## AFRO EXPRESS PRESS RELEASE

**‘AFRO EXPRESS’ album by legendary Afro-rock guitarist Oludele Olaseinde and bassist Soni Makoko 38 years after it was recorded in 1976**



The Afro rock album ‘Salaam Aleikum’ by **Afro Express** was recorded 38 years ago by Oludele Olaseinde and Soni Makoko. Oludele and Soni were guitarist and bassist respectively in the legendary Afro rock band **Ofo the Black Company** signed to Decca West Africa. ‘Salaam Aleikum’ by **Afro Express** was released in January 1977 throughout Africa.

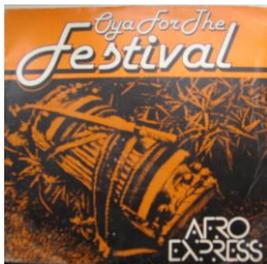
Oludele now lives in **Liverpool** one of the greatest music cities of the world and home of the Beatles. He currently leads his band the **River Niger Orchestra**.

Oludele Olaseinde as a teenager played with various groups in Nigeria in the late 60’s such as **the Clusters**, whose members later formed **Monomono**, **Cloud 7** and **BLO**, who went on to work with **Ginger Baker of Cream** and Mike Odumosu with **Osibisa**. The picture is of **The Clusters** in 1969 with from left Laolu Akins, John Akinrele, Ade, Bridget Douglas, Seinde Sapara and Oludele Olaseinde far right



Oludele played lead guitar for **Ofo the Black Company** 1973 -75 recording the album **Ofo**. Tracks were used on the **Grammy winning film ‘Last King of Scotland’**.

**Soni Makoko** the bass player from **Ofo** and Oludele went on to form the legendary **Afro Express** in 1976 that sang in five languages, Pidgin English, Yoruba, Arabic, Hausa, Efik and Edo.



The band also released an EP ‘**Oya for the Festival**’ to commemorate **FESTAC 77 (African Festival of Arts and Culture)** held in Nigeria.

Oludele Olaseinde still has the white **Fender Stratocaster** used in the recording and photos from the rehearsals and recording sessions 38 years ago.

There are plans to make the story into a documentary with a TV production company.

In the 1980's in Nigeria, Oludele was involved in producing albums and helped to set up the first digital studio in Nigeria owned by his childhood friend and guitarist Patrick Solomon known as **PATSOL**. They wrote,



played and produced many albums at the studio such as **Greatest Highlife Hits** (left) and the **PATSOL, Prisoner of Love** album pictured here for Polygram (right).

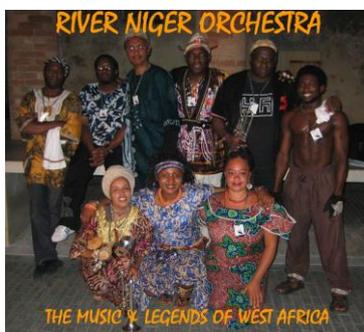


In this picture from 1966 are, from the left Oludele Olaseinde, the great Cliff David (of **CLOUD 7**) and **PATSOL** far right. In the picture above right **PATSOL** from 1984 is in the middle of the beautiful ladies that included Miss Nigeria 1984 Tokunboh Onanuga

In the 1980's with his great friend **Tokunboh Shotade** former keyboard player with **OFO the Black Company** and now a sound engineer they produced and played on many albums for **Shanu-Olu Records** with their production company. Shanu Olu had one of the best studios in Africa designed by Westlake Audio and fitted with a 48 channel Studer desk and tape machines.



**Tera Kota's 'Solitude and Shackles'** pictured here was produced by Tokunboh Shotade and Oludele in 1985. The album was released as a protest to the Military Government for the imprisonment of Fela Kuti in 1984 on charges of procuring foreign exchange.



Oludele Olaseinde (3<sup>rd</sup> left) continues to perform with his band the **River Niger Orchestra**. Their much awaited CD is in the pipeline and the style still continues the spirit of **AFRO EXPRESS** Recent shows include Winterfest Macclesfield, Melomelo Liverpool, Capstone Theatre Liverpool Hope University and up and coming shows at Urbis Centre Manchester, and the Kazimier and Melomelo in Liverpool.

