

Songs of the Main Tron Shrine in Savalou:

Ctehoueton Kofonon

Ethnic group: Fon (Mahi)

Language (dialect): Fongbe (Mahigbe)

Country: Benin

Recording date: May 12, 2017

Recording location: Savalou, Benin

Total Recording time: 21:24

Technician: Brian Nowak

Group Members:

Ctehoueton Konfonon -

Tahinon Koffi -

Ovekesi -

Louise Capo-Chicai -

Bignon Tanguinon Koffi -

Mercelaine Aglassa -

Francine Aglassa -

Track names -- duration

1) Songs for Papa Kounde (medley) - 21:24

Group Introduction:

The women and girls singing here are the hearth of the Tron shrine including main priest's wife and children and important practitioners. Ctehoueton leads the weekly ceremony in all but formalities, as her husband is the official leader although his wife carries out most of the rituals. At the entrance of the compound, hex diagrams in white powder provide protection and a site for offerings and blessings under female dominated session featuring mostly songs for Papa Kunde. Young men and boys provide the drum rhythms and accompany, completing the family and general diversity of those associated with this shrine.

Recording Context:

A shrine room too small to gather includes candles and fenced in alters with a passage to get around the clusters of objects that form the shrine. The large open waiting and general-purpose area features wall paintings of the major spirits and important symbols like the owl. Benches stemming from the wall are casual and yet also allow for a

substantial number of guests for larger ceremonies. Songs to Papa Kunde dominate this medley and representing a spirit intolerant of transgressions to moral order and combatant against sorcery and ill-intentioned spirits. Tron spirits are of wellness, abundance, and healing.