

Tokoe

GaDangme Puberty Dance-Drumming

Entering puberty is a critical period of the ongoing communal assimilation of a child into the cultural tradition of society. Among other qualities of growth, the young child has developed the capability of reproducing sexually and must know the social responsibilities of that biological maturity.

Puberty rites known, as "dipo" is the communal forum in which the GaDangme female acquires the knowledge of the social responsibilities of this critical biological transition. Very respected female members of the community are the officiating elders. Their wisdom, life experience, self-esteem and self-confidence provide good role models for the young adults.

Tokoe is the dance-drumming performed at the beginning of the ceremonies to introduce the very carefully selected candidates of "dipo" to the community. Entering "dipo" is an honor and privilege and all entering must meet very strict qualification measures. Among these qualification measures is the requirement that the young adult remains a virgin by the time of entering.

The GaDangme people reside in southern Ghana along the banks of the Volta River.

Tokoe

Transcribed By
CK Ladzekpo

Awo Awo Nii Me Ba

Sheet music for the song "Tokoe" (Awo Awo Nii Me Ba), transcribed by CK Ladzekpo. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of four systems, each featuring a Bells part and a Song part.

System 1:

- Bells:** GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO
- Song:** A wo a wo Nii me ba Na a me

System 2:

- Bls.:** GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO
- Son.:** bae A wo Nii me ba Naa me

System 3:

- Bls.:** GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO
- Son.:** ba he A ta Nii me ba Na a me

System 4:

- Bls.:** GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO
- Son.:** bae A wo na woa wo A wo

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Tokoe Support Drums
 Basic Parts

Gankogui 1

GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO

Axatse

PA TI PA PA,PA TI PA PA TIPA PA TI PA TI PA PA,PA TI PA PA TIPA PA TI

Kagan

KAGA KAGA KAGA KAGA KAGA KAGA KAGA KAGA

Kidi

KI DI KI DI KI DI KI DI

Sogo

DEGEDEGEDEGEKUTUDE DE DEGEKUTU DEGEDEGEDEGEKUTUDE DE DEGEKUTU

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Tokoe Bell Ensemble

The musical score is written for three bells, each on a five-line staff. The time signature is 4/4. The music is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line. Above each staff, there are curved lines indicating phrasing or breath marks. The lyrics are written below the notes, using onomatopoeic words to represent the sounds of the bells.

Bell 1
GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO

Bell 2
TIN GO GO TIN TIN GO GO KA TIN GO GO TIN

Bell 3
TIN TIN TIN GO GO GO KA KA TIN TIN

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Atsimevu [Starting Episode]

Gankogui 1



GO GO GO GOGOGO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO

Atsimevu



GA GI DE KI TEN TE GA TO TE KI

Gan.



GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO

Atsi.



DZA DZI DZI DZA DZI DZA DZI DZI DZA DZI