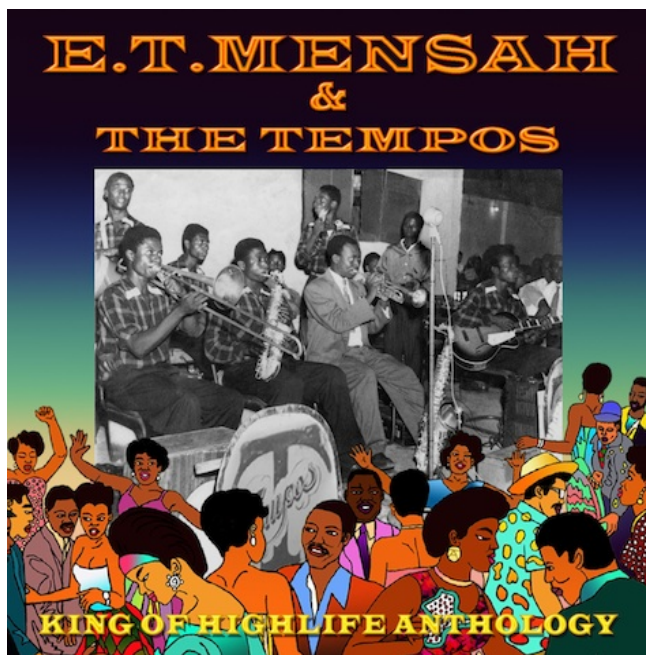


NEW RELEASE from STERNS MUSIC



# E.T. Mensah & The Tempos

**Album title:** King of Highlife Anthology

**Cat.No:** RETRO24CD

**Label:** RetroAfric

**Format:** 4CDs in hard-backed accordion wallet  
with 64-page booklet

**Album release:** March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**E.T. Mensah 'The King of Highlife' is a true legend of African music** – the founding father of that most popular style of dance music, which spread like a bushfire across the African continent and beyond during the 1950s and 60s.

**Highlife was the first Pan-African pop music** and still survives as the basis for contemporary genres like Afrobeats, afropop, hiplife and is an essential ingredient of earlier forms including Congo rumba, soukous, mbalax and the original Afrobeat.

**Emmanuel Tetteh Mensah was a multi-instrumentalist** and band leader whose dance band Highlife re-Africanised American swing music, blending it with Caribbean melodies, Latin rhythms and indigenous elements from the musically rich culture of Ghana (then known as The Gold Coast).

**Although he had started out on a musical career in the 1930s**, E.T. recorded his first 78rpm discs in 1952 and as he later claimed: "When my records came out in 1952 they vibrated into the ears of the listening public in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. It was from this period on that music fans throughout West Africa began to acclaim me as the King of Highlife." That reputation carried right across the continent, being enjoyed by, and influencing, musicians as far apart as Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegambia, Congo and Kenya.

**E.T, who sadly died in 1996**, was the artist who inspired RetroAfric's mission to remaster and re-issue essential recordings by Africa's pioneers of popular music. The first collection, All For You (RETRO1), was released as a vinyl LP in 1986 and later an extended version came out on CD.

**Highlife has never died**, and this selection of timeless tracks from the mid-1950s to 1960s shows why it lives on, consistently inspiring new generations of musicians and listeners.

**With the cooperation of the Mensah family and estate**, RetroAfric are pleased to re-issue this set of 69 songs from the great man's repertoire that are being released in a four-CD box set (RETRO24CD). These classic tracks, most of which have not been available for more than 50 years, have been digitally transferred at the British Library National Sound Archive and are now being released to synchronize with Ghana Independence Day on March 6.

**With specially commissioned artwork** by Kofi Ankobra, a 64-page biography by Highlife expert John Collins and rarely seen period photographs, this Anthology is essential listening for all African music enthusiasts.

artist: **E.T. Mensah & The Tempos**

title: **King of Highlife Anthology**

cat.no: **RETRO24CD**

label: **RetroAfric**

format: **4CDs in hard-backed accordion wallet with 64-page booklet**

release: **March 6th, 2015**

Disc A	Disc B	Disc C	Disc D
1. Kwame Nkrumah	1. Nothing But Man's Slave	1. Munsuro	1. Day By Day
2. Muntum	2. Akpanga (Vulture)	2. Odofo	2. Calabar O
3. Ngele Waewae	3. Sanbra	3. Inflation Calypso	3. Comfort
4. Auntie B	4. Onua Pa	4. Nkatie	4. Renkyebo
5. Makoma	5. Shemi ni Oha	5. Assebon Tie M'ansem	5. 205
6. Yei Ngbewoh	6. Korle Bu	6. Wiadzi	6. Onipa
7. Hweyie	7. Small Boy	7. Agriculture	7. Gbaa Anokwale
8. Menye Wo Bowu	8. Afi Fro Fro	8. Fom Fom	8. Abele
9. Akuafo Cocoa	9. Bus Conductor	9. Sunday Mirror	9. Odo Angyina
10. Natsui	10. Nkebo Baaya	10. Don't Mind Your Wife	10. Damfo Wo Eni Ewu
11. The Tree and The Monkey	11. Donkey Calypso	11. Ahongyee	11. Kaa No Wa
12. Onua	12. Tea Samba	12. Mucho Mambo	12. Seniorita
13. Owu Aye Me Adze	13. Adainqua	13. Novimye	13. Daavi Loloto
14. Mr Mouse	14. All For You	14. Loffoh Bibio	14. 1914
15. Nimpa Nawie	15. St Peter's Calypso	15. Bashia	15. Medzi Medzi
16. Akole Manuma Dibi	16. Essie Nana	16. Because of Money	16. Ghana-Guinea-Mali
17. Club Girl	17. John B Calypso	17. School Girl	17. Mee Bei Obada
Total time: 48 mins	Total time: 45 mins	Total time: 47 mins	Total time: 54 mins

- **the most comprehensive collection of E.T. Mensah recordings ever undertaken**
- **newly mastered from the best available sources and includes tracks never before released digitally or on CD**
- **features an illustrated 64-page biography written by Prof. John Collins, an acknowledged doyen of Ghanaian highlife music**
- **released with the cooperation of the Mensah family and estate to celebrate Ghana Independence Day, March 6th**

**RETROAFRIC**

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