



AKORA

January—March 2012

Dear Akoras

Once again, the Old Achimotan Association wishes all Akoras and Friends a Happy New Year!

We would like to reach out to as many Akoras as we can this year, not just to collect dues but to keep you informed of what is happening in the OAA and the School.

We would like to hear your views and encourage as many as possible to come and participate in the Biennial General Meeting which will take place in November this year. Crucial decisions are taken at this Meeting and you are encouraged to be a part of it.

As soon as the new website is launched please register to enable us communicate with you on a regular basis and give you access to different opportunities online. This is a much improved resource to help us to help you in ways you have not imagined. Watch out for the go-live date and come on board.

Let us take the OAA to a new level!

Yours sincerely
Eunice Quarcoopome
Executive Secretary

EVENTS

Under listed are events to be held in 2012:

February	Tea Party*
February	<i>Rocking 4 Mo'town</i> -OAA 1962 YG
March	Torchlight Procession and Bonfire Night
March	Founders' Day+
April	Induction of School Leavers*
July	OAA Medical Outreach*
August	Akora Reunion in the Park**
November	Speech and Prize-giving Day+
November	Memorial and Thanksgiving Service*
November	Biennial General Meeting*
December	Dinner Dance

Specific dates will be communicated to all Akoras and Friends at intervals in the new year.

- *Organized by the OAA Secretariat
- ** To be announced later
- + School event

Music Music Music!!!

Music has always been the mainstay of most of the traditions of Achimota School. As the saying goes, great minds think alike!

It is more than a coincidence that while the 1962 Year Group is working hard to refurbish and re-equip the Music School, and hold a musical concert at the National Theatre, the 1972 Year Group is also thinking about staging one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas—*The Pirates of Penzance*.

ANY AKORA OR FRIEND OF THE OAA WHO WISHES TO TAKE PART IN

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

AS AN ACTOR, COSTUME DESIGNER, SET DESIGNER, LIGHTING TECHNICIAN, STAGE HAND, EXTRAS etc.

Should kindly contact the Executive Secretary on 026 4382871.

Rockin 4 Mo'town

Date: 11th February 2012

Venue: The National Theatre

Time: 7pm. Tickets: GHS30.00

Rocking 4 Mo'town: A Celebration of Achimota School's contribution to contemporary music in Ghana is a musical concert across all ages.

Tributes to:

Ephraim Amu,
Akora Kofi Ghanaba and
Akora King Bruce

Live performances by
The Tema Youth Choir
conducted by Akora Dinah Reindorf

Ben Brako
Akora Richie with Eazzy
Okyeame Kwame
Pat Thomas

Obuor
Efyia
Zigi

and a surprise guest performer

DONATIONS IN 2011-2012

- The 1973 Year Group donated beds and equipment to the School Clinic

We look forward to acknowledging more donations from Akoras and Friends to the OAA Secretariat and the School. Akoras are reminded to inform the Secretariat of any donation or project so that they or their Year Group do not get excluded in the acknowledgements.

AKORA RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 2012 Year Groups mentioned here should contact the OAA Secretariat for assistance

50th Anniversary celebrants—1962 Year Group

Host Founders' Day celebrations and provide a guest speaker;
Adopt a project in the School
A Rep to read a lesson during Carol's Night

30th Anniversary celebrants 1982 Year Group

Organize the Dinner Dance under the auspices of the OAA

25th Anniversary celebrants—1987 Year Group

Host the Torchlight Procession and Bonfire Night
Provide keynote speaker at Speech and Prize-giving Day
Adopt a project in the School
A Rep to read a lesson during Carol's Night

20th Anniversary celebrants—1992 Year Group

Nurturing the Oven-Fresh Year Group

10th Anniversary celebrants—2002 Year Group

Responsible for the Old School Reunion

THE NEWLY REFURBISHED ASSEMBLY HALL

The recent renovation of the Assembly Hall was funded by the Achimota Trust through a bequest from the Estate of the late Akora Nana Alan Rudwick. The Trust intends to request approval from the Achimota School Board to rename the Assembly Hall as "Nana Alan Rudwick Hall".

Under the stewardship of the late Nana Alan Rudwick, music and entertainment flourished at Achimota School. School plays were performed annually at the Headmaster's residence. He purchased musical equipment and a sound system so that students could perform in Pop Chain

became a Christmas tradition for many Akora families. The School Orchestra was in full bloom under the direction of Akora John Barham and its rendition of the National Anthem was something to behold! The tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan Operas" continued with performances of the "Mikado", "Pirates of Penzance" and Iolanthe". Founders' Day events went from mundane to full cultural displays of traditions from Gambaga to Accra! This eventually culminated in the celebration of Achimota's Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) in 1977.

