

Yiri by Koko

The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



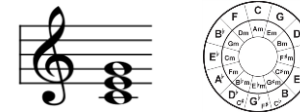
Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



RHYTHM

Four beats in a bar (there are odd bars here and there with different time signatures)

Introduction is in a free tempo - after that there is a definite steady pulse.

Frequent syncopation (vocal and balafon parts)

Cross rhythms - balafon during a vocal solo

Vocal soloist uses triplets

Rhythmic ostinato throughout



Djembe plays fills

MELODY

Balafons play short patterns which often fall from high to low.

Emphasis is on Gb and Db.

Balafon has solo breaks in between choruses - more virtuosic.

During choruses, group sings together in unison. Short falling phrases, just like the balafons.

TEXTURE

Layered through most of the piece.

Monophonic in the introduction (balafon solo)

Occasionally heterophonic - when the two balafons play different versions of the same tune at the same time.

Little dynamic variation throughout.

INSTRUMENTS

Balafon - similar to a xylophone. Wooden bars tuned to different pitches.

Djembe - goblet shaped drum played with the hands.

Dundun - large drums.

Talking drum - hour glass in shape. Can be used to imitate speech.

Voice - solo and chorus.

GENRE

West African (Burkina Faso)

Oral tradition (word of mouth)

Key features are: repetition, improvisation, call and response, layered textures.

Koko are the name of the group - all professional musicians.

STRUCTURE

Short intro using tremolo

Drums play to a clear pulse throughout. Alternates between balafon solos and choruses. Also a vocal solo - call and response between soloist and choir.

Coda - short balafon phrase played 5 times. Drum ostinato interrupted by rests. A bell sounds the end.

HARMONY AND TONALITY

The key is Gb major.

Balafons emphasise Gb (tonic) and Db (dominant)