

# The Musician as Archivist: An Example of Nigeria's Lagbaja

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## Abstract

This article revisits the role of music in human society with particular reference to the Nigerian experience. It examines Lagbaja's alternative perceptions of African values, as he reflects on socio-political events in Nigerian history. The article considers the ideas of cultural revival, social integration and national development that run through his lyrics. In so doing, it evaluates the socio-cultural relevance of his use of the talking drum as a speech surrogate, his injection of Yoruba traditional values into his lyrics, and his celebration of the Yoruba dance style as cultural ingredients for enhancing effective communication through his messages.

**Key words:** Lagbaja, Nigerian contemporary music, social commentary.