

Fanta Djarabi

(last edited on 26 October 2021)

Fanta Djarabi is a Djoula balafon piece played by many balafon players in Burkina Faso, Mali and Ivory Coast. Mahama Konaté with Farafina (late last century) was, among other things, an important performer. Bolibana is the name of a district of a city that occurs in a few cities in West Africa (including Bamako, Abidjan). It means “*la fin de Cours*” or something like the end of the ride. Many of those districts are bordered by a river or a lagoon. In that sense, also the end of a trip that you could make. The song sings about a beautiful girl from that neighborhood called Fanta, a beautiful and popular girl that you could easily fall in love with. The singer in the song thinks others think of him doing weird things because of his “crush” on Fanta.

1st: *Deni Kelen bé Bolibana, ngo Fanta Djarabi, be Bolibana*

2nd : *Ee Fanta a bi Bolibana, Djarabi Fanta a bi Bolibana, Bobo Fanta a bi Bolibana, F’lani Fanta a bi Bolibana, etc*

(it could be a girl of the mentioned breeds, but it could also come from anywhere)

3rd *Nge na tsjogo tsjogo, soun gourouni nge na tsjogo tsjogo a ti tièn fo*
(Unfortunately, a girl like Fanta can’t tell everyone the truth (and tell every man she loves him too))

The rhythm has two accompaniment parts (A and B), which are always played together, the second interrupted at most by a melody phrase. The balafon soloist can keep the singers waiting to sing melody 2 by continuing to play the high version (because the vocals start after the low one).

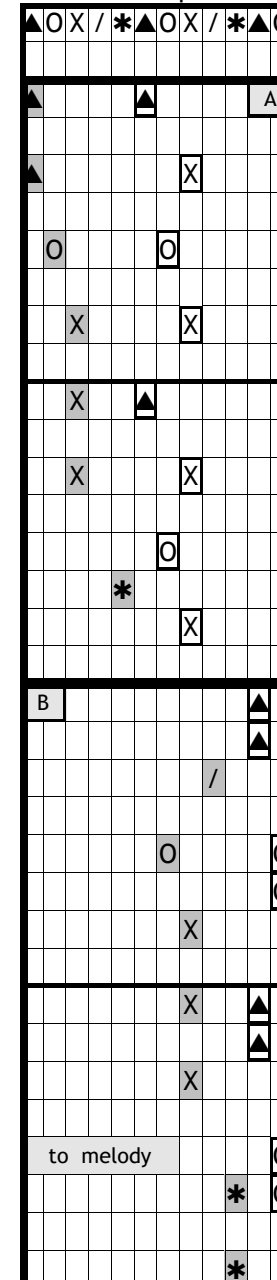
After a break, the dance variation is started with patterns C1 and C2.

Sources: Youssouf Keita, Hakiri Koïta, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, January 2020, Farafina Djarabi, track 5 from Album ‘Miriya’ from Farafina Lili

Possible percussion

Bara (Djembé)		S		T	T		S		T	T	
Baradoundoun	B	T		S	B	B	T		S	B	
sjaker	★	★		☆	☆		★	★		☆	☆

Pattern A (low) and B solo accompaniment



Pattern C1 and C2 solo accompaniment

