

MA GBAGBE ILE: A MUSICAL HERITAGE IN PATRIOTISM AND DIGNITY OF LABOUR

Traditional Yoruba music is firmly rooted in Yoruba philosophy which manifests in the Yoruba value system, religious, political, economic and social life. Music among the Yoruba serves beyond the purpose of entertainment. It communicates, educates, worship and express personal opinions. Like other African cultures, the Yoruba are musical beings in that music permeates their lives from cradle to grave. Yoruba folksongs constitute an important medium through which knowledge is passed on to the younger generation. The advent of Christianity which signaled the establishment of mission schools marked the beginning of formal education among the Yoruba. Songs introduced to school children by early colonial teachers and school administrators lacked significant relevance. P O. Ogunbowale, Rev. A. T. Ola Olude and Dayo Dedeke were among the foremost Yoruba composers of music for schools whose efforts were geared towards providing viable alternative songs for Yoruba school children through publication of song books which were meant for use in schools. This paper investigates patriotism and dignity of labour, as represented in Ma gbagbe ile a Yoruba song book by Godwin Adedayo Dedeke which was published in 1963. It examines the propagation of Yoruba heritage in the secular section of the song book. Content analysis was utilized in examining Yoruba value system as exemplified in the selected song book.

The paper claims that the songs contained in the secular section of Ma gbagbe ile promotes patriotism and dignity of labour which are important elements of Yoruba value system.

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