A Na Na Komina

(last edited on 23 March 2025)

A Na Na Komina is a Bambara song often played at the beginning of a performance. It is sung that 'the balafon player has come and it has gone well! It's finished/ arranged/ accomplished/ etc.! It is also sometimes played at the end of a performance to remind people that a nice event with balafon playing has taken place.

(A) Na Na Komina, Balafola (A) Na Na Komina, O Nja Na Bola

Souleymane is a Senoufo, he presented the rhythm as it is played by the Senoufo: with three balafonists: a bass pattern (here A), one in the middle of the balafon (here B), and the soloist playing on the treble. At Djarabi Kan, the band where he is the balafone soloist and artistic director, also plays with a line-up of three balafons. Seydou Keita (Youssouf's brother) plays the bass patterns there. In Pattern B, Souleymane plays with the placement of the high harmony note (right hand / and *),(B1),(B2) or (B3) places. Later, Youssouf added a few more patterns and variations.

A good friend, Corinne Durin, one of the workshop participants found two more variations for the B pattern and the A2 variation in a piece Souleymane played aloud. We both also got further inspiration for patterns D and E from recordings we heard / saw.

Mogo te Maya

The book 'La voix du Balafon' by Moussa Hema and Adrian Egger features the song 'Mogo te Maya' (so ro ni sa ba ri té). To this is added the song 'Na na Komina'. The meaning of Mogo te Maya: 'he who is wise can forget, I therefore came and found a solution'. They are the - from the book - transformed patterns F, G and melody 2.

Possible Percussion Accompaniment:

Bara (Djembé)	В	Т	Т		S	В	-	ГΤ		В	S	
(Bara)doundoun	•		•		•	•		•			•	
Shaker	*			*		*		i	*			

Sources: Souleymane Diabaté, Youssouf Keita, Seydou Keita, Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, January 2024, 'La Voix du Balafon' (Hema / Egger).

Pattern A1 (basic) Pattern B1 & B2 Pattern B2 Pattern B3 & B4 (with variations) & A2 (bass/variation) variations 1 & 2 $X / * \triangle O X / * \triangle$ $X / * \blacktriangle O X / * \blacktriangle O$ $X / * \triangle O X / * \triangle$ $X / * \triangle O X / * A$ B1 B2 var 1 B2 var 2 B2 * *

