

Aakusti Oksanen  
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## Curriculum vitae

A multi-instrumentalist who brings forward the genius of West African rhythm by creating, performing and adapting.

### Artist

- On stage and projects with Jimi Tenor, Remu Aaltonen, Michael Monroe, Tony Allen, Julius Orlando, Jhikoman, Mamady Keita, Zoumana Dembele, Jorma Tapio, Pekka Myllykoski, Sami Saari...
- Bands include Aakusti electro | african (solo 2020—), Paradox Box electro | free jazz | african | multimedia (co-founder 2018—), Zoumana Dembele & Mande Maja Band west african trad. (co-leader, co-founder 2009—2017), Landaya west african trad., Ultimate Dance Septet balkan | african (2019—), Aiyekooto Afrobeat International afrobeat (2009—2017), Vagabon Tribe pop | african, Arbusia reggae | soukous | hiphop (2013—2017), Faso Kan west african trad. (co-founder 2005—2010), Trokoto! west african trad. (co-founder 2000—2005)
- Event host and amateur theatre actor 1993—

### Music releases and publications

- EP Basics Found, Basics Lost, Aakusti, composer, musician, arranger, forthcoming in 2022
- Album Multilayered Me, Aakusti, composer, musician, arranger, forthcoming in 2022
- Album Hyperfocus, Paradox Box, composer, musician, arranger, forthcoming in 2022
- Song It Is What It Is, Paradox Box, co-composer, musician and co-producer 2020
- Song Sensitive Encounter, Paradox Box co-composer, musician and co-producer 2019
- Album Maja, Zoumana Dembele & Mande Maja Band, musician, co-mixer, co-producer 2016
- Album Oluombi, Aiyekooto Afrobeat International, musician 2013
- EP Vagabon Tribe Finland, Vagabon Tribe, musician 2013
- Quest on album Afro-American-Arctic, Rhythm Funk Masters, musician 2007
- Articles on djembe tradition 2007—

### Awards and nominations

- Shared first prize, Landaya, percussionist, AfroZig -festival, Burkina Faso 2010
- Honorable mention for documentary film In the Blood: Portrait of a Griot on African master drummer Zoumana Dembele, co-director and researcher, Kinos05 Short Film Festival 2005
- Thalia award for music-shadow-theatre-fire elements -performance Tulilintu for children of East Helsinki, musician in collaboration with Nukketeatteri Sampo and Tulikansa 2013
- Temenos award for the master's thesis of the year, Finnish Society for the Study of Religion 2007
- Master's Thesis Award, comparative religion, University of Helsinki 2007

### Trainer, teacher and developer

- Talking Drum | leadership and team development, experiential training expert, co-founder 2014—
- Djembepaja | West African art promotion center, teacher and fasilitator, founder 2009—
- Paukepiiri (drum circle) leader for instructor education 2015—
- African drumming teacher at Käpylä music institution 2009—2019
- Djembe drum trainer in Finland and Estonia incl. University of Arts Helsinki and Metropolia 2000—

### Education and apprenticeship

- Apprentice, collaborator and manager for griot master drummer Zoumana Dembele 2003—
- Apprenticeship in djembe music with master drummers in West Africa, Europe and USA 1996—
- Master of Arts, comparative religion and ethnomusicology, University of Helsinki 1998—2008
- NVC trainer, Savannah Connexions, Helsinki, Finland 2017—2018
- NLP practitioner, NLP Academy, Espoo, Finland 2017