Nana Alan Rudwick also helped to establish the Achimota Parent Teacher Association in 1969. During his tenure, several improvements and additions to the Achimota School campus took place. The bathrooms of all the existing House were renovated. New classroom blocks were built; the Western Compound (comprising Houses 11, 12 and 17) was reopened; Achimota excelled in Sporting competitions including the Triangular Games and the "Anago" games with Kings College; the Maintenance Dept. was operational and functioned properly; and the Swimming Pool actually worked!

He retired soon after the Golden Jubilee celebration and left Ghana for good with his wife, Akora Dr. Ann Rudwick, who was then a physician at the Achimota Hospital. I believe he is very deserving of the honor and we thank Akora Dr. Ann Rudwick, administrator of the Estate for the kind bequest. (Certain members of OAA UK also made contributions to ensure completion of the renovation that was undertaken by Sando Construction, owned by Akora Nana Kwasi Asante-Sakyi—Sonny) Akora Audrey Quaye (1973)

**ROCKIN 4 MO'TOWN
RUSH FOR TICKETS FROM DEZ
AMIS (at Afrikiko) AND
OAA SECRETARIAT!
LET MO'TOWN ROCK!!!**

Music in Achimota School in the '70s

Achimota School's Music School has produced some excellent classical, traditional, and contemporary musicians. In years gone by, all students were required to study both music theory and history during their first three years. Subsequently, students could continue studying music as an elective for GCE "O" and "A" levels. Students who were musically talented were encouraged to take extra lessons in piano, violin, flute, *atentenben* (a locally made bamboo flute) and other musical instruments. They also studied for and took the Associated Board or the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) exams in music theory, piano and singing.

Achimota School used to have a full orchestra that was then directed by Mr. John Barham. The Orchestra helped music students to further develop their talents. The Orchestra performed at major School events and the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, namely:

Gondoliers, Iolanthe, The Mikado, and The Pirates of Penzance. In addition, the School Choir, also directed by Mr. John Barham, provided another avenue for students to participate in the School's musical programmes. The Choir's annual performance of the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols", at the Aggrey Chapel, was based on the original format of King's College, Cambridge. However, Achimota School's performances were adapted to include traditional Ghanaian Christmas carols, negro spirituals, calypso music, and traditional Ghanaian instruments. The choir also performed original compositions and rearrangements by Mrs. Joy Arkutu (née Tsiboe) and Kofi Agawu, a member of the 1972 Year Group.

School Celebrations & Entertainment:

Music also played a significant role in other School events such as Founders' Days and Speech Days. Mr. David Essah taught students songs by leading Ghanaian musicians such as Dr. Ephraim Amu and Prof. J. H. Kwabena Nketia. To encourage the students' musical creativity, the School organized inter-house singing competitions that allowed students to compose original music or perform rearranged versions of traditional, folk, and contemporary music. One particularly memorable House singing competition resulted in a tie when both Lugard House and House 12 performed original compositions by Kofi Agawu and Robert Kwami, respectively. Robert's composition was the beautiful anthem *Tefe Kokoe* (The Holy Place). In addition, several 1972 Year Group members organized pop and folk groups and provided entertainment at pop chain events. This helped them to hone their skills on instruments such as acoustic and electric guitars, drums and the electronic keyboard.

Music Legends: The Music School attracted some of the best musicians. The late Dr. Ephraim Amu, an internationally renowned composer, taught at Achimota School during the 1930s and 1940s. Dr Amu composed several songs including Ghana's unofficial national anthem *Yen Ara Asase Ni*, a patriotic song meaning *This is Our Own Land*. Other renowned musicians who taught at Achimota School include the late Philip Gbeho, an alumnus, who composed the music of Ghana's National Anthem; the late

and educator; and H. E. Prof Ian Hall, the Guyana native who is now a UN ambassador and head of UN's WANGO.

Akoras in Music: Several Akoras have excelled in both the classical and contemporary music fields. The classical musicians include:

Emmanuel Gyimah Labi, a composer, conductor, and music professor at Essex County College, Newark, NJ, and former director/conductor of Ghana's national orchestra. He holds a DMA degree from College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, Ohio; an MM degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and a BA in music and philosophy from University of Ghana. His father is the late Mr. Labi who taught the Akan language and organized Founders' Day cultural drumming and dancing.

Kofi (Victor) Agawu (OAA 1972), is a Professor of Music at Princeton University who holds a PhD degree in Music from Stanford University; MMus from King's College, UK; and a BA from Reading University, UK. He also holds diplomas in musicianship, theory and the teaching of singing from the Royal Academy of Music.

