



**Master Kelvin Strong**  
Lead Djembe Drum

## M.A.D.E. In America



**Master Horace Brown**  
Dance/Conga Drum



# Mujaahid

*African Drum Ensemble*

Call **847-690-1532** or e-mail  
**Muntheru@el-amin97.com** now to  
book an engagement for a live  
performance.



**Master Paul Cotton**  
Djun Djun Drum



**Master Muntheru Shah**  
Mujaahid Founder, Griot,  
Rhythm Djembe Drum

**Mujaahid African Drum Ensemble** is composed of very dynamic, energetic and exciting griots (African tribal storytellers) that seek to convey the spirit and tradition of our African Heritage through our Drums of Passion. Mujaahid is a warrior in the cause of Freedom we are making the Drum Call for African Unity to free our communities from the attack of violence, crime, poverty and ignorance.

*We are M.A.D.E. In America*



**Master Tyehimba Mtu**  
Ngoma ku Sema Founder  
Multiple Talking Drums

Mujaahid African Drum Ensemble




Staff of Life




Drummers/Dancers/Griots




<p>Mark Vaughn</p>  <p>Dance /Lead Djembe Drum</p>	<p>Olu Shakoor</p>  <p>Chief Griot Djembe/ Djun Djun Drum</p>	<p>Tyehimba Mtu</p>  <p>Kpanlogo Multiple talking drums</p>
<p>Paul Cotton</p>  <p>Djembe/Djun Djun Drum</p>	<p>Muntheru Shah</p>  <p>Griot Rhythm Djembe Drum</p>	<p>Kelvin Strong</p>  <p>Lead Djembe Drum</p>
<p>Horace Brown</p>  <p>Dance/Conga Drum</p>	<p>Valroy Dawkins</p>  <p>Griot Dance/Djembe Drum</p>	<p>Uche Omoniye</p>  <p>Dance/Shakere/Gankogui</p>







**“Staff of Life”** As a spiritual guide, the staff is an archetype of the therapist. It also contains the meaning of the world tree praying for unity with God in the process of human personification

*Weapons of Peace & Drums of Passion*

African Drums		
Djembe	Kpanlogo	Djun Djun
 <p>Its huge popularity is down to the fact that it can create an unusually wide range of pitches, namely the bass (low), tone (medium) and slap (high). These sounds are created by striking different areas of the djembe skin with the hands.</p>	 <p>The kpanlogo is traditional played with a relatively light hand technique and is not meant to produce the volume and range of tones typical of the djembe or conga drums.</p>	 <p>A cylindrical double-headed bass drum carved from a solid Dembu log. Found throughout South America and West Africa, these powerful drums are worn over the shoulder and played with two sticks: one for the thunderous bass, the other for a bell tied to the side of the drum.</p>

African Drums		
Conga	Dondo	Ngoma
 <p>Congas are staved like barrels and classified into three types: quinto (lead drum, highest), tres dos or tres golpes (middle), and tumba or salidor (lowest). Congas were originally used in Afro-Cuban music genres such as conga (hence their name) and rumba, where each drummer would play a single drum.</p>	 <p>Those skilled in the art can use the Dondo to imitate the cadence of spoken language, which is why the nickname for this drum is the "talking drum". The sheep skin head and leather vertical ropes make it a durable instrument. Placing the dondo between your upper arm and your ribs and squeezing whilst gently striking one head with the curved beater in the other hand, you are able to change the pitch or sound of the drum.</p>	 <p>The ngoma is played by a standing drummer who uses both hands to strike the heads. Different parts of the player's palms and fingers strike different parts of the drumheads to produce a small variety of timbres. When two ngoma are used together, one will have a slightly lower indefinite pitch than the other.</p>

