

Université de Montréal

Of tradition and conversion:
A comparative study of two Phuo griottes

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Of tradition and conversion :
A comparative study of two Phuo griottes

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Abstract

This research brings two important elements to the study of ethnomusicology: the study and comparative analysis between the life and music of a traditional griotte and a griotte converted to Christianity within the Phuo society of Burkina Faso. It is an illustration of the adaptation of a repertoire which can be comparatively encountered in other musico-cultural contexts. This incorporates not only an exploration into the life and the music of the feminine Phuo tradition, but also an attempt at a deeper understanding of the griotte, or 'yuo,' role and function within the evangelical Christian church. We also present a brief analysis of both repertoires, as well as look into the aesthetic and symbolic elements within their individual vocal practices.

Key words: griotte, Burkina Faso, tradition, conversion, function, repertoire, aesthetic, symbolic

Resumé

Cette recherche apporte deux contributions importantes à l'étude ethnomusicologique: l'étude de portrait ainsi que l'analyse comparative de la vie et de la musique d'une griotte traditionnelle et d'une griotte convertie au Christianisme au sein de la société Phuo au Burkina Faso. Cette étude comparative fait l'illustration de l'adaptation d'un répertoire rencontrée dans d'autres contextes musico-culturels. Cela comprend non seulement une exploration de la vie et de la musique de la tradition féminine phuo, mais aussi la compréhension du phénomène d'adaptation de la fonction de griotte, ou le rôle de Phuo 'yuo,' au milieu de l'église Chrétienne évangélique. Nous présentons aussi une brève analyse des deux répertoires ainsi qu'un regard sur les éléments esthétiques et symboliques au cœur des pratiques vocales individuelles.

Mot clés: griotte, Burkina Faso, tradition, conversion, fonction, répertoire, esthétique, symbolique

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List of Audio and Audiovisual examples:

(See the DVDs inserted with thesis)

AUDIO EXAMPLES:

1. Hagno: *siiro* 'kíkĩ cvo'
2. Hagno: *ha-zèrìo*
3. Bibahere: *siiro* 'wõyee'
4. Bibahere: *hafalu-dãse*
5. Bibahere: *ia dali we a*
6. Bibahere: *hafalu-dãse* 'ha teni re'
7. Hagno: *siiro* 'Béthùu'
8. Hagno: *ba-zèrìo*
9. Hagno and Kamucuo: *hafalu-dãse*
10. Bibahere: *A Zèèzi wàlaá nàa*

VIDEO EXAMPLES:

1. Bibahere church performance
2. Bibahere *siiro* performance
3. Hagno house performance
4. Hagno *duiè-dàani* performance
5. Hagno and Kamucuo *hafalu-dãse* performance

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