



The Kaita

Other names:

The Gita

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Domain

Traditional Arts
Musical Instrument

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCATION

Community groups

Darfour, Minwashi. Practiced by the Barnu groups, Hausa and Al Mandara

Practitioners

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Purpose / Use

Many social occasions are accompanied by music, such as preliminary wedding ceremonies, the groom's breakfast, as well as smaller events like circumcision ceremonies, university graduation parties, and kindergarten graduations. It is one of the most requested music genres in Sudanese weddings and national celebrations, and in the past, it was a means of bringing people together during times of war, peace, and unexpected events.

Knowledge / Skills

Learning to play the kora requires a long time and tremendous effort, it may take more than a year. The city of Khartoum has seven professional kora bands in the Mayo neighborhood and Al-Ingaz. There are also some bands in Omdurman and Khartoum Bahri, which are among the oldest bands. Any area or city where the Hausa and Barno live will have kora bands.

Transmission

Traditional experience resulting from practice and generational inheritance.

Tools, Equipment, Services

Goat skin, cow tail, wooden sticks, brass cylinder, reed trees, and pulley.

HISTORY

The appearance of the Kaita in Sudan dates back to the 14th century AD and it is an authentic Bornawi heritage that came to Sudan from West Africa, contributing to the development of the musical identity. Its performance mixed with many Sudanese melodies, songs, and rhythms. The history of the presence of Bornawi in Sudan dates back to more than 700 years according to Professor Awn Al-Sharif Qam's encyclopedia.

INTRODUCTION

The Kaita flute is one of the most important musical instruments among the Bernou tribe, with several names including Kaita and Geita. It is a wind instrument that resembles the Scottish bagpipes, and its sound is similar to that of a modern trumpet. It is accompanied by three drums: the knee drum, the tambourine, and the trumpet drum, which play the accompanying rhythm. This instrument is found in the Arab Maghreb region, as well as in North and West Africa, under the same name. The musical culture associated with it is particularly famous among the Hausa people residing in many regions of Sudan.

The Sudanese Kaita consists of four parts: the krokro, which is a conical cylinder usually made of yellow brass, with a narrow reed mouthpiece similar to that of the oboe and a metal funnel to facilitate blowing air into it. The boni, a surface made of cowhide. The convex column, also covered in cowhide. The bough or fandik, made from the baobab tree and covered in goat skin. The Kaita has four holes that produce a pentatonic tonal system with equal dimensions and free of half-tones. Before playing it, musicians soften the inner cavity of the mouthpiece using a mouthpiece made from the branches of acacia trees and gum arabic to facilitate mouth movement and convert it into a sufficient air reservoir for blowing.

The Kaita flute is accompanied by three cylindrical drums of different sizes, carried on the shoulder, with two of them played with the knee and tambourine on one side using a curved stick, while the other side is struck with the hand and the third drum, the trumpet, is played on one side using two straight sticks.

Cultural Value:

The widespread dissemination of the spirit of popular enthusiasm has swept the carpet from under the music of the Qarab instrument at all occasions. People now bring it to university graduations and weddings because it plays the familiar folk melodies that resonate with the Sudanese ear, from songs of heritage and enthusiasm beloved by all Sudanese people, regardless of their dialects, regions, and tribal diversity.

Associated Practices:

Marriage, graduation, national occasions, welcoming guests.

Cultural Expressions

This guy is making a "Kaita" fuss to show off his loud voice.

VIABILITY

Threats:

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Natural Resources used

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