

# BIOGRAPHY

## Innocent Okechukwu, Composer



Innocent Okechukwu is a Nigerian prolific composer and pianist, with over two hundred (200) compositions to his credit. Notable amongst them are his Sacred Cantata; **Oku Ncheghari** (A call for repentance), Three flute concertos, Waterfall (A Clarinet Balletto), A dance of the wizard (flute concerto) and a New York premiered duet **Ije Uwa** (The travails of life), When the world is sick (SATB, also arranged for solo voice), Ave Verum (SATB), Majesty (SATB & Piano), Sinking sand (violin sonata), Hang-out (Trumpet & Piano), Behold the star (SATB for Christmas), Snow, snow (Solo voice), Fear (Soprano), The River Within (String Quartet, World premiered in Boston Center for the Arts, USA), Sneaky One (Brass Quartet), the list continues.

Innocent Ndubuisi Okechukwu started his journey into music at Saint Felix Minor Seminary, Ejeme-Aniogor, where he had his secondary school education. In that Seminary, he had an encounter with music in different ways at the seminary, became a member of the seminary choir, and the rest was history.

After he finished at the seminary, the Rev. Father Emmanuel Ikenga invited him to his church, to live and work with him. Innocent, honored the invitation and was helping out the choir and the then music director of the Saint Theresa Catholic Church, Okwe, Issele-Uku Diocese. This happened in the presence of the Bishop Emeritus of the Issele-Uku (Roman Catholic) Diocese, the Most Rev. Emmanuel Otteh. Innocent's appointment at the church was to work with the church choir in training and develop the choir's singing capabilities.

As the musician in residence, Innocent did his best to teach and raise the church choir and helped them sing better. At the same time, he played the piano at all the masses held at the parish and kept composing music.

Shortly after innocent left the Seminary, he soon joined his brother in Abuja - the capital city of Nigeria, and started teaching music and helping the parish choir at Holy Rosery Catholic Church, Wuse Zone II, Abuja.

At Holy Rosery Catholic Church, Innocent played piano for the masses and other big occasions. He had lots of adventures with music there. When people saw his ability, passion, and dedication to music, they advised him to go and study music. He gave it a thought and applied to the University of Nigeria to study music.

Consequently, he got admission to study music at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Innocent had his first degree in Music at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) majored in Composition with a minor in Piano performance. He graduated with a first class with honors and emerged the Best graduating student from his Department in 2016.

In June of 2018 Innocent moved to Dubai, UAE, as an instructor in a fast-growing music institute in Dubai, UAE - Solid Rock Music and Dance Zone. Also worked as a collaborative pianist for the Trinity examination board. Innocent also holds an Advanced certificate on piano performance from the Trinity College of London school of music board in Dubai, UAE 2019.

Innocent now holds a Masters degree in Music Composition from Longy School of Music of Bard College, Cambridge – USA.

Early 2022, he published his first book – ***Musical Echoes***, some collections of his original compositions, which is available for purchase on amazon.

Innocent is the current recipient of :

- ✓ Bronwyn and Jeffrey Lamont Artistic and Social Change Fellowship 2021-2022 session.
- ✓ Certified Music Practitioner Scholar and Access for Equity Scholar, 2022-2023