African Drums		
Bougarabou	Atumpan	Kete
 <p>In modern drum circle situations, the Bougarabou is often used to back up djembes in the percussion group. The Bougarabou can be played as a single drum or in a set of up to four and are normally played with only the hands in a standing position.</p>	 <p>” Skilled drummers can create such a range of sound from them that it seems as if they can speak. This drum, called “atumpan,” is a type of talking drum used by the Akan peoples of Ghana. They are usually played in pairs, or as part of a larger drum ensemble, and struck with two L-shaped drumsticks.</p>	 <p>The Kete ensemble uses seven instruments:  <b>kwadum</b> lead drum,  <b>apentema</b> hand drum,  <b>petia</b> stick drum,  <b>aburukuwa</b> stick drum,  <b>donno</b> hourglass-shaped tension drum, <b>dawuro</b> iron bell, and <b>ntorowa</b> gourd rattle.</p>

<p><b>Aburukuwa</b></p>  <p>It is a high-pitched talking drum used by the Akan people, bottle-shaped with its skin is held on by pegs. It is usually played with curved sticks. Its sound resembles the bird song of a bird with the same name</p>	<p><b>Petia</b></p>  <p>It is a fairly tall and narrow drum that produces a beautiful, rounded sound. The Petia Drum is played with a wooden stick, alternating with the palm of the hand and the fingertips.</p>	<p><b>Apentema</b></p>  <p>A fairly small sonorous drum used as a support drum. Usually played with my hands. Also use as a talking drum.</p>
<p><b>Kwadum</b></p>  <p>The drumhead is struck with two stick beaters, one in each of the drummer’s hands. It is the lowest-pitched drum in the <i>kete</i> ensemble and is considered the “master drum”.</p>	<p><b>Dawuro</b></p>  <p>The <i>dawuro</i> is a double metal bell used by the Ashanti. It has two different pitches in an interval of an octave usually, but sometimes also a ninth. The instrument is played with a hard wooden stick or a metal rod, which are used to strike one of the bells. This produces a clear sound with a long echo.</p>	<p><b>Ntorowa</b></p>  <p>The red, gold, and green coloured ntorowa have a secondary function as the Asantehene uses these as rattles to dance. A Shakere is a hollow gourd with a net of beads on the outside that rattle against the hollow body often used in place of the Ntorowa.</p>

Promotions

**Umoja** (*Unity*) *To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.*

Live entertainment for your next birthday, wedding, graduation house party or picnic etc. Want something exotic for your community? There are many live performers for cultural events, and you can be assured that these performers will bring an authentic atmosphere, quality and dynamic spirit, to your traditional occasion. The confidence and satisfaction you receive when the entertainment you have chosen are highly qualified entertainment professionals capable in delivering outstanding talent.

**Basic package: \$1,500.00**

\$850.00 - \$1,275.00

*includes 3 drummers*

2 djembe (lead & rhythm drummers)

1 dundun (Bass drummer)

**Classic package: \$3,000.00**

\$1,650.00 - \$2,475.00

*Include 6 drummers*

djembe

(2 lead & 1 rhythm drummer)

dundun

(1 Bass drummer)

Bougarabou / Kpanlogo

(1 multiple drums Drummer)

Ngoma

(1 stick drum Drummer)

**Limited package 1: \$500.00**

\$275.00 - \$412.50

1 Drummer

**Limited package 2: \$1,000.00**

\$575.00 - \$862.50

1 Drummer / 1 dancer

**Auxiliary package \$500.00**

\$350.00

1 dancer

## **Harambee** *The word means "all pull together" in Swahili,*

Block Parties, Festivals, Art Fairs, Beach Parties, College Concerts and Corporate Parties can be enhanced by having live performers for your social events. Engagements can be arranged to meet the budget you have in mind for your program.

### **Premium package: \$5,000.00**

\$3,650.00 - \$4,475.00

*includes 3 drummers & 3 dancers*

2 djembe (lead & rhythm drummers)

1 dundun (Bass drummer)

2 Female dancers 1 male dancer

### **Elite package: \$10,000.00**

\$6,750.00 - \$8,125.00

*Include 6 drummers & 4 dancers*

djembe

(2 lead & 1 rhythm drummer)

dundun

(1 Bass drummer)

Kpanlogo

(1 multiple drums Drummer)

Ngoma

(1 stick drum Drummer)

Agbaja

*(4 Male and/or female dancers)*

Prices are scaled for one hour performance. Prices can change without notice and are open for negotiation within the specified price range. Non-Profit Organizations with proof of incorporation are eligible for a special discount off of the minimum price offer.

