

Obediya is a musician, music composer, playwright, and radio drama producer. Over the past 20 years he has been involved in community radio on air, or as a board member. The Monk of Adwa is a radio drama that brings together classical opera with traditional Ethiopian music. Written and produced by Obediya, this play is based on historical events.

The Monk of Adwa is an operatic radio drama written and produced by Obediya Jones-Darrell. Combining Western Aria (recorded in Dallas Texas) with traditional Ethiopian music (recorded in studios in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), this International radio project brings together two different cultures to tell their shared story.

The Monk of Adwa Synopsis:

“The year is 1895, deep in the horn of Africa. Two Soldiers, Italian and Eritrean, are forced to work together as scouts for the invading Italian Army. Looking for supplies they come across a small old building. A flash of lightning, illuminating a glorious stain glass window, reveals they are in a church. The only occupant... an elderly lady deep in prayer. Join these three in a deadly standoff as the war around them will challenge their worldviews. How will these events dictate the future of a nation?”

For this production, the Obediya worked with three actors, two western opera singers (English) and one traditional Ethiopian singer (Amheric), and western classically trained session musicians. In addition to the script, and the sound design, Obediya wrote hundreds of pages of sheet music for the musicians to perform the work.