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## GHANABA — GENIUS MISUNDERSTOOD BY HIS PEOPLE

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*I AM an Ashanti woman and my English husband and I are students of philosophy. We also love the sound of drums. We are always interested whenever we read how Ghanaians react when Guy Warren of Ghana (Kofi Ghanaba), utters his bold edict as being the greatest jazz drummer the world has produced, in one hundred years.*

*Usually, this claim evokes antagonism as well as admiration from the public, which by itself, attests to the man's greatness as a drummer, because no matter how the debate rages, no one is able to disprove his claim.*

*In analysis, his claim certainly reveals that he is very egotistical. Musicians of genius have a tendency to speak in that royal manner. Richard Wagner and Beethoven, to mention two examples, shouted out their greatness to their generation.*

*It is music history that Beethoven tongue-lashed his German countrymen, about their deafness to his compositions. He felt that he was creating many beautiful things for the world, and the world was treating him shabbily. He died a pauper. Today many have made millions out of his compositions.*

*We think that Kofi Ghanaba is entitled to stake his claim, even if his countrymen don't particularly think so. Posterity will show who is right.*

*We admire Kofi Ghanaba for his forthrightness. Most of us cannot be half as honest in our views.*

*If one wants to hear Ghanaba at his greatest, then one should listen to his "Third Phase" drums concerto, based on Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony". It was recorded in 1960.*

*Dr. Seth Cudjoe, the former Chairman of the Ghana Arts Council, in writing a public appraisal of this unique composition said . . . "He (Ghanaba) plays with more hands and feet, than ordinary mortals are endowed with."*

*Kofi Ghanaba is a genius on drums. There is no doubt about that! Thank you for affording us the opportunity to support this truly great Ghanaian musician. It is regrettable that G.B.C. does not broadcast some of his pure drum compositions like "The Third Phase", "A Portrait of Kwame Nkrumah, Hail The Osagyefo" and the deep throbbing drums of "The Lady Marie Drum Suite" based on Watutsi rhythms of Central Africa.*

*Personally, I think his double album, "Native Africa" made up of just drums and voices is the most wonderful thing that any lover of African drums would ever hear.*

*This album was reviewed in the "Graphic" in 1972, and when my husband and I were in London we bought a copy. If G.B.C. has no copy, I will be glad to lend them ours to play for the people, because it is THE MUSIC for the people of Africa.*

Mrs. Akosua Miller, Accra.