## The Egyptian Scarab Beetle



The scarab beetle, or dung beetle (*Scarabaeus sacer*), was a highly significant symbol in ancient Egyptian culture and religion:

- The sun

The scarab was associated with the sun god Ra and the Egyptian god Khepri, the divine manifestation of the morning sun. The scarab's use of its legs to roll dung into balls was thought to symbolize the sun's journey across the sky from east to west, representing the eternal cycle of life and rebirth.

- The afterlife

The scarab was believed to have regenerative powers that the deceased needed to harness in order to be reborn in the afterlife. The bodies of the dead were sometimes adorned with scarabs to help them travel safely to the next world.

- Protection

Scarabs were thought to provide protection and repel evil spirits, and were often carved into amulets, seals, and jewelry. People also wore scarab amulets for good luck.

- Hieroglyphs

The scarab often appeared in hieroglyphs, sometimes to draw attention to an important name or commemorate a significant historical event. The scarab hieroglyph, Kheper, can also refer to ideas such as existence, manifestation, development, growth, and effectiveness.



## COMING HOME

It is highly unlikely that the so-called African American People (American descendants of slaves) will as a people experience an African exodus from America. In fact, all of the other people in the land arrived here by way of migration or immigration therefore, such an attempt to relocate in Africa seems very impractical because we are the true Native American indigenous to this land; however, our connection with the homeland of our ancestors is not diminished by the geographical, linguistic, economic, and sociological logistics of such venture, because the true home that all human beings long for is with Allah. The home of human dignity, freedom, and justice.

### Mujaahid African Drum Ensemble

<p><b>I. Qafilah</b> El-Amin Life Productions Transcultural International Caravan is the valuable experience shared by all of humanity because it is the vital link that connects the distant regions of civilized society and the spirit of people from many different walks of life. The exchange of culture: (science, religious ideas, economy, and language) is the commonwealth in merchandise that is transported and distributed beyond the barriers of terrain, national borders, racial differences, or ideologies. Merchants find security and peace, while traveling great distances as a unified organization of interdependent missionaries. Their arrival is always welcomed and celebrated as a festive occasion.</p>	<p><b>II. Kwanzaa</b> The harvest of the first fruits is a ritualized celebration instituted in America by Dr Mulana Karinga, as occasion for Descendants of African slaves in America to instill the positive values of their ancestors' traditions into the youth from generation to generation. The roots of this experience are taken from the scriptural, prophecies in divine revelation, that 144,000 believers are chosen as God's servants who are to be the First Fruits (Fruit of Islam) on the last day they shall be seen standing atop Mount Zion with the seal of Allah in their forehead, "knowledge of the values and religious principles".</p>	<p><b>III. Ubudiyah</b> The history of slavery on this planet is one that has affected a vast section of humanity. Man, as The Crown of Creation, God's Vice Regent in the physical material world is a social creature that has been endowed with the unique ability to govern himself as a community and control his own destiny. Mankind having inherited this power of dominion over the earths Natural Resources has perverted that authority and used this power to make unjust claims on his fellow man with the result of widespread warfare, brutal chattel slavery and ecological Holocaust. The true human spirit is to be a willing, slave servant to Allah (God), the creator of the heavens, and the Earth.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IV. Nabiyu</b></p> <p>The prophet of God (Allah), who is the prime example of how mankind is to serve and worship his creator. We offer salutations of peace and blessings unto all the prophets of Allah from Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, Jesus to Muhammed the last and final prophet, The universal messenger, to humanity. We make no distinction between them. They were all sent with the same message Al-Islam from the one and only Lord and Sustainer of all the worlds Master of the Day of Judgment, Almighty GOD, Allah. Each of the prophets mark a step in the evolutionary progression of the human experience with prophet Muhammed being the perfect human model and combination of all of the prophets who also prophesied his coming. There have been many prophets before Muhammed from every nation and every people after Muhammed there will be no more! Allah has completed his favor in Muhammed to all of humanity with the revelation of the miraculous Holy Quran.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>V. Qatama</b></p> <p>The Zulu uprising signifies the breaking off from peaceful relations with the intruding colonist who were welcomed into the homelands of the south Afrikan region of that continent known to its inhabitants as the Bantu. The Zulu Kings offered friendship and kindness to the wanderers who seem to be lost from the human ties of divine relationships. Their betrayal of this Hospitality is what initiated the great Zulu uprising killing thousands of European slave traders, game hunters, and speculators in gold, diamonds, and other minerals. Their single shot rifles proved to be no match for the millions of spirited Zulu Warriors, who sieged the colonial encampments with wave after wave of mighty warriors "<u>Afrika, and Afrikans</u>". It was the Zulu Kings' petition for peace in Swaziland because in their wisdom and search through scripture, they saw that it was the time in history for the outsider to take control, and that all attempts to stop that what was already written would be in vain resulting in the wasteful loss of life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VI. Ruh</b></p> <p>South Afrikan blues is not a moaning of grief, but is in fact a real awakening of the true human spirit in the Afrikan people and their descendants all over this planet and in every way of life, the spirit of freedom is coming home in the hearts of men</p>
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Definitions:

