



Biography – Oliver Mtukudzi

Oliver "Tuku" Mtukudzi is a Zimbabwean Musician (born September 22, 1952 in Highfield, Harare).

Gifted with a deep and gusty voice plus a talent for writing songs that reflect on the daily life and struggles of the people, Mtukudzi's career has spanned more than twenty years. Mtukudzi has produced 42 original albums, most of them bestsellers. But it is his dedication to the live music scene in Zimbabwe - playing to enthusiastic audiences even in the remotest parts of the country - that has earned him the respect and admiration of the people in Zimbabwe. Oliver's desire to bring his message to a wider audience led him to venture into the worlds of film and stage.

He sings in the nation's dominant Shona language along with Ndebele and English. He also incorporates elements of different musical traditions, giving his music a distinctive style, known to fans as "Tuku Music". Apart from the individuality of his music, Tuku's enduring popularity has largely resulted from his powers as a lyricist. Most of his songs focus on the social and economic issues that govern people's daily lives. His infectious sense of optimism that pervades all his music, appeals to young and old alike. His commitment to fighting the AIDs pandemic through his open approach to the topic in his songs has contributed greatly to restoring a sense of care and responsibility within the wider community.

As the oldest of seven children, Oliver developed a sense of social and economic responsibility early in life due to the premature death of his father. He is the father of five children and has two grandchildren, two of whom are also musicians. His son Sam Mtukudzi, a successful musician in his own right, died in a car accident in March 2010.

Oliver Mtukudzi has been collaborating with UNICEF Zimbabwe on a number of themes including child and youth participation and HIV prevention. Worth noting is Mtukudzi's song "Deaf Hear", especially composed and dedicated to children, at the request of UNICEF Zimbabwe and donated free of charge on the occasion of the 2010 'Day of the African Child' commemorations.