

Artist's Logbook



Artist Name or Organisation: Nii Kwartey Owoo

Art-form: West African Drumming

Activity Name: Rhythm and Rhymes of Africa

Instructions

Please include a list of equipment and supplies needed to complete your activity with a written step-by-step guide.

You will need:

Two spoons

Bucket or flat bottom

plastic bowl.

Glass bottle with lid, thread
and plastic beads.

How to:

1. Use the spoons as bell playing it back to back
2. The bucket can be used as the Kpanlogo drum and the Tamalin drum
3. Put the plastic beads on the thread (5 lines) and hang them on the bottle and close it with the lid holding the end of the thread. This can be used as the Shaker.

Please note

Polyrhythm is the combination of two or more complex rhythms in a musical composition.





Please place pictures of your activity and outcome below:



The struggle for independence in Ghana from 1947 to 1957 provided the climate for the youth across Ghana to create new music for political rallies. In an attempt to create new types of entertainment music to purposely suit and celebrate the new life envisaged after freedom from British rule, many traditional Ga musicians started experimenting with new ideas by borrowing from existing dance-drumming ceremonies. Kpanlongo emerged as the new dance-drumming ceremony solely for and by the youth.

Hence it was called the The Dance of the Youth. It was an offshoot of Gome, Ashiko, Kolomashie, Oge, Konkoma and other highlife styles.

Kpanlongo soon became the political entertainment dance-drumming for the C.P.P. (Convention Peoples Party, Nkrumah's political party) in Accra. The late president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who greatly loved this music, funded most of the Kpanlongo bands at the time.

Songs

The majority of Kpanlongo songs relate to events of Ghana's independence struggle, African unity, pan-Africanism and other political issues. Themes based on human emotions such as love and missing someone are also common. Topical themes dealing with contemporary issues create the opportunity for spectators to be informed about events in the community.

