

# SHABAKA

## Black Loyalist

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**SHABAKA APPEARING WITH REGGAE STAR LUCIANO MAY 2ND 2008  
RELEASES NEW CD CALLED "THE BLACK LOYALIST"**



Sierra Leone's #1 Reggae star Freddy Shabaka will appear in a live concert with Jamaica's #1 Reggae star and headliner Luciano on May 2nd 2008 at the Zanzibar on the Waterfront nightclub, 700 Water St, Washington DC. Shabaka's last appearance at Zanzibar was with the late Lucky Dube, Africa's #1 Reggae star.

Shabaka will be performing with his full band that includes a 3 piece horns section and background singers. Shabaka's music can be described as an exotic form of African Roots Reggae that is reflective of the African diaspora. The Washington Post said, "If West African born singer/songwriter Freddy Shabaka doesn't win listeners over with his words, the odds are good he'll do it with his music . . . Shabaka knows how to make his point effectively on several levels as a singer, songwriter and arranger."

Shabaka's new CD "The Black Loyalist" is making waves across American college radio as his music continues to capture the hearts and imagination of college students around the country, charting on numerous college radio stations from Chicago to Virginia. Now, Shabaka is getting ready to penetrate Africa where the continent awaits his music and his message. The Black Loyalist CD tells many stories. The first song "African Spirit," is a song of inspiration for the children of Africa who are living in the villages and the ghettos around the world. In "Mr. Jackson," he chronicles the journey of an African American who visits Africa, attempting to reconnect with his past in order to understand his future. "See Dem a Come," is about the use of child soldiers in African wars, the rape of their innocence and the theft of their future. "Who is the Enemy," is a commentary on our corrupt leaders - the African Mafia, and the title track "The Black Loyalist" tells the story of Thomas Peters, who was captured in Nigeria in 1760 and sold into slavery in America. During the American Revolutionary War he joined other blacks to fight on the side of the British, who offered freedom in exchange for military service. At the end of the war, these men and their families were settled in Nova Scotia, Canada, where they were known as the Black Loyalists. Peters went to London in 1791 to petition the British government for better treatment of the Loyalists in Canada and on January 15, 1792, he led a contingent of 15 ships carrying 1,196 blacks to the "promised land." Thomas Peters became one of the founding fathers of a new settlement in West Africa. They called it Freetown, which is the present capital of the Republic of Sierra Leone. These events were the beginnings of the Creole people of Sierra Leone.

Out of the Creole people of Sierra Leone comes Shabaka (aka Freddy Cole). Shabaka says, "My ancestors were descendants of freed African-American slaves, Maroons from Jamaica and freed Africans who were returned to Freetown when the slave trade was abolished. This ancestral mix is reflected in the music I make." The influences of great reggae singer/songwriters like Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Burning Spear and others are evident in Shabaka's music, however, his style and authenticity ushers in a new chapter in the marriage of reggae music and African rhythms.

### SHABAKA SOUNDS

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