

Introduction

Souu

Divine Dance-Drumming Rituals of Yeve, An Ewe Divinity of Thunder *(Ewe people of Ghana, Togo and Benin, West Africa)*

Souu is a Yeve divine dance drumming, a rite of consecration or a medium of centering oneself in the divine spirit.

Yeve is the most exalted and revered divinity among the Ewe people of the West African countries of Ghana, Togo and Benin. Popularly known as a "God of Thunder," Yeve often uses the forces of thunder and lightening in revealing concerns and anger.

Yeve Religious Sect is a secret society and all joining it have to undergo an intense period of initiation and instruction. The curriculum of the initiation includes a special divine language, yevegbe, exotic divine songs, dance drumming and customs.

Sovu

Yeve Divine Dance-Drumming

A rite or meduim of centering oneself in the divine spirit

Ewe people of Ghana, Togo & Benin, West Africa

Transcribed By
CK Ladzekpo

Lawoe Gbo na Kple Dzo

Gankogui



Song



Lead

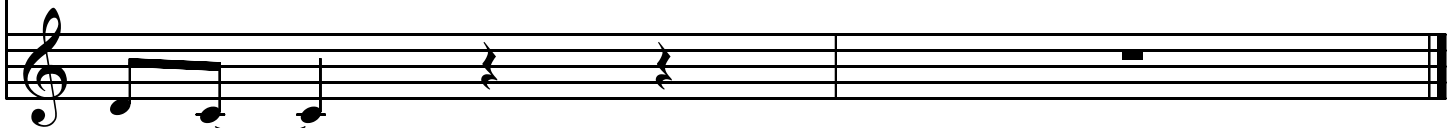
La woe gbo na kple dzo so to la woe gbo na



Group



kple dzo Oh la woe gbo na



kple dzo

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Aye do hoe

Gankogui

Lead

Song

A ye do hoe lo ho_____ A ye do

hoe_____ A ye do hoe za_____ A ye do

hoe A ho za 'ye do hoe ha mu dze dze so

Group

a xo nu gbo_____ A ye do hoe lo_____ A ye do

hoe_____ A ye do hoe za_____ A ye do

hoe a ho za 'ye do hoe ha mu dze dze so

lo ho_____

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Basic Support Parts

Gankogui
TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Axatse
PA PA TI PA PA PA TI PA PA PA TI PA PA PA TI PA

Kagan
KA GA KA GA KA GA KA GA KA GA KA GA KA GA KA GA

Sogo/Kidi
KU KI DI KU TU KU; KI DI KI KU KI DI KU TU KU; KI DI KI

Atsimevu

Tonality and Performance Techniques

Pitch: "Ga"

A stroke with the full hand of the weak hand, which rebounds after striking the center of the drumhead.

Pitch: "Gi"

A stroke with the full fingers of the weak hand, which rebounds after striking the periphery of the drumhead.

Pitch "Ki"

An alternate technique of the weak hand full fingers releases a partial vibration of the membrane by pressing the fingers firmly on the drumhead to prevent them from bouncing after the stroke is delivered.

Pitch: "De", "Te", and "Ge"

The basic stick technique produces a middle range pitch referred to in vocal syllables as "De", "Te" and "Ge". This is achieved by delivering a shot, which rebounds after striking the exact center of the drumhead, allowing the membrane to vibrate in its entirety. The syllables "De" and "Te" are normally assigned to strokes delivered by the strong hand and "Ge" is assigned to strokes produced by the weak hand. (The vocal syllables De and Te are used interchangeably).

Pitch: "Tsi"

An alternate stick-shot, approximately half the intensity of the stroke producing the pitch "De", allows only a partial vibration of the membrane by pressing the stick firmly on the drum head, at the center, as the shot is delivered. This technique produces a high range pitch known in vocal syllable as "Tsi".

Pitch: "To"

Delivering a stick-shot with the strong hand which rebounds after striking the center of the drumhead while damping the membrane by pressing it firmly at the periphery with the fingers of the weak hand produces a high range pitch known in vocal syllable as "To".

Pitch "Ka"

The final stick drumming technique does not utilize the drumhead as the source of resonating the vibration. It strikes the expanded middle section of the cylindrical body known in the *Ewe* language (*vegbe*) as *vukogo* to produce an intense clap-like sound of high pitch described in vocal syllable as "Ka". In the performance of this technique, the impact of the pitch is normally reinforced by preventing the stick from bouncing as the stroke is delivered by pressing it firmly against the cylindrical body.

