35

Afro-Culture-Centred Musicological Golden Rhythmic Applauses for the Gazelle of the Savannah at a Golden Age

Solomon IKIBE, Ph.D
Department of the Performing Arts,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria
(Email: solomonikibe@yahoo.com)

and

Christopher Olurotimi OMOTOSO
Department of Music,
Federal College of Education, Okene, Nigeria
(Email: christopheromotoso@yahoo.com)

Abstract

Rhythm is an aspect of life. Every movement made by man is rhythmical. Every rhythm is a motivator. This chapter explores various rhythmic patterns in Nigerian societies and posits that just as life revolves around steady rhythmic patterns man should utilize every step made to actualize his goals. This chapter celebrates Professor Sunday Enessi Ododo (the Gazelle of the Savannah) musicologically with fifty rhythmic patterns that took him to his golden age. Having achieved that much in life at fifty, we use fifty of such commonly used rhythmic applauses to celebrate him in the chapter. The rhythms are notated herein for musicologists and other scholars to appreciate the musicological essence in little things we tend not to give much attention to though they matter. Each of the rhythmic patterns is given adequate explanatory notes on when they are used.

Keywords: Rhythmic applauses, Music, Notation, Ododo, Rhythmic patterns, Music signature, Timing, Nigeria

Introduction

Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have given I thee... (Acts 3:6 KJV)

Applause is a handclap made to appreciate somebody who has achieved

some feat. Applause is given to people who have made some achievements in some aspects of their lives. When a baby is born there is joy in the family. When he goes to school and answers questions correctly, applause is given to him. Applauses could also be made for someone as a sign of approval, welcome, enjoyment of an event or speech given and as a reward or motivation for a successful endeavour (Encarta 2009). More often than not, when a person gives a speech that is thought provoking, a round of applause is usually made to appreciate the individual. The history of applause dates back to Bible days when God took cognizance of Abel's sacrifice and accepted same, rejecting that of his elder brother, Cain (Genesis 4:1 – 7). The Bible gives instructions to Christians believers to clap their hands in praise of God. (Psalm 47:1). One way of giving applause is by the clapping of hands. According to Zenballwizard (2012) answering anthropological questions online,

> The practice of clapping hands is common to all cultures. In some, it indicates approval, in others it is a demand for the person to sit down and shut up (or similar equivalent). Such a basic gesture goes back so far in human custom that it is impossible to say where its various meanings originated.

Therefore, the tradition of handclapping is an aged one. Moreover, there are different reasons or ways of clapping hands. Handclapping could be done to ridicule someone. The reasons for the handclapping applause in this paper are for appreciation, welcome, enjoyment, motivation and reward. On the other hand, rhythms are patterns of beats used in music. The applauses made are in various rhythmic patterns. Thus the various applauses and other rhythmic patterns used in this chapter are all musicologically inclined.

Rhythmic Patterns Used in Schools

In the beginning, the primary and secondary schools Sunday Ododo attended must have made use of bells or gongs to call pupils or the students to the morning assembly, afternoon assembly for closing and for the change of lessons or call to break/recess. Each time the bell is rung, the number of times it is rung would dictate whether it is warning bell or the change of lesson bell. Interviews held with some school General Monitors affirmed that when the bell is rung once, it is warning or preparation to change the lesson and if it is rung twice it is change of lesson. The rhythm of the first bell rung to call school pupils is: