

“Wasn't that brother James Brown preaching up a bodacious erotic sermon? (Actually, it was Abraham Amayo, Antibalas' charismatic dreadlocked lead singer-conguero, inviting the sweltering L.A. audience to rip off its clothes.)”
- *Los Angeles Times*

“The Fu-Arkist-Ra are the invention of Abraham "Duke" Amayo, best known as chanteur and composer for Antibalas, Brooklyn's premier Afrobeat ensemble. This side project's name is a rough amalgam of fu (from "kung fu," meaning "to strive for excellence") and arkestra, the variant spelling of "orchestra" coined by avant-jazz avatar Sun Ra.”
- *The Village Voice*

“Everything about the Fu-Arkist-Ra, is unique, but their instrumentation is definitely something you'll rarely see: electric keyboard, three vocalists, chekere, cello, flute, trap drums, congas, bass, guitar, and an 8-foot Nigerian Ife drum.”
- *The Afrobeat Blog*

AMAYO'S FU·ARKIST·RA

www.fuarkistra.com

Amayo's Fu-Arkist-Ra is a unique afro-beat concept, created by Amayo in 2000, which was developed in three countries :in Brooklyn (USA), in Paris (France) and in Bahia (Brazil).

The music of AMAYO'S FU-ARKIST-RA is a combination of traditional Chinese Lion rhythms and Nigerian Afro-beat. This unique blend of styles creates a vivid and magical landscape for stories, lessons, and dances of ancient Chinese and African folklore. Songs in the repertory include 'Amen-awon', 'Wounded Lion', 'Lion Awakes' and 'Happy Lion'.

The result is a lethal fusion called FU-Afrobeat: a blend of African spiritual rhythms, Traditional Chinese lion rhythms, highlife, funk, and jazz, infused with political messages. The band's diverse spectrum of backgrounds carries the spirit of Kung Fu masters and philosophers of the Orient, Freedom fighters, the Royal warriors of Edo & Ife Kingdoms, and Fela Kuti.

“Lead singer Amayo channels Fela Kuti.”

- PRI's The World

“A raucous, joyous celebration of Afrobeat.”

- Rolling Stone Magazine



“Top 12 Musicians With World-Changing Positions.” - *The Economist, 2013*

“[Duke] Ellington uses his remarkable abilities to dispel any lazy presumptions about genre and race. [Duke] Amayo carries on that mission.” - *The Village Voice*

“It takes some real hoodoo to keep a crowd gyrating to the same groove for three and a half hours. But by the time the Fu-Arkist-Ra wrapped up their set, any semblance of a tyrannically periodic time flow had already been thwarted by more natural rhythms. Most imposing was the tremendous Chinese lion mask suspended above the piano, that much more out of place thanks to Amayo's Afrocentrist lyrics and the fact that the ensemble was playing Afrobeat, a genre that has never much bothered with the Eastern corners of the world.” - *The Village Voice*

“Antibalas—America's pioneering Afrobeat band—emerged out of Brooklyn in 1998 and have since traveled the world spreading the Afrobeat gospel....Afrobeat is becoming a genre unto itself.”

- Afropop Worldwide

“The [Afrobeat] genre has even found its way onto Broadway in “Fela!,” a musical about the creator of Afrobeat, which won a Tony award. Of course Antibalas, long based in Brooklyn, has had a hand in all of that.” - *The New York Times*

“One of the few American bands that I fear.” - *Questlove*

Contact

amayo6@gmail.com

www.fuarkistra.com