Pitch "Dza"

The pitch "Ga" played simultaneously with the pitch "Ka" produces a denser low pitch variant spoken in vocal syllable as "Dza".

Pitch "Dzi"

Accentuating the high pitch "Ki" with the pitch "Ka" produces a denser high pitch variant known in vocal syllable as "Dzi".

<http://www.cnmat.berkeley.edu/~ladzekpo/Atsimevu.html>

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[Sovu] Episode 1

Gankogui



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsimevu



DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



DZA, DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



DZA GA DE GIDE TE GA DE GIDE TE GA GA TO TO



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



TO GIDE GIDE GA GA TO TO

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

TO GA DE GI DE TE GA DE GIDE TE GA GA TO TO

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

TO GI DE GIDE TO TE GA GA TO TO

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN GO; GO GO TIN TIN

TO, GA DEN TEN GA DEN TEN TEN GA GA

Concluding Statement

GO.

DEN

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[Sovu] Episode 2

Gankogui



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Stick & Bare Hand Drumming Technique

Atsimevu



[DE GI DE GI DE DZA GI DZA GI



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



DZA GI] [DE GI DE GI DE DZA GI DZA GI



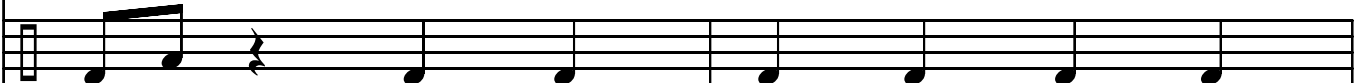
TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



DZA GI] [DE GI DE GI DE DZA GI DZA GI



TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN



DZA GI] [DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DZA DZA] [DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DZA DZA] [DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DZA DZA] [DZA DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DE GI DE

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DZA DZA] [DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DZA DE GI DE

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO GO TIN TIN GO

Concluding Statement

DZA DZA] [GA DE TE GA DEN TE TE GA GA DEN]

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[Sovu] Episode 3

Gankogui

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsimevu

GA DE TEN; GA DE TEN; GA DE TEN, GA DE

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

TEN; GA DE TEN, GA DE TEN, GA DE TEN GA GI DE GA TO

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE GI DE DZA DZA DZA

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

GI DE DZA DZA DZA GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GOGO GO TIN TIN GO

Concluding Statement

GI DEN; [GA TEN TEN GA DEN, TEN TEN GA GA

TIN

GI

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[Sovu] Episode 4

Gankogui

Atsimevu

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

GA DE GI TO DE GI DE GI TO KA KA GI TO

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

DE GI DE GI TO GA DE GI TO DEGI DEGI TO KA KA GI TO

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

DE GI DE GI TO GA DE GI TO DE GA DEN TE GA

GO GO O TIN TIN GO.

DE TE TE GA GA DEN

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[Sovu] Episode 4

Gankogui

Atsimevu

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

GA DE GI TO DE GI DE GI TO KA KA GI TO

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

DE GI DE GI TO GA DE GI TO DEGI DEGI TO KA KA GI TO

TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO, TIN TIN GO; TIN

DE GI DE GI TO GA DE GI TO DE GA DEN TE GA

GO GO O TIN TIN GO.

DE TE TE GA GA DEN

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[Sovu] Episode 5 (Short Version)
Communal Divine Circle

Gankogui



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Bare Hand/Stick Drumming Technique

