

Kokoroko Releases *Tuff Times Never Last*



Credit: Kemika Ajoko

London-based jazz collective Kokoroko have released their sophomore album, *Tuff Times Never Last*. The band warms and uplifts the soul with songs that comfort and entertain. Jazz is the entry point to their sound but they blend R&B and lovers rock into the mix in a way that would make their foremother Sade proud. Their debut album, *Could We Be More*, came out three years ago and had more contemplation in its sound. They decided to make music with brighter feelings this time and co-bandleader Onome Edgeworth said:

"We tour so much so you want it to be fun. When all your songs are so serious and intense, you miss out on enjoying yourself sometimes. We asked ourselves the question, "What do we want our next years to feel like?" And we wrote music with the intention of it having colour and a sense of playfulness."

Kokoroko is currently touring North America and has a few dates yet. [Tickets](#) are still available for the shows in Chicago and California.

Lucky Dube's Prisoner Album 60th Birthday Edition Announced



Reggae legend Lucky Dube's *Prisoner* album is getting a 60th anniversary edition to honor the late singer's 60th birthday. Dube used reggae to bring attention to social issues that were happening in his native South Africa. He started his career recording mbaqanga, which was a form of Zulu pop music in his native tongue. By the time he released his fifth album, he had learned English and had fallen in love with the reggae sound.

Dube used music as activism. The South African government banned Dube's 1984 album, *Rastas Never Die* because of the song "War & Crime" in it. The ban was a minor obstacle because Dube went on to record more than a dozen reggae albums, of which most were commercially successful. He became the biggest reggae artist in Africa and gained respect from an international audience, which earned him the Best Selling African Musician prize at the 1996 World Music Awards. *Prisoner* is considered his best album because of its fiery criticism of apartheid, and he was fortunate enough to see it end in 1994. Dube's reputation grew, and he continued to release music until his untimely death in 2007 at the hands of carjackers in Johannesburg. The 60th birthday edition of *Prisoner* is a celebration of Dube's contribution to music and humanity. The album will drop on November, 15th via Shanachie Records.

Media Questions Of The Week



Is [Buju Banton](#) right about Afrobeats being inferior to reggae and dancehall because the music has no socio-political anthems?



Is [Billboard's](#) list of honorably mentioned pop stars who did not make their best of the 21st century list accurate?



Will [Afrika Bambaataa's](#) reputation be restored after a healing moment with Ronald Savage, who accused him of sexual assault?

Throwback: Bob Marley and the Wailers-Lively Up Yourself



Bob Marley and the Wailer's "Lively Up Yourself" first appeared on their 1974 album, *Natty Dread*. The song was first recorded in 1973 and reflected the band's political and spiritual growth as they got deeper into Rastafarianism. The religion refers to God as Jah and the followers call the customs livivity hence the title "Lively Up Yourself." The reggae ska beat and Al Anderson's bluesy guitar lick kicked off the celebratory feeling of community, cannabis, and resisting colonial rule. *Natty Dread* did well in the UK before reaching other parts of the world and it was the first album Marley recorded without Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer. "Lively Up Yourself" also appeared on their 1975 *Live!* album and many fans have argued that it is the best version. *Natty Dread* was remastered and re-released with a bonus track in 2001. The Reinaldo Marcus Green-directed biopic *Bob Marley: One Love* will be released in theaters on February 14, 2024.

