

E BA MI GBE JESU YI GA (Alla Cappella)

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Introduction

African Art Music is a hybrid of both Western and African musical idioms. "E Ba Mi Gbe Jesu yi Ga" is a piece of music that possesses the duo. Even though Western musical concepts are truly deployed in terms of polyphony (fugue-like) harmony written for SATB, the deployment of rhythms in depicting Africanism is a point of attraction in the piece of music.

Analysis

In the analysis of "Eba Mi Gbe Jesu Yi Ga", macro and micro analyses shall be made, and other elements of music, such as tonal organisation, melodic range, harmony, rhythms, texts, and form or structure shall be examined.

Structure

This piece in its macro form, is structured ABC and codetta. A section is from bars 0-17, B section is like exposition or developmental section from bars 17-34 with subsections abcd. Section C starts from bars 34-41, and the codetta from 41-46.

Considering the microstructure, Section A starts with a fugue-like style stating the main melodic material in the Bass part, imitated by Tenor, a 5th apart, and also by Alto and Soprano.

The main theme got its inspiration from the commonly sung lyrics in most of the churches in Nigeria.

Sub-sections in B are partitioned as follows: a. 17 - 23, b. 23-28, c. 28-32, and d. 32-34. All these subsections are differentiated by cadences, different material development and possessions of different rhythmic features.

Text

The text employed in the piece of music is written in the Yoruba language from the Southwestern region of Nigeria. The text sings praise of Jesus as a Mighty King.

E ba mi Gbe Jesu yi Ga - O Magnify Jesu with me
Oba nla oba to ga ni - He is a mighty King
Edumare oba to ga - God the mighty king.

The composer of this piece, in his desire to make the text meaningful in terms of the tonality of the language employed, adjusted the melody from the way it used to be sung in its raw form. The music example is shown below;

Changed from;



E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga

To;



E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga ni

Rhythm

This



26
 o gbe ga O lu wa gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga se. o ya, gbe ga gbe ga
 'gbo, a gbe O ga O lu wa E du ma re O ba to ga. o ya, e gbe ga
 gba O ba to le a run wo le ba ba a gba ba ba a gba. o ya, gbe ga gbe
 ni Je su ba ba mi o gbe ga se. o ya, gbe ga gbe ga

29
 gbe ga
 e gbe ga e gbe ga e gbe ga e gbe ga
 ga e gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga e gbe ga gbe ga gbe
 gbe ga o gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga o gbe ga gbe ga

Allegretto



B
 E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga ni O ba to ga E du ma re O ba to

T
 E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga ni O ba to
 ga, gbe ba ba ga Je su kris ti ye O lu o run Je su O ba to

For Ayo Oluranti
E BAMI GBE JESU YI GA.
 (Alla Cappella)

Sunday Anuoluwapo Ajayi

Allegretto

B  *f*
 E ba mi gbe Je-su yi ga O-ba n-la O ba to ga___ ni O ba to ga E du ma re O ba to

T  *f*
 E ba mi gbe Je - su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga___ ni O ba to

B  *mf*
 ga, gbe ba ba ga_____ Je-su kris ti ye O lu o run Je - su O ba to

A  *f*
 E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga O ba n la O ba to

T  *mf*
 ga E du ma re O ba to ga O ma se a du pe Je su to gba mi to wo mi san

B 
 ga ni Je-su Ba ba mi ye o ma seun___ mo du pe Je-su n gba la Ba ba mi

S  *f*
 E ba mi gbe Je - su yi

A  *mf*
 ga___ ni O ba to ga E du ma re O ba to ga Je-su ye O ba

T 
 Je - su yi O se O ba n la ni O ba n la o O ba n la O ma se Ba ba mi

B 
 wo san o n sa ni Je - su i ba re ye Ba ba mi o

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ga O ba n la O ba to ga ni O ba to ga E du ma re O ba to
 Ba ba mi ni Je-su O ba ni e gbe Ba ba ga, E le du ma re O ba n la o O ba to
 o Ba ba mi o ye O ba O ba n la E du ma re E du ma re ma ni
 Je - su Ba ba mi ye gb'o pe mi o E du ma re E du ma re E du ma re

17

mf ga, O ba n la O ba i ye lo ba mi o O ba n la
f ga, n la O ba to *mf* ga O ba n la *f* O ba to
f o, O ba n la *mf* O ba n la O ba to *mf* ga
 ni, Je - su ma lo ba n la fi yin fun fi yin fun O ba n la fi yin fun fi yin fun

20

O ba i ye lo ba mi o O ba n la O ba n la O ba to
 ga O ba O ba n la O ba n la O ba i ye lo ba mi
 O ba n la O ba to ga, O ba n la O ba to ga
 O ba n la i yin lo ye Je-su O ba n la fi yin fun fi yin fun O ba i ye O ba i ye

23

ga, O ba n la O ba to to O lu wa gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga
 o, E du ma re O ba to ga O lu o run, O ba to le i ku wo
 o, O ba i ye lo ba mi o. E ba mi gbe Je su yi ga ba ba a gba ba ba a
 o, e gbe ga se. E gbe ba ba mi o Je - su

26

o gbe ga O lu wa gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga se. o ya, gbe ga gbe ga
 'gbo, a gbe O ga O lu wa E du ma re O ba to ga. o ya, e gbe ga
 gba O ba to le a run wo le ba ba a gba ba ba a gba. o ya, gbe ga gbe
 ni Je - su ba ba mi o gbe ga se. o ya, gbe ga gbe ga

29

gbe ga
 e gbe ga e gbe ga e gbe ga e gbe ga
 ga e gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga e gbe ga gbe ga gbe
 gbe ga o gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga o gbe ga gbe ga

31

gbe ga e gbe
 e gbe ga e gbe ga
 ga e gbe ga e gbe ga
 gbe ga o gbe ga gbe ga

34

ga. e gbe ga e gbe
 se. E ba mi gbe Je - su yi ga O ba n la O ba to ga ni O ba to
 o. E ba mi gbe se, Je-su to gba mi to wo mi san Je - su yi O se O ba n la
 se. Je - su ni Je-su n gba la Ba ba mi wo san o n sa ni

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ga e gbe ga e gbe ga Je - su O ba o se o gbe ga
 ga E du ma re O ba to ga, E - se e se o Je - su gbe ga
 ni O ba n la o O ba n la ni ye e se Je - su kri sti, E se e se
 Je - su i ba re ye Je - su e - se ba ba e - se mo-du-pe o ba

41

gbe ga e gbe ga *f* gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga ye

o gbe Je su ga, *f* e gbe so ke e gbe so ke e gbe so ke ye

o Je su mi *f* gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga ye

ba o i ba re gbe ga gbe ga gbe ga ye

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rit.

o, E du ma re O ba to ga _____

gbe ga, E du ma re O ba to ga O ba to ga O ba to ga _____ ni _____

gbe ga, E du ma re O ba to ga O ba to ga O ba to ga _____ ni _____

gbe ga, E du ma re e gbe ga se _____