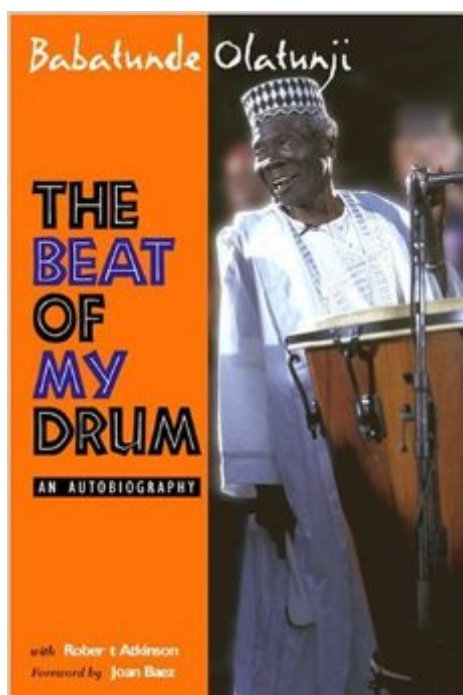


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# The Beat Of My Drum: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

The autobiography of Olatunji, African musician and Africa's pioneer cultural ambassador to the world, captures a unique personal perspective of the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Temple University Press; 1 edition (February 7, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592133541

ISBN-13: 978-1592133543

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

It is a great thing that Baba got to tell his own story. He wouldn't have done it without provocation and impressive patience from Robert Atkinson from the Center for Study of Lives at the University of Maine who pursued Baba over the course of more than three years to complete the book. Joan Baez's short forward is a very kind gift. And it is in keeping with the visionary intentions of Temple University Press to take on the publication of Baba's story, he wasn't a societal yes-man, willing to compromise on his own vision at all, and remained charismatically outspoken in the face of every impediment that came his way. The book isn't a cradle to passing autobiography but takes the life story more thematically. So this isn't a kind of cinematic, heavily image-based story crammed with minute details but rather a more broad observational reminiscence centering on key events, ideas and developments that swayed the course of Baba's life. An epic story will have to be done by some objective third party later, and then it won't be in Baba's own words. Particularly interesting are the passages regarding Baba's involvement with the various key groups of the American Civil Rights movement and his insight in to how they related to each other. This along with his unflinching commitment to Africa, its people and culture both in the Motherland and the diaspora are affirmed to be Baba's main drives. The scope of his vision and mission are remarkable and given that he was

just one individual with very finite resources materially it really is astounding how much he was able to accomplish as a cultural leader. He was forever launching off on projects with really what were half the necessary resources and accomplishing results out of proportion to what one person should have been able to do.

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