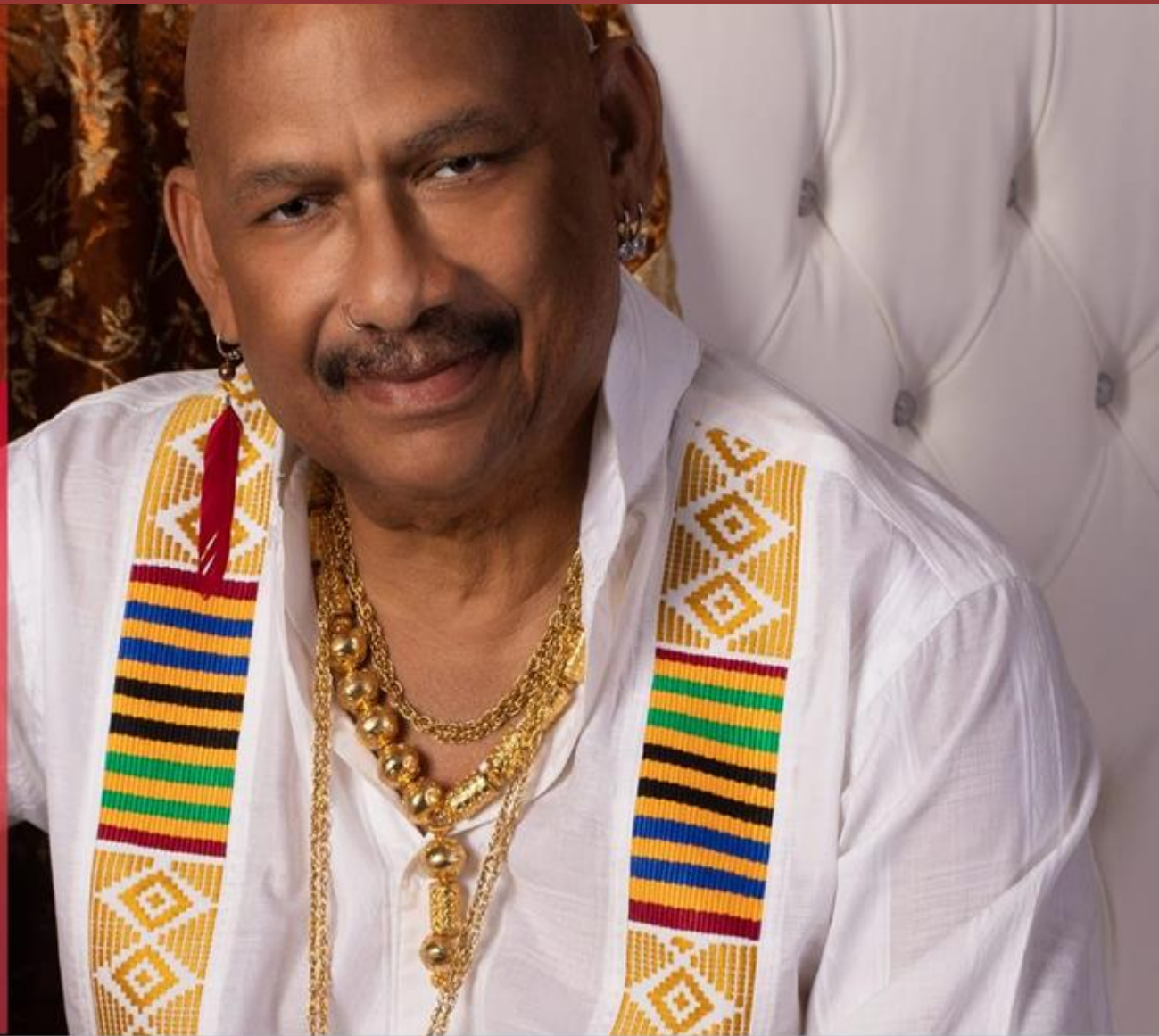


BEN BRAKO

**ELECTRONIC
PRESS
KIT**



A man with glasses and a white shirt is performing on stage, holding a microphone and gesturing with his hands. The background is a vibrant mix of red and yellow lights with bokeh effects. A saxophone is partially visible on the left.

INTRODUCTION

"EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE HAS A
RHYTHM, EVERYTHING DANCES. "

MAYA ANGELOU

BIOGRAPHY



Ben Brako is a name that will always be synonymous with contemporary Highlife music, not only in his beloved homeland of Ghana but all over the world. Time and again, he has earned the privilege of seeing his name added to the legends of the music industry.

