

Sanata

(last edited on 2 June 2024)

Sanata is a balafon rhythm with Bambara song from Mali. *Sanata* is the name of a young woman. The story is about her wedding. Among the Bambara people, it is customary that the bride does not eat during the wedding. However, a dish is prepared for her for when the time comes for her to eat. But *Sanata* is hungry and, using the excuse of having to go to the toilet, she slips into the kitchen. She sees the bowl that is meant for her already, grabs a chicken leg and starts to eat it. However, she is caught by a balafon player from the band playing at the wedding. The *griot* (musician-troubadour) always has to tell about what he sees doing and tells about it during a song. But when the "wise men" in the family hear this, they are indignant; "*Sanata* must be punished!". But the musicians stand up for her. They say it is not a good part of the culture and should disappear. Moreover, they say if *Sanata* were to be punished, they would stop playing.

Manna manna koema mi bao da

(everything you say, the words that come out of your mouth (from the griots))

am ben na do Sanata tho na

(but we the griots stand up for *Sanata*, for her idea)

A- ah -ah Sanata yè landa ti'njè

(Ah- ah a *Sanata* does not respect the customs)

Ou Ko, Sanata yè landa ti'njè

(They said that *Sanata* does not respect the customs)

A- ah - ah ni koni kadi

(but it is good)

Sources: Haruna Dembele, France, 2008, Gert Kilian, Toulouse, 2010, Fatumata Keita (song), Mali 2011, Youssou Keita, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, 2016, 2020, Tilburg 2022

Possible Percussion Accompaniment:

Bara / Djembé (slow)			T	T	S			T	T	S	
Bara / Djembé (fast)			T	T	S	S		T	T	S	S
(Bara)doundoun	B		S		B		B	S		B	
Shaker		X			X		X			X	

Melody 1
(play 2x)

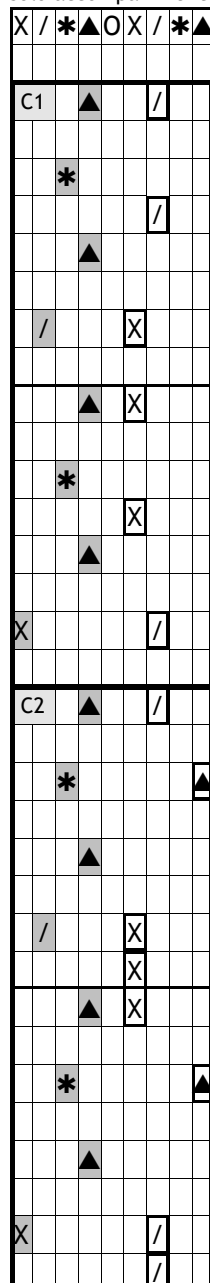
Melody 2
(play 2x)

Pattern A1 & A2
accompaniment

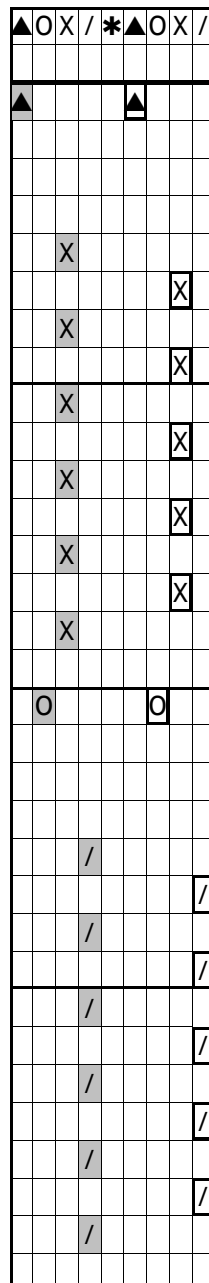
Pattern B1 & B2
solo accompaniment

Pattern C1 & C2

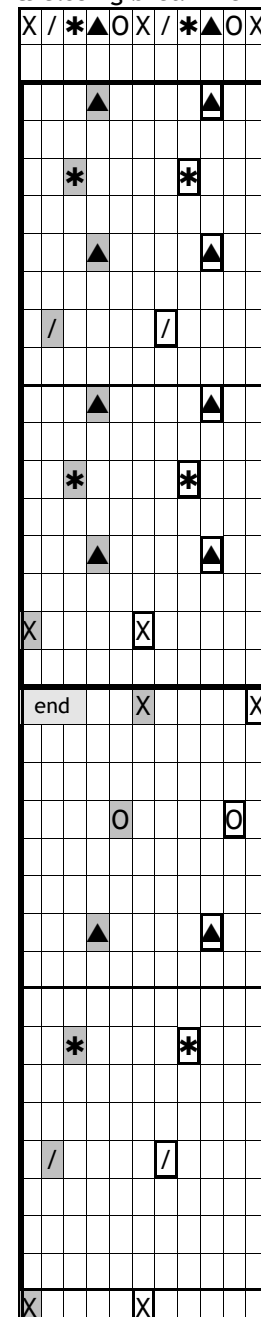
solo accompaniment



Intro



Echauffement & closing break / end



Arrangement for two balafons:

Balafon 1	Balafon 2
melody 1 (2x)	melody 1 (2x)
1x roll	1x roll
-	hold last stroke
Pattern A	
	melody 1 (2x)
	melody 2 (4x)
	pattern B
	melody 1 (1x) and song 1 (1x)
	melody 2 (2x) and song 2 (2x)
	roll to indicate ending
	finishing break

The song will be even more beautiful, according Youssof Keita, if you transpose from '▲' to 'X' (and the rest likewise)

Break

