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Performance Style, Rhythmic Organization in Yoruba Dùndún drumming: A Study of Dùndún performance in Òkèmèsí Èkìtì

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Assumption

There are some towns outside the areas classified as strong in Dùndún tradition that are well endowed in the drumming of dùndún.

Statement to Interrogate

- To this extent, Euba (1990) writes 'Dùndún tradition is at its strongest in the central and Northern parts of Yoruba land, an area roughly coincident with that of the Oyo-Yoruba. (29)
- By this submission, towns like Ìkòròdú, Iléşà, Ijebu, Lagos Ekiti and others in the eastern axis of the Yoruba are adjudged to be weak in the practice of dùndún tradition. (Euba 1990, 20)

ABSTRACT

- Dùndún is a prominent drum ensemble and a form of dance in Yorùbá land.
- It is one of the Yorùbá ensembles that caught the ingenious attention of Akin Euba.
- Professor Euba did an extensive research work on this drums and its essential features.
- Other scholars
- Oláníyan, Adégbite Samuel, et al

Issues this paper Interrogate

- 1. Area of strong and weak Dùndún tradition Euba, 1990; 30
 - a) Dùndún is an active element of cultural life
 - b) Dùndún is practiced in its most classical idiom
 - c) there is proliferations of Dùndún drummers
 - 4) Dùndún is used in secular as well as religious Ceremonies
- 2. Area of Weak Dùndún tradition
 - a) Tendency to import Dùndún drummers from outside
 - b) There is preference for local instrument types for kingship and fro religious purposes
 - c) Modern Popularised idioms of Dùndún are more predominant

OBJECTIVES

- Examine the suitability of the segmentation of Yoruba towns as either weak or strong in Dùndún tradition
- Present an overview of Dùndún tradition in Yoruba land
- Elucidate on those factors that are responsible for the spread of musical traditions in Yoruba land
- Examine the performance and practice of Dùndún music in Okemesi Ekiti

Introduction

- Dùndún drumming and the Yoruba people
- Okemesi Ekiti, the place and the people

Dùndún in Okemesi Ekiti

- 1. The practice/The ensemble
- 2. The usages
- 3. The Philosophy/Taboos
- 4. The instrument
- 5. The Knowledge transfer

1. The Practice/The Ensemble

Iya Ilu







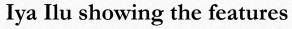




Atele



Gudugudu Side view





Gudugudu Front view



Aro



Dundun Performance Position

Drum Making and Symbolism in drums







1. The usages





- Concert
- Educative
- Ceremonial
- War
- Games
- Religious





NOTES

. Talking drum is Melo Rhythmic, Basically improvisational, and instant CRETAIVITY (extemporizational) Ìyá Ilu 2 is

I have decided not to notate Ìyá Ilu because the notes of Ìyá Ilu are not fixed

In interval, (Aurally taken) between Ìsáájú and Àtèlé is approximately a min 3rd



Aro is not categorized as a generic instrument in the ensemble but always brought in occasionally

Philosophy and Taboos

- 1. Making of the drums
- 2. Maintenance of the drums

- Birth in a drummer's family
- Life of a drummer
- Burial of a drummer

Training and Transfer of Knowledge

- Training of drummer is orally conducted by experienced drummer to the younger ones.
- Knowledge is also transferred by observation and imitation from one generation of drummer to the other.





Findings

- Dùndún is in an Ekiti town, having a history and tradition.
- The tradition of Dùndún in the town under reviewed is of a strong presence
- Internecine wars has been a major factor in the spread and distribution of Music Musical instruments and musicians.

Conclusion

- 1. Having examined the characteristics of Dùndùn performance tradition in an area that falls into the ones termed 'weak' based on the yardsticks Prof Euba (and so many other scholars have implied) for such submission to capture the intention, I opined that exceptions must be created.
- 2. There are some isolated cases which must be so recognized in other to properly situate history. the influence of war in the spread of music, musical instruments
- 3. 3. Because of some factors, herein analyzed as long years of inter, it is practically difficult to categorize Yoruba music using geographical spread as the basis

Recommendation

I have instigated discussion on this topic and recommend a further research in this respect. I also recommend comparative study to determine.

Thank You