Ben Brako enjoys a popularity that reaches all the way back to the sixties, to his days as a student at St. Augustine's College, when he became the lead singer of the nationally acclaimed School Band "Famous Flames." This period marks Ben's emergence as an icon and Ghana's first teenage popstar.

The formidable talent and prowess of a young Ben Brako and his fellow bandmates led to them being in high demand all over the country, as they blazed a trail and made a significant impact in the music industry in Ghana. Ben Brako is also a writer, radio, actor, journalist, and a Ghanaian cultural icon and ambassador.

BIOGRAPHY



Ben cares deeply about giving back, as evidenced by his involvement in the founding and running of some notable Charities, including:

The Hi-Life Institute which is an initiative aimed at restoring Highlife music as the popular music of Ghana, in a push to re-institute traditional culture into the lives and governance of Ghanaians.

The Dream! Child Foundation, a charity that empowers African and Black children to be the best they can be, and raising funds for numerous health & nutritional issues. He is the Co-Founder and Vice Chairperson.

We R uS. A charity he with the remit to empower traditional rural communities to undertake self-help projects to improve their living standards. He is the CEO and Founder.

MUSIC

Highlife is a music genre that started in present-day Ghana in the 19th century, during its history as a colony of the British Empire and through its trade routes in coastal areas. It describes multiple local fusions of African meter and western Jazz melodies.

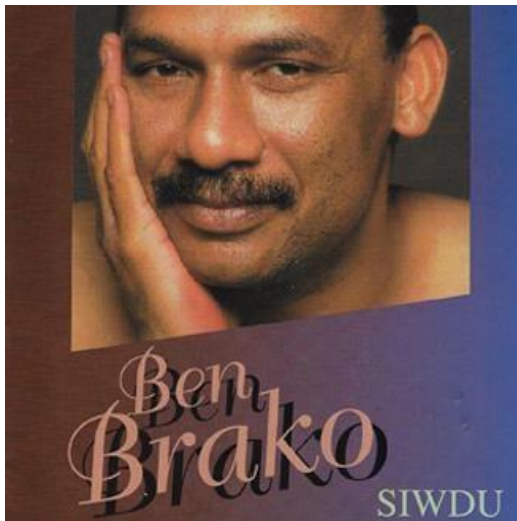
Highlife gained popularity in the genre "Native Blues" before World War II before production was shut down. After the war its popularity came back within the Igbo people of Nigeria, taking their traditional guitar riffs and the influence of the Ghanaian highlife performing ideas, mixed and perfected it to form Igbo Highlife which became the country's most popular music genre in the 1960s.

Highlife has remained a part of popular music for Ghanaians and their diaspora globally through its integration with religious institutions and the positive effect it had on immigrating Ghanaians leaving their homeland.

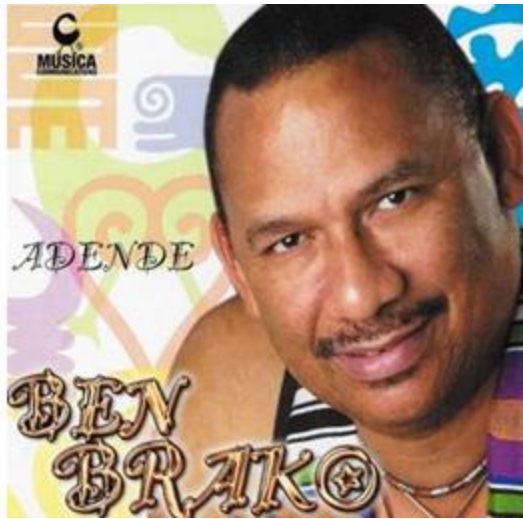




Baya, Ben Brako's first album released in 1987 is by and large his most successful Album. It sold more than a million copies in Vinyl, Cassette, and CD formats, and is still a best-seller today. Recorded at the Sultan Studios in London, it features David Yowell, Jon K, Kari Bannerman, Paul Greenstein, Papa Jey Mensah amongst a host of top-notch Musicians. It has seven tracks including one instrumental. It won Album and Musician of the year awards in Ghana



Siwdu containing 1ten tracks, including one instrumental, was released in 1995. It was recorded at the Byron Byrd Studios in London. It helped establish Ben Brako's pedigree as a talented and created musician and song writer. It featured Byron Byrd, Kari Bannerman, Emmanuel Rentsos, Paulina Oduro, Billie Richardson and some other top musicians. It won an ECRAAG Award for Innovation and Creativity in Highlife music.



