

“Omékongo has that rare combination of power and passion that makes all who hear him want to live their best life. Hearing Omékongo is not just an event, it's an experience. When Omékongo speaks, minds are expanded, hearts are ignited, and people are compelled to go into action. During these tough times that try our souls, Omékongo is a messenger of hope providing the methods, insight and vision that empower us to start writing new chapters with our lives. His vision is far beyond his years. His sense of destiny is contagious and inspiring, and the call on his life touches everyone within the sound of his voice.”

—**Les Brown**

World-renowned Motivational Speaker

“One of the greatest joys of the New Poetry Movement is meeting the new poets. Omékongo Dibinga is outstanding—fresh—exciting—new while being very old...Welcome, my brother, welcome.”

—**Nikki Giovanni**

World-renowned and Grammy- nominated, poet, writer, activist, and educator

From the Limbs of my Poetree is a remarkable and insightful collection of exquisite poetry that touches sacred places within your spirit. Omékongo Dibinga keeps it real with his healing and liberating words of wisdom, that will be celebrated for generations to come. It is a wakeup call to all humanity, especially those of African ancestry, reminding one never to forget our rich heritage and to remember that we have the power to finish the work of our ancestors. “

—**Angela Kinamore**

Poetry Editor

Essence Magazine

“Here is a talent which combines traditional African and contemporary influences; who mixes rhythms and images and speaks about current issues. This is a voice which should be welcomed and heeded; I wish him much success.”

—**Dennis Brutus**

Former anti-Apartheid activist and Professor Emeritus Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh

“Almost 30 years ago, during Carnival season in Trinidad, the Calypso song ‘Caribbean Man’ was greatly in vogue. Everywhere one went, the lyrics blasted away from portable juke boxes, extolling black unity stemming from mutual suffering and mutual pride. ‘We is one race from the same place’ the lyrics began. Omékongo wa Dibinga, an African-American of Congolese refugee parents who tells this fundamental story griot-like through his poetry, embodies this reaching out to the black world across the board - from the Western Hemisphere to the far reaches of Papua New Guinea.

His latest poetic work, *From the Limbs of My Poetree*, talks with his innermost being of what it's like for a man conscious of his specific African ancestry to be faced with the avalanche of prejudice that surrounds him both in slavery-rooted America and the white colonial inheritance of Africa as well.

Reading the work defies dispassion, as one is swept along by the piercing shouts for understanding.”

— **Gus Constantine**
The Washington Times

Omékongo wa Dibinga's CD, *Signs of The Time*, is totally uninhibited, exceptionally powerful, and beautifully graphic. The title track immediately pulls the listener in as Dibinga struggles with how close he feels to death and asks with both a sense of trembling vulnerability and survivor arrogance, “am I going to do to die today?!” Throughout the CD, Dibinga is able to walk effortlessly between such stark contrasts. In “Excuse Me, Do You Have The Time,” he actually does walk and with only the sound of each step in the background he speaks, “a white woman kills her babies and the nation blames me. A white man kills his wife, and the nation is on the manhunt for me. Do they want to lynch me?” Whether the subject is hip-hop (Losing Hip-Hop), technology (Tired of Technology), black men (Don't Talk to Strangers), or child molestation (Proselytizing Penis), Dibinga expresses himself with a passion that can only be fueled by a deep appreciation for pain and struggle. Though inspired by life's darkness, Dibinga is not blind to the light. No song is more telling of this than “The Love That Hate Produced,” in which he speaks of a story about “Africa and all of Her children still loving themselves after centuries of systemic injustice.” This sense of hope and pride are again displayed in “Rise Up Black Man”—one of the few tracks in which Dibinga's lyrics are accompanied by a melodic musical piece that compliments the message in a most powerful way. In the end, what is so impressive about Dibinga and his poetry is how the listener cannot help but feel the emotion that defines each piece no matter its content. To put it simply, Dibinga's sound is not for the faint of heart; it is for the peace of truth.

Lani Guinier & Antonio Delgado
Harvard Law School

“Omékongo's poetry embodies the definition of 'Sankofa.'” Through his poetry, Omékongo inspires us all to return to our roots in order to have a complete understanding of where we are going as a human race. As he states: 'Those who do not understand their history are doomed to rhyme with it.'”

— **Haile Gerima**
Film Director, creator of the critically-acclaimed film
“Sankofa”

“Omékongo expresses himself with a passion that can only be fueled by a deep appreciation for pain and struggle. His work is not for the faint of heart; it is for the peace of truth.”

— **Lani Guinier & Antonio Delgado**
Harvard Law School

“Lovely, beautiful poetry! Absolutely phenomenal! Omékongo’s poetry comes alive and relates to all who read.”

— **Princesses Ntombi & Mukelile Zulu**
Zulu Royal Kingdom

“Omékongo refreshes our memories and inculcates consciousness to rise up and turn the tide to liberate our people across the world.”

— **Zolani Mkiva**
Mbongi (official praise poet/singer) to Nelson Mandela

“Omékongo...writes about Oppression with such passion, vigor, and rage that his words reignite my own useful anger at tyrants, fascists, and slavers wherever they work their evils.”

“Acquaintances have called poet Omékongo Luhaka wa Dibinga wa Yenga Kakesse "O" in hopes he will lighten up, but I think of him as "O" because he writes about Oppression with such passion, vigor, and rage that his words reignite my own useful anger at tyrants, fascists, and slavers where-ever they work their evils.”

— **Kay Bourne**
Arts Editor
Boston Banner/Bay State Banner