**QAFILA**

The term qafila (pl. qawafil) has its origin in the Arabic root qa fa la (قفل), which primarily means 'to return'. The word itself is used to refer to a caravan; a train of travellers; or any large party of travellers such as pilgrims or merchants moving between distant destinations



**KWANZAA**



The word Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza” or first fruits, referring to First fruits or Harvest festivals that are found throughout Africa. Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga to: Reaffirm and restore African heritage and culture.

**UBUDIYAH**

The Arabic word ubudiyah is related to the word ibadah, which means "obedience with submission" and has connotations of humility, obedience, and submission. Ubudiyah can also mean "slavery".

Al-'Ubudiyah: Being a True Slave of Allah -

The slavery of the heart includes both the qawl (saying of the heart) and 'amal (actions of the heart).



### NABIYU

Nabiyu often links to Nabi, a name whose meaning is Prophet, Another Name for Prophet Muhammad, Messenger. The name Nabiyu: Nabi is the Hebrew naabi which Gesenius says means "one who bubbles forth" as a fountain. The Arabic lexicon, the Qamus, derives the word from nubu, "to be exalted".

According to Muslim writers a nabi is anyone directly inspired by God, and rusul and mursal, one to whom a special mission has been entrusted.

Muhammad is related to have said (Mishkat, book. xxiv. ch. 1. pt. 3) that there were 124,000 ambiya, or prophet, and 315 apostles or messengers.



### QATAMA



The word Qatama derives from the Inku language and means "to move with purpose."

Amandla in the Nguni languages Xhosa and Zulu means "power". The word was a popular rallying cry in the days of resistance against apartheid, used by the African National Congress and its allies.

### RUH

Spirit, breath (of life). Used in the Quran twenty-one times, referring to the divine spirit in the sense of communication of life force. Often interpreted as an immaterial, immortal element of a living being, as well as the true self, or soul, apart from the body. Also, a designation for Jesus and the angel Gabriel.



The six compositions included in the repertory of sound produced by Mujaahid Afrikan Drum Ensemble, are symbolic of the six days required in Allah' making of Prophet Adam "peace be upon him" from the dust of the Earth shall serve as a montage of associated experiences that may illustrate in rapid sequence, the transformation of a people in time and space from slavery to freedom.

**We are M.A.D.E. In Amerika!**



*"From Dust to Divine"*

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El-Amin Life Productions, Cultural Institute <https://el-amin97.org/m-a-d-e-in-america>