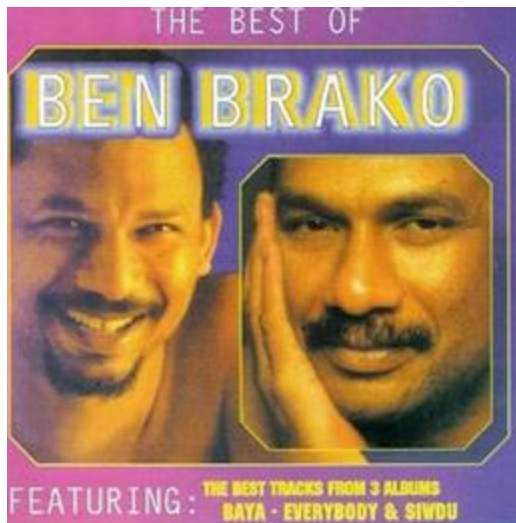
Adende was released in 2007. It was never promoted and contains some gems that Ben Brako's fans keep discovering. It features Kwame Yeboah, Kari Bannerman, Paulina Oduro, Billie Richardson, Vico Mensah, Anthea Cocker, and Earron. It contains ten tracks, including one instrumental



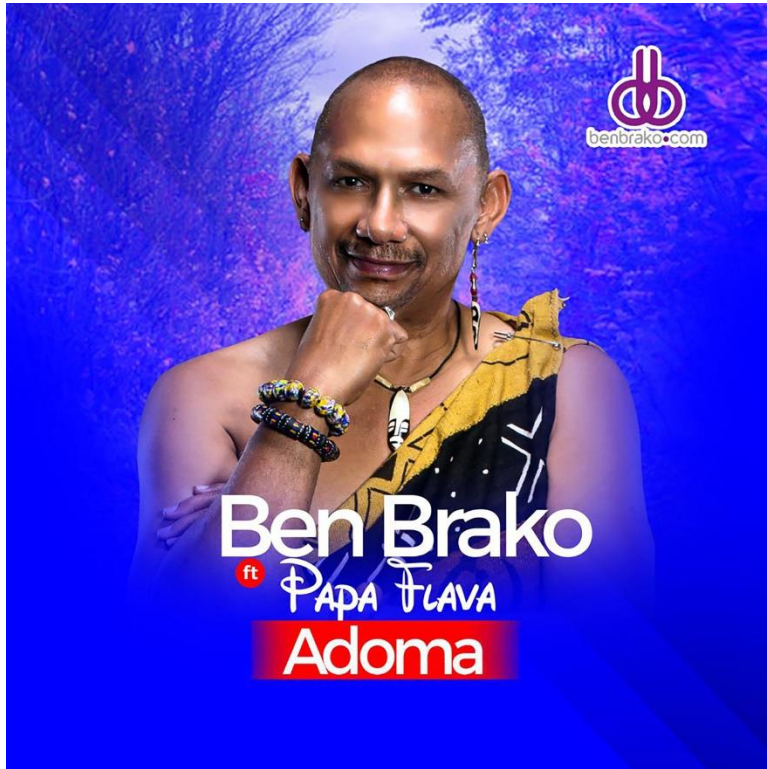
Dream! Child is a song written by Ben Brako for the Charity Dream! Child which was co-founded by Ben Brako together with Kofi Amoakohene. The track was recorded at the Scratch Studios. It features over seventy top artistes, musicians, and performers, notable among which are Hugh Masakela, Okyerema Asante, Obuor, Koby Wutah, Pat Thomas, Bessa Simons, Freeman Ame, Paulette Brum, Paulina Oduro. The track has four versions, the original, Jazz, Disco/Funk, and Osode.



Shame and Scandal track was released in 2019. This single hit and stayed at the No. 1 spot of the Global Music Charts for over four weeks with a record number of votes worldwide. This track is a cover version of a Trinidadian folk song.



The Best of Ben Brako album is a compilation of all the typical highlife tracks from Baya, Siwdu, and Everybody (an album that has been discontinued due to the loss by theft of its analogue master). It contains twelve tracks and was released in 2019.



The single Adoma was released in 2020 and features Papa Flava. Adoma is about deep obsessive love for Adoma. Adoma is the name of a woman.

