

ARTIST BIO

Innocent Okechukwu, Composer

Innocent Okechukwu, Nigerian prolific composer and pianist, graduated from Longy School of Music (Cambridge, MA, USA) with a Master's degree in Music Composition. Innocent, has over two hundred (200) compositions to his credit, which have been programmed in various parts of the world- Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Notable amongst them are his Sacred Cantata; *OkuNchehari* (A Call for Repentance), Three flute concertos, Waterfall (A Clarinet Balletto), A Dance of the Wizard (flute concerto), and a New York premiered duet *Ije Uwa* (The travails of life), When the world is sick (SATB, also arranged for solo voice), Ave Verum (SATB), *Oji* - kola nut (Solo Piano), Sinkingsand (violin sonata), Hang-out (Trumpet & Piano), Behold the star (SATB for Christmas), Snow, snow (Solo voice), Fear (Soprano), The River Within (String Quartet, World premiered in Boston Center for the Arts, USA), Sneaky One (Brass Quartet), the list continues.

Mr. Innocent had his first degree in Music at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) majoring in Composition and a minor in Piano graduating with first class with honors, and emerged as the Best graduating student from his Department in 2016. Innocent, soon moved to Dubai, UAE where he worked as an instructor in a fast-growing Music Institute – Solid Rock Music and Dance Zone, Dubai. Innocent, holds an Advanced certificate in piano performance from the Trinity College of London School of music board in Dubai, UAE 2019.

Innocent now holds a Masters degree in Music Composition from Longy School of Music of Bard College, Cambridge – USA.

Innocent is currently a Ph.D. Student of Composition at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA.

In early 2022, he published his first book – *Musical Echoes*, some collections of his original compositions, which are available for purchase on Amazon.

Innocent has been described by Peoples Daily (A National Newspaper in Nigeria) as “one who has appointment with greatness”.

Innocent is a recipient of :

Bronwyn and Jeffrey Lamont Artistic and Social Change Fellowship 2021-2022 session.

Certified Music Practitioner Scholar and Access for Equity Scholar, 2022-2023

The First Winner of the UCCMA 30th Anniversary Anthem Commission, - 2023, USA.

Innocent represents a new revolutionary pathway in music, which stands at the intersection between tradition and modernity, old and new. As a Black Composer from Nigeria, and living in the USA, his goal is to make sure his identity is not lost in the process of his pursuit to acquiring other worldview in music.