

About the Music

Music is a part of daily living in Nigeria. In the cities, many people listen to Nigerian reggae music, a style of music that originated in the Caribbean. In the churches in Lagos, Nigeria's capital, one may hear gospel songs, similar to those sung in Western churches. In rural areas, people sing as they fish, rock babies to sleep, give advice and even complain! On special occasions, such as the harvest of crops or when rainfall is badly needed, people gather together to sing, dance and play instruments. In many villages, music is performed in public to celebrate events, such as birth and marriage. In the fields, work is frequently accompanied by music to keep the rhythm of a particular activity.

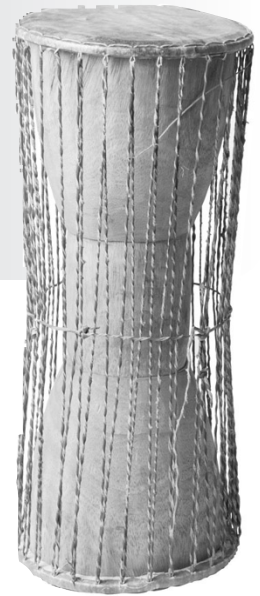
Drums dominate musical ensembles in most of Nigeria. Most instrumental groups are led by a master drummer who is trained from childhood to play many instruments. In village festivals, a lead instrument—such as a bell or gong—establishes a pattern that supports the rhythms of the master drummer. Any sudden changes are quickly imitated by the other drummers, musicians and dancers. Some Nigerian drums can “speak” the language of the local people by producing different pitches and rhythms that imitate the sound of people talking.

Drumming and singing are regularly combined in Nigeria. The exchange between drums and voices is known as “call and response,” in which the drums perform a particular melody or rhythm, and a chorus of singers repeats it. The villagers share in the music-making as they join the drummers with bells, rattles, wood sticks and dancing.

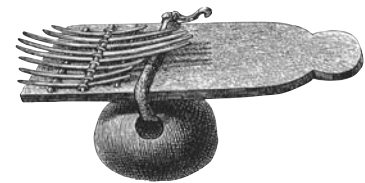
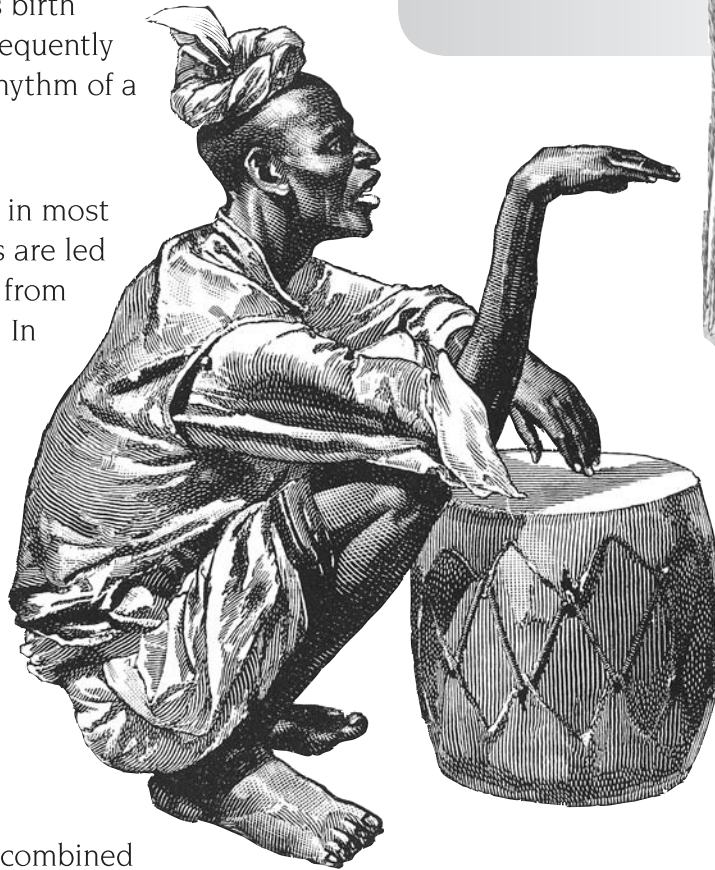
Dancers' steps follow the rhythm of the master drummer. With rattles attached to their legs, dancers form circles and perform with the drumming. Children join in by clapping hands, stamping feet and snapping fingers. If villagers like the performance, they toss money to the dancers to reward them for their performance.

Talking Drums

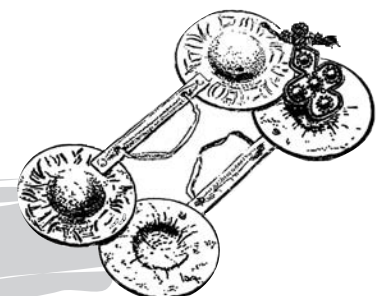
The *kalanguu* are “talking drums” that belong to the Hausa and Yoruba people of Nigeria. By using two drums and striking each one differently, a drummer can recreate the speech patterns of his language.



talking drum



kalimba (thumb piano)



These Nigerian castanet-like clappers are made of metal.

Everybody Loves Saturday Night

This song originated at a time when British authorities ruled the colony of Nigeria and placed an evening curfew on the people. The Nigerian people were eventually able to get the curfew lifted on Saturday nights. Each week, they held street celebrations where they boldly sang this song.

Nigerian Folk Song
Arr. by Nancy Lau

With spirit

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into three systems, each starting with a measure number in a box (3, 6, and 9 respectively). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words spanning across measures. The first system includes the instruction 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'LH melody' (left hand melody). The second system includes the instruction 'night.' and 'Ev - 'ry - bod - y'. The third system includes the instruction 'loves' and 'Sat - ur - day'. The score ends with a final measure marked with a '1' below the bass staff.

