

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Gbovi*

By

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra

Duration: 2 Minutes

Grade: 2

Harmonic Language: Tonal (C Major)

Meter: 2/4

Texture: Unison Melody, Melody and Accompaniment

Composition Date: 2007

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Composer Bio:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

Strings Around the World Series:

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

Strings Today Series

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

West Africa:

West Africa or Western Africa is the westernmost region of the African continent. The United Nations definition of Western Africa includes the following 16 countries distributed over an area of approximately 5 million square km:

Benin	Liberia
Burkina Faso	Mali
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania
Cape Verde	Niger
The Gambia	Nigeria
Ghana	Senegal
Guinea	Sierra Leone
Guinea-Bissau	Togo

Despite the wide variety of cultures in West Africa, there are similarities in dress, cuisine, music and culture that are not shared extensively with groups not in the geographic region. Islam is the predominant historical religion of the West African interior and the far west coast of the continent while Christianity is the predominant religion in coastal regions of Nigeria, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire. Elements of indigenous religions are practiced throughout the region as well.

Traditionally, musical and oral history as conveyed over generations by Griots, musician storytellers, are typical of West African culture. The Djembe drum, whose origins lie with the Mandinka peoples, is now a popularly played drum among many West African ethnic groups. Mbalax, Highlife, Fuji and Afrobeat are all modern musical genres enjoyed by listeners and practitioners in this region.¹

Notes:

Gbovi (pronounced B’wavi) is loosely based on the West African Children’s song entitled, “Tu tu Gbovi”. It is designed to explore ostinato rhythms, layering of melodic ideas and rhythmic performance. *Gbovi* was written for Rod Young and the West Middle School Orchestra, Kansas City, Kansas as part of the “Arts Partners Program”.

Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 8	
A	ms. 9 – 16	Violin I Melody
A	ms. 17 – 24	Violin I Melody
B	ms. 25 – 32	Violins I and II Heterophony
A	ms. 33 – 40	Cello Melody
B	ms. 41 – 48	Violin II Melody
A	ms. 49 – 56	Violin I and Viola Heterophony
A	ms. 57 – 64	Violin I, II, Viola, Cello Melody
A	ms. 65 -72	Violin I, II, Viola, Cello Melody
B	ms. 73 – 80	Violin I, II, Viola, Cello Melody

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Africa (accessed 02/12/08).

Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 17 – 24):

Musical notation for Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 17 – 24). The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Vln. I

Musical notation for Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 15). The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a measure rest followed by a measure containing a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 25 – 32):

C

Musical notation for Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 25 – 32). The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a measure rest followed by a measure containing a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Vln. I

Musical notation for Theme 2 (Violin I, ms. 30). The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a measure rest followed by a measure containing a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Gbovi Rhythms

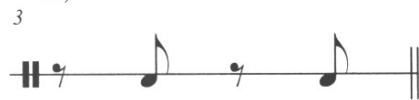
1.)



2.)



3.)



4.)



5.)



6.)



7.)



8.)



Recommended Recordings:

Rhythms of Life, Songs of Wisdom: Akan Music From Ghana, West Africa

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000001DLO?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B000001DLO>

The Rough Guide to the Music of Nigeria and Ghana

http://www.amazon.com/Rough-Guide-Music-Nigeria-Ghana/dp/B00005Y48M/ref=pd_sim_m_title_8

The Rough Guide to Highlife

http://www.amazon.com/Rough-Guide-Highlife-Various-Artists/dp/B000086BA5/ref=pd_bxgy_m_text_b

Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.

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