Balan Sondé

WAP-pages / Paul Nas / Last updated on 19 May 2012

Balan Sondé is a Dununba-rhythm from the Malinke-people in Guinea: "Balan" is a village near Kouroussa, "sondé" means thief. The inhabitants of the village are called thiefs in the song that goes with this rhythm (teasing). *Balan Sondé* is an exception within the Dununba-rhythm-family. It's played on circumcision-festivitys where both men and women dance. While the men are dancing dununba-steps, the woman are dancing the söli-steps.) The song is on the Rhythms of the Malinke- CD from Famoudou Konate but it's hard to hear the lyrics. The translation is:

"You, the people of Balan are thieves!"
"We are no thiefs, we haven't stolen anything yet",
You lied, it's not true, not true

Call	S	S	T	S	S	S						
	r	l	r	l	r	l						
kenkeni									■		●	●
sangban									❒			
doundoun											■	●

Kenkeni			●		●	●			●		●	●		●	●			■		●	●
		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x
																		✘			

Sangban	●		•	●		●		●			❍			❍			❒				
basic 1	x		x	x		x		x		x		x		x		x	✘		x		

Doundoun		●		●		●		●		●	•									■	●
		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		✘	x

Doundoun		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●		■	●
echauffement		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		✘	x

ending		●		●		●		●	●											■	●
		x		x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		✘	x

Two strokes (▼) seem to be returning all the time. And there are two basic sangban-patterns.

							▼			▼											
Sangban	●			●			●	●			❍										
	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x

and

Sangban		●		●			●			❍						●			●	
basic 2		x		x		x	x		x	x		x		x		x		x	x	

Sangban	●		●		●	●			❍			❍			❍					
echauffement	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x			

Sangban	●		●		•	●			❍											●
variation 1		x		x		x	x		x	x		x		x		x		x	x	

Sangban						●			❍			❍			❍					●
variation 2		x		x		x	x		x	x		x		x		x		x	x	

Sangban	●		●	●		●	●			❍										
variation 3	x		x		x		x		x	x		x		x		x		x		

Sources

Lessons: Mamoudou 'Delmundo' Keïta.
Written matarial: Famoudou Konaté