Robert Mawuena Kwami (OAA 1972) was a full Professor in Music at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and a Visiting Fellow at the University of London Institute of Education. He was Director of the Centre for Intercultural Music Arts (CIMA) based in London and a composer. He gained his BA (Hons) degree in Music and PGCE from Reading University. After a period of teaching, he earned both his MA in Music Education with distinction and his PhD at the University of London Institute of Education. He also held a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the Open University at Milton Keynes, England and a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (LRAM) in the teaching of singing. His father, the late Robert Ashong Kwami, and uncle Mr. George Kwami were music teachers at Achimota School. Robert passed away in Pretoria, South Africa, in March 2004.

William Chapman Nyaho (OAA 1975), (Chappie) is a concert pianist. Chappie holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin; a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music; and a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Peter's College, Oxford University. He studied piano at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, Switzerland. He also studied piano under Mr. John Barham at Achimota School. Following a four-year residency as a North Carolina Visiting Artist, Chappie taught at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He was the recipient of the 1998 University of Southwestern Louisiana Distinguished Professor Award and the 1998 Acadiana Arts Council Distinguished Artist Award, and held the Heymann Endowed Professorship. Chappie has released a CD titled "Senku", or piano in the Fanti language. "Senku" is a recording of piano performances of works by composers of African descent including, Akora E. Gyimah Labi and UK's Samuel Coleridge Taylor.

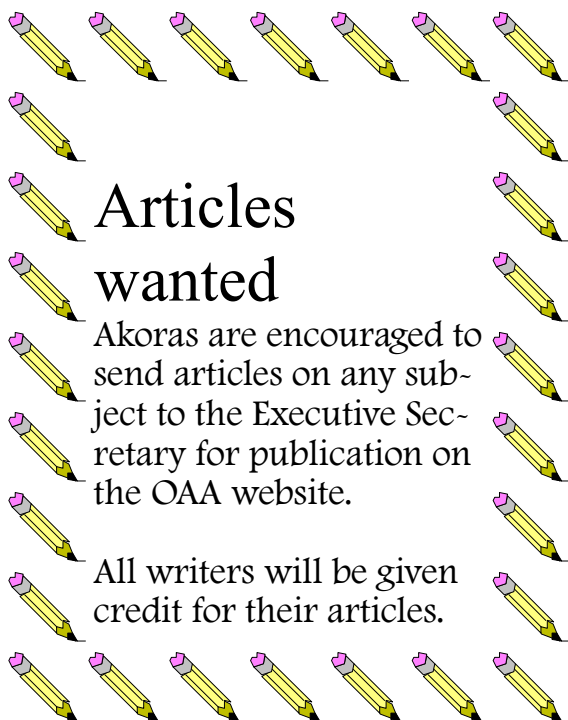
Achimota Life-Music Heritage OAA 1972

To be continued

IN TRANSITION



Akora Norvisi Atsu	2002
Akora Sandra Koranteng	2000
Akora Edward K E Williams	1951
Akora Emmanuel Ablo	1961
Akora Richard Turkson	1961
Akora Cedric Don Mensah	1978
Akora Ato Wirrom-Jorrie	1987
Akora Mekpowovoh K Gbedemah	
Akora Amon Kotei	
Akora Kofi Addo	
Mrs. Britwum (former French Teacher)	
May their souls rest in peace!	
Kindly inform the Secretariat of the passing of Akoras.	



Articles wanted

Akoras are encouraged to send articles on any subject to the Executive Secretary for publication on the OAA website.

All writers will be given credit for their articles.

OAA SOUVENIRS AVAILABLE AT THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Item	Amount GH¢
Cufflinks	- 10.00
Scarf	- 15.00
Chiffon Scarf	- 25.00
Key ring	- 5.00
Signet ring	- 10.00
Pennant	- 7.00
Wristband	- 5.00
Wristband	- 3.00
Tie bar	- 5.00
Long pin	- 5.00
Pin badge	- 5.00
Handkerchiefs	- 4.00
Bow tie	- 10.00
Silk tie	- 16.00
Polyester woven tie	- 10.00
Waist coat	- 35.00
Braces	- 25.00
Car stickers	- 5.00
Breast Pocket Handkerchief	- 2.00
Polo shirts	- 20.00
T-shirts	- 15.00
(CD) Achimota Sings	- 25.00
(CD) 2010 Founders' Day	- 25.00
(CD) Documentary on Achimota School	- 15.00
Jubilee cloth (1/2 piece)	- 65.00
Jubilee Cloth (per yard)	- 12.00
OAA Diaries	- 10.00
Black and white kente shawl	- 150.00

Do buy souvenirs and give them away as presents. Akoras appreciate them very much.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- OAA dues** are GHS 60.00 per annum or GHS5.00 per Akora per month
- Achimota School Endowment Trust Fund Levy (ASET FUND)** Levy is GHS 500.00 per Year Group per annum

Payments may be made in cash or by cheque made out to: **Old Achimotan Association**

*Let us 'Rock' for Mo'town on Saturday 11th February, 2012
And 'Stomp' the Bonfire Night away
on Friday 2nd March, 2012*

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