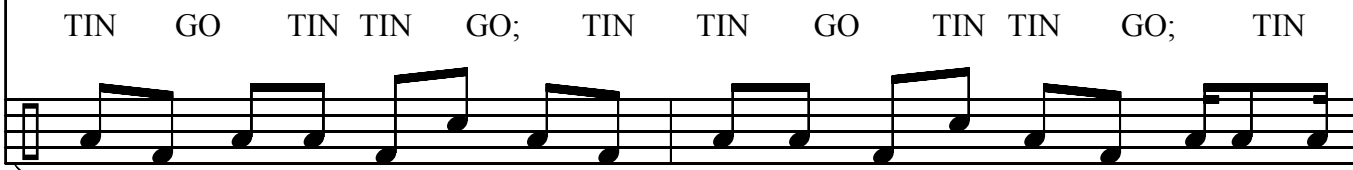
Atsimevu



Ga De Gi De Gi De, Ga De Gi De Gi De, Ga De Gi De Gi De, Ga De Gi De Gi



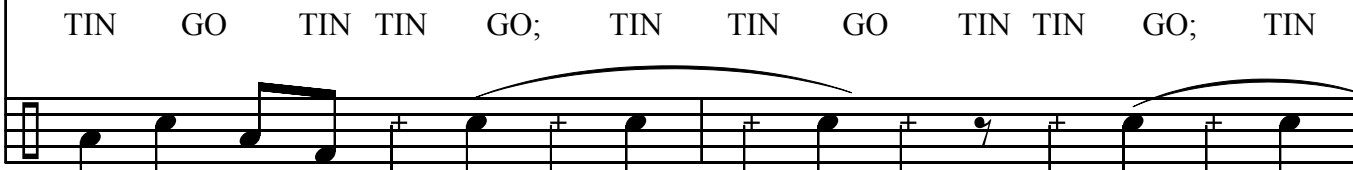
TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



De Ga Te Te Ga To Te Ga Gi De Ga To Te Ga Gi De Gi



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



De Ki Te Ga Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



Ka Ki Ka Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki Ka Ki

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Two Sticks Technique

De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge Den De De Gen De De Ge Ge

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Den De De Gen De De Ge Ge Den De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Ge De_____

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[Sovu] Episode 5
Communal Divine Circle

Gankogui



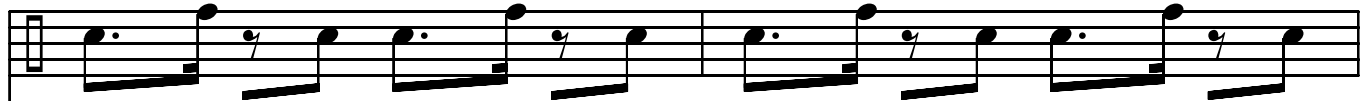
TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Bare Hand/Stick Drumming Technique

Atsimevu



Ga De Gi De Gi De Ga De Gi De Gi De Ga De Gi De Gi De Ga De Gi De Gi



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



De Ga Te Te Ga To Te Ga Gi De Ga To Te Ga To Te



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



De Gi De Ga De Ga De Ga De Ga De Ga De Ga Gi De To Gi De To Te



TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN



Gi De To Gi De To Te De Gi De Gi De Gi De Gi De Gi De Gi De

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Gi De

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Two Sticks Technique

De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge Den De De Gen De De Ge Ge

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Den De De Gen De De Ge Ge Den De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De Ge De

TIN GO TIN TIN GO; TIN

Ge De_____

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[Sovu] Episode 5 Movement 1

Gankogui

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsimevu

GA DE GI DE GI DE DZA DZI DZI DZI

A stick and bare hand technique

3

Gan.

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsi.

DZA DZI DZI DZI DZA DZI DZI DZI

5

Gan.

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsi.

DZA GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI

7

Gan.

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsi.

DE DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DE GI DEN

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[Sovu] Episode 5 Movement 2

Gankogui

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

A stick and bare hand technique

Atsimevu

GI DE DZA DZA GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE

3

Gan.

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsi.

GI DE DZA DZA GI DE DZA DZA

5

Gan.

TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN TIN GO TIN

Atsi.

GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE GI DE DZA DZA

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[Sovu] Episode 5 Movement 3

Gankogui

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN

A stick and bare hand technique

Atsimevu

GI DE DZA DZA DZA GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE

3

Gan.

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN

Atsi.

GI DE DZA DZA DZA GI DE DZA DZA DZA

5

Gan.

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN

Atsi.

GI DE DZA DZA DE GI DE GI DE DZA GI DE

7

Gan.

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN

Atsi.

DZA GI DE GI DE GI DE DZA

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Episode 5 Movement 4

Gankogui

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN

A stick and bare hand technique

Atsimevu

GA DE TO TO GA DE TO TO GA DE TO TO

3

Gan.

TIN GO; TIN TIN GO; TIN GO GO GO TIN TIN

Concluding Statement

Atsi.

TO, GA DEN TEN GA DEN TEN TEN GA GA

5

Gan.

GO.

Atsi.

DEN