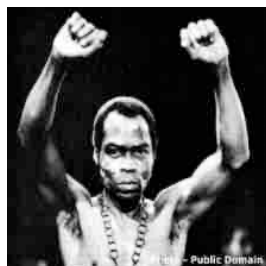


Legendary singer Fela Kuti wins major Grammy

5th February 2026



The legendary Nigerian musician Fela Kuti has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammys. He becomes the first African to be given the award. It is presented by the Recording Academy of the

United States to recognise outstanding achievements in music. Kuti died in 1997, but he left behind an amazing legacy. Kuti's daughter, Yeni, told Al Jazeera that the award was "better late than never". She said "we still have a way to go" to recognise musicians from Africa. She added her father didn't care about awards. She said: "He played music because he loved music. It was to be acknowledged by his people - by human beings, by fellow artists - that made him happy."

Fela Kuti, born in 1938, was a visionary. He was a singer, musician, and bandleader. He revolutionized African music and global protest culture. He pioneered the Afrobeat music genre. This mixed traditional Yoruba rhythms, jazz, and funk to make a powerful, hypnotic sound. He was an amazing live performer. He toured the world in the 1960s to 1980s. His concerts were a celebration of rhythm, African identity, freedom, and resistance. Fela fought against corruption, military dictatorship, and colonial influence in Nigeria. Because of this, he was arrested, beaten, and imprisoned. However, his influence on African and international music is still alive today, especially through modern Afrobeat.

Sources: [okayafrica.com](https://www.okayafrica.com) / [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com) / [france24.com](https://www.france24.com)

Writing

Music and movie awards are very important. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

musician / achievement / award / music / legacy / late / human beings / happy / visionary / protest culture / music genre / rhythm / jazz / freedom / corruption

True / False

- 1) Fela is the second African to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. T / F
- 2) The award is presented by a recording academy in Switzerland. T / F
- 3) The article says Fela left behind an amazing legacy. T / F
- 4) Fela's daughter said Fela played music because it was relaxing. T / F
- 5) The article says Fela revolutionized global protest culture. T / F
- 6) Fela combined many kinds of music to make a hypnotic sound. T / F
- 7) Fela was beaten and put in prison because of his political actions. T / F
- 8) The article says Fela's influence on music is disappearing. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. legendary | a. adored |
| 2. award | b. musicians |
| 3. recognise | c. liberty |
| 4. loved | d. prize |
| 5. artists | e. transformed |
| 6. revolutionized | f. famous |
| 7. pioneered | g. power |
| 8. freedom | h. started |
| 9. influence | i. particularly |
| 10. especially | j. acknowledge |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What musicians do you think are visionary?
- c) Why do we all like different kinds of music?
- d) What do you think of using music to protest?
- e) Who do you think is amazing live?
- f) What do you think of Fela for fighting corruption?
- g) What three words best describe Fela Kuti?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a music legend?

Phrase Match

1. The legendary
 2. recognise outstanding
 3. he left behind an amazing
 4. the award was better late
 5. human
 6. He pioneered the
 7. make a powerful, hypnotic
 8. He toured
 9. Fela fought against
 10. he was arrested, beaten, and
- a. than never
 - b. the world in the 1960s
 - c. beings
 - d. Afrobeat music genre
 - e. corruption
 - f. Nigerian musician Fela Kuti
 - g. imprisoned
 - h. legacy
 - i. sound
 - j. achievements in music

Discussion – Student B

- a) Who is the world's most legendary musician or singer?
- b) What do you know about Fela Kuti?
- c) What do you think of music awards?
- d) What do you think of African music?
- e) How important is music to you?
- f) What music have you been listening to recently?
- g) Why does music make musicians happy?
- h) What do you think the life of a superstar singer is like?

Spelling

1. The legendary Nigerian cisaminu Fela Kuti
2. the first African to be given the rwaad
3. outstanding aecvtmshniee in music
4. he left behind an amazing aelycg
5. to be dloekeadnwgc by his people
6. human ensgib
7. Fela Kuti, born in 1938, was a yrvoisan
8. He eonipered the Afrobeat music genre
9. His concerts were a benleioratc of rhythm
10. ltriamiy dictatorship
11. Because of this, he was eerdsrta
12. cninfluee on African and international music

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. a	5. b
6. e	7. h	8. c	9. g	10. i

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How many Africans won the Lifetime Achievement Award before Fela?
2.	What did Fela Kuti leave behind after he died?
3.	What did Fela's daughter say about the timing of the award?
4.	What did Fela's daughter say Fela didn't care about?
5.	What did Fela's daughter say made Fela happy?
6.	What does the article say Fela revolutionized besides African music?
7.	What kind of performer does the article say Fela was?
8.	What were Fela's concerts a celebration of?
9.	What kind of influence did Fela fight against in Nigeria?
10.	What does the article say about Fela's influence on music?

Speaking – Music Genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top.
Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Afrobeat
- Jazz
- Rap
- Blues
- Soul
- Classical
- Country
- Electro

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.