PHOTOS



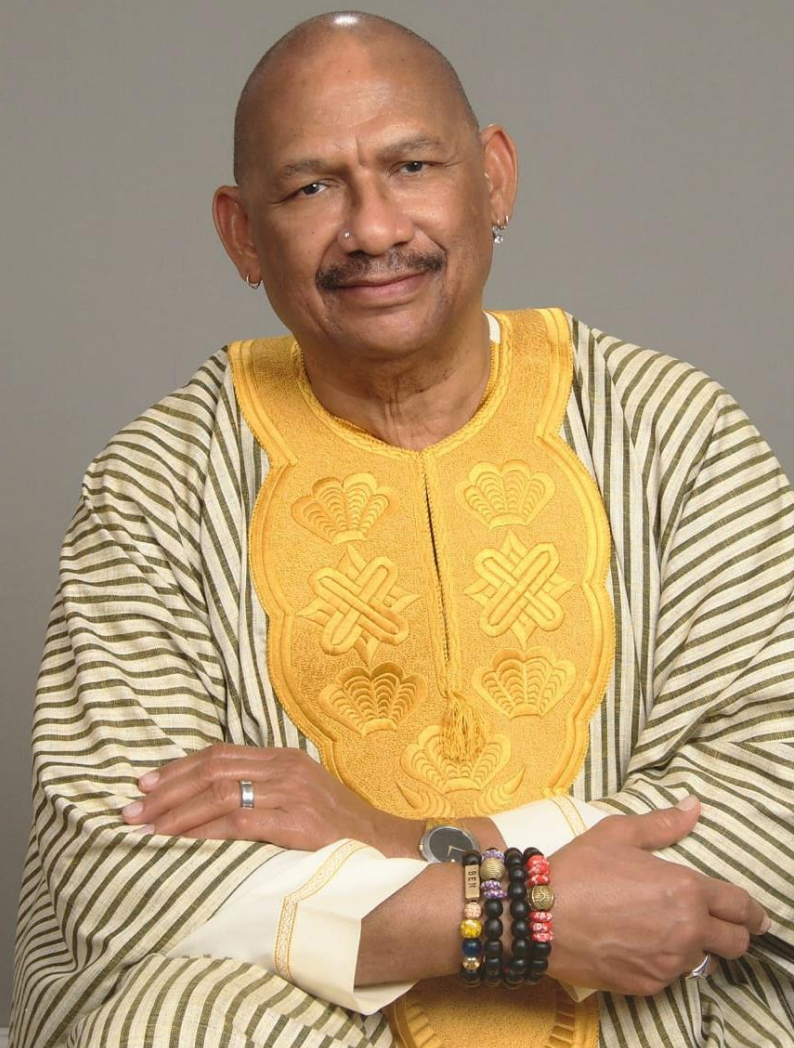
PHOTOS



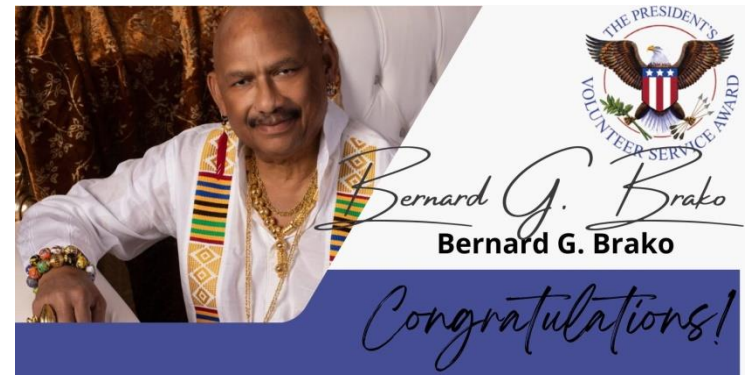
PHOTOS



PHOTOS



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



- Ghana Music Awards, Album of the Year, Musician of the Year - 1988
- ECRAAG Mahogany award for consistency in highlife music - 1989.
- ECRAAG Award for Renovation in Highlife music - 1999
- Lifetime Achievement Award by the Obama Foundation - 2013
- Lifetime Achievement Award, OCMA - 2014
- The Prestigious Ghana Peace Award - 2017
- "Shame and Scandal" topped the Global Music Charts at number one - 2019
- Western Achievements & Excellence Award - 2021
- US Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award - 2022



WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



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