3

mp Ev - 'ry - bod - y loves Sat - ur - day

LH melody

3

night. Ev - 'ry - bod - y

6

loves Sat - ur - day night.

1

About the Music

Native American music and dance date back to long before the first Europeans arrived in North America. Tribal songs and dances have been passed down orally from generation to generation. Many Native Americans believe that music has a special power that allows it to travel from spirits to human beings through dreams.

Native Americans perform music accompanied by dance as part of daily activities, such as informal gatherings and the trading of goods. Tribal music also includes love songs and songs for games, as well as ritual music for healing, hunting and rainfall.

Native American music is mostly singing, accompanied by drums and rattles. Beats are often heavily accented and grouped into uneven phrases. Common examples of drum types include hollow logs stamped on with feet, hand drums beaten with sticks, and two-headed drums, some of which are beaten with covered sticks by several players at once. Melodic instruments, such as wood whistles and end-blown flutes made of cane or bark, are used to imitate the sounds of nature, such as birdcalls and animal cries.

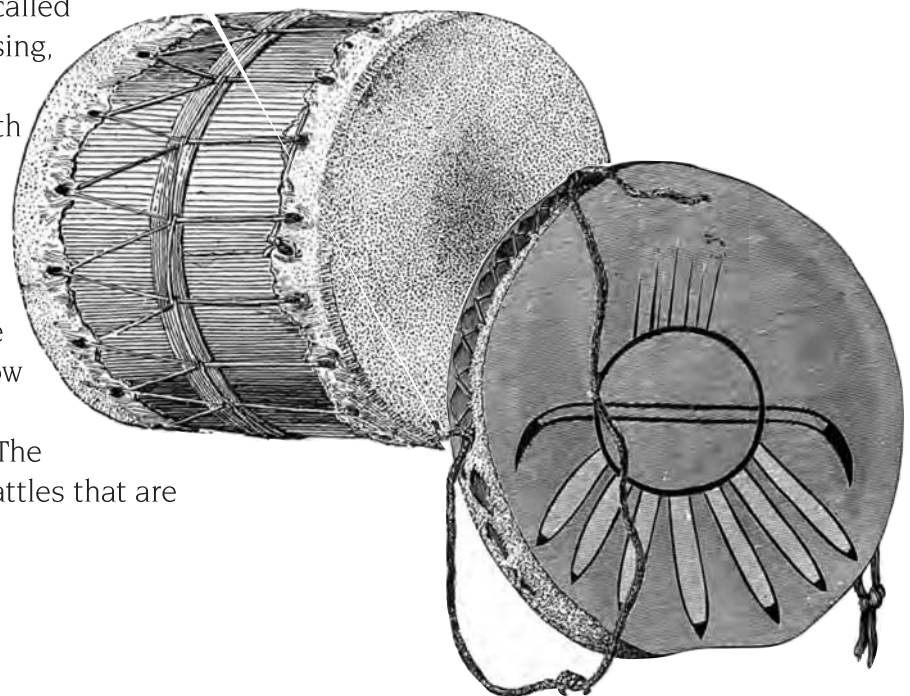
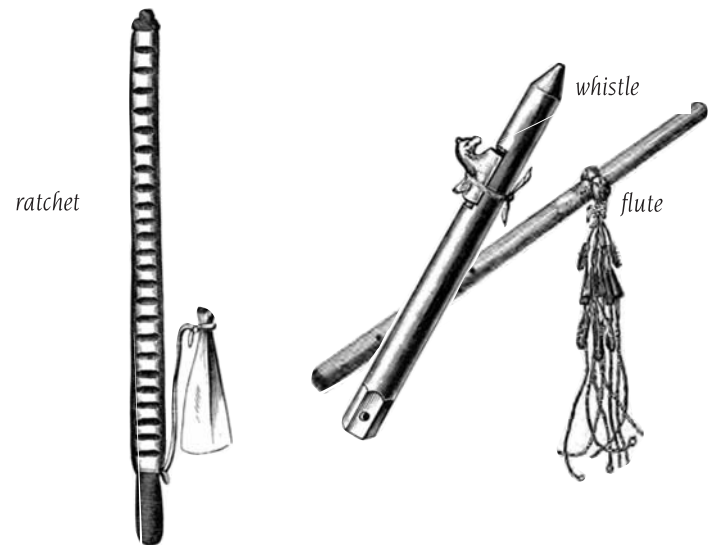
The Powwow

Today, tribal communities participate in *powwows*, in which several tribes unite to share their customs with the public. The central activity of the powwow is dance accompanied by music. Men called “beaters” sit around a large drum and sing, while beating rhythms using rawhide-covered sticks. The powwow begins with a grand entrance led by tribal chiefs and elders, followed by male and female dancers.

During performance, the dancers move clockwise inside an arena. Fast and slow war dances, social dances, and dances for games and healing are performed. The dancers accompany themselves with rattles that are sewn into their outfits.

Rattles

Rattles are used by Native Americans in ceremonies, rituals and powwows. They can be made of wood, animal hide, seedpods or gourds. The rattles are often decorated with feathers, carvings or horsehair, and contain seeds to create the shaking sound.





Images of Buddha in a Thai temple

This piece is a national Thai dance, in which men and women dance in pairs in a circle, to the beat of a “tone” drum.

Klai Khao Pai Ik Nid

(Come Closer)

Central Thai Folk Tune
Arr. by Nancy Lau

Slowly

5 a tempo