
*IGORU MUSIC IN OKPELAND: A STUDY OF ITS
FUNCTIONS AND COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES*

*Volume I: Chapters 1-6 & Volume II Chapters 7-8,
Appendices, Bibliography and CD*

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***Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree***

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University of Pretoria etd, Idamoyibo O I (2006)

December, 2005

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Dedicated to:

All Igoru musicians in Okpe, and to the memory of my Parents,

Mr & Mrs Idamoyibo John Odafe

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICATION

I hereby declare that this thesis, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is original except as acknowledged in the text. Although the study began at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, it was completed at the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa with written permission from the former University. In part or in whole, the thesis has not been submitted to any other institution for any degree.

Ovaborhene Idamoyibo

CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research study is the original work of Ovaborhene Isaac Idamoyibo under my supervision and that it meets the requirements for the award of the degree, Doctor of Music (DMus) of the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa.

Prof. Meki Nzewi

Promoter.

ABSTRACT

This study focused on the functions of Igoru music in Okpe land. It also examined the compositional techniques of the music typology. The primary source for data collection was oral interview. Secondary sources include publications, and records. Unstructured research questions formed basis for the study. The texts of eighty seven (87) songs were transcribed and translated for this study. Fifty songs from this sample were further transcribed in staff notation, for analysis and discussion. At the end of the study, the following findings were made:

- Igoru musicians, in their foresight, investigate, evaluate, probe, counsel, warn, and foretell future events in Okpe, to avoid painful experiences, since in traditional Okpe society, life experiences are shared.
- Most of the themes in Igoru music are derived from the sense of realism than idealism. The songs being quite topical had to be realistic than idealistic in tendency. Various sound and speech elements are put together to make communication effective.
- Igoru music praises and commends deserving members, in order to encourage those who are doing well in the society to continue in their good deeds, as well as stimulate others to emulate them.
- The musicians defend their political system, their territorial land mass, traditional religion and themselves from various attacks.
- Igoru music represents the Okpe identity, thus it was selected amongst other music typologies of the culture to represent it, both in social and political-oriented activities in Lagos and elsewhere.

- Igoru music uses the hexatonic scale system. Almost all the songs were found to be composed in compound quadruple metre. The performers
-
- involve in two-part polyphonic singing. Consecutive parallel 3rds, 4ths, and 5ths are prevalent and melodic cadences resolve upwards than downwards. Shifts of tonal centre (key), according to the convenience of performers, as well as recycling of themes are also common features.

Key words: Igoru music, functions, compositional techniques, Okpe, ensemble-organization, poetry as songs, vocal forms, opening and closing-formulas, transcription and translation, meaning and intention.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Dedication	ii
Statement of authentication	iii
Certification and approval	iv

Abstract	v
Acknowledgements	vi
List of maps	vii
List of tables	xxi
List of figures	xxii
List of plates	xxii
List of CD tracks	xix

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1. 1	Introduction	1 - 1
1. 2	Statement of problem	1 - 4
1. 3	Objectives of the study	1 - 5
1. 4	Scope of the study	1 - 7
1. 5	Significance of the study	1 - 8
1. 6	Methodology	1 - 9
1. 7	Theoretical framework	1 - 14
1. 8	Literature review	1 - 15

CHAPTER 2

TERMINOLOGY FOR AFRICAN MUSIC

1. 1	Need for defining and redefining	2 - 1
2. 1. 1	African music	2 - 1
2. 1. 2	Background of foreign writers	2 - 2
2. 1. 3	Background of African writers	2 - 7

University of Pretoria etd, Idamoyibo O I (2006)

2. 2	Music as an art	2 - 8
2. 2. 1	Concept of composition	2 - 12
2. 2. 2	Syllabic and melismatic	2 - 14
2. 2. 3	Influence of tone language	2 - 15
2. 2. 4	Concept of performance	2 - 17
2. 2. 5	Concept of timbre, pitch, and dynamic (volume)	2 - 19
2. 2. 6	Notation and transcription of African music	2 - 22
2. 3	Concept of rhythm	2 - 24
2. 3.1	Additive and divisive rhythm	2 - 27
2. 3. 2	Cross-rhythm, inter-rhythm and staggered rhythm/entries	2 - 28
2. 3. 3	Time line, bell rhythm, topoi, and phrasing-referent	2 - 30
2. 3. 4	Polyrhythm and syncopation	2 - 32
2. 3. 5	Melo-rhythm, mega-rhythm, hot rhythm and hocket technique	2 - 34
2. 3. 6	Interlocking rhythm	2 - 36
2. 4	Concept of harmony	2 - 37
2. 4. 1	Homophony, monophony and drone	2 - 38
2. 4. 2	Plurivocality, Polyphony, heterophony, reduplicative and pseudo-unison	2 - 39
2. 5	Concept of metre	2 - 42
2. 5. 1	polymetre	2 - 43
2. 5. 2	Measured, unmeasured, Metronomic, non-metronomic, variable and movable bar	2 - 45
2. 6	Form, genre, style and typology	2 - 49
2. 6. 1	Antiphony, responsorial, call and response	2 - 50
2. 6. 2	Strophic and narrative	2 - 51
2. 6. 3	Ensemble thematic cycle, soloist and receiver soloist	2 - 52
2. 6. 4	Improvisation, extemporization and performance composition	2 - 54

2. 6. 5 Repetition, ostinato and tempo	2 - 57
2. 7 Drum and drumming	2 - 60
2. 7. 1 Talking drum and variant drum	2 - 62
2. 7. 2 Drum language and voice masking	2 - 64
2. 7. 3 Bass and tenor or mother and baby drum	2 - 66

CHAPTER 3

THE OKPE AND HER CULTURE

3. 1 Location and population	3 - 1
3. 2 Geographical features	3 - 3
3. 3 Climate	3 - 4
3. 4 History	3 - 5
3. 5 Language phoneme	3 - 9
3. 6 Religion	3 - 12
3. 7 Economy	3 - 14
3. 8 Dynamism of social harmony	3 - 15
3. 9 Okpe musical culture	3 - 19

CHAPTER 4

IGORU MUSIC AND ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4. 1 Definition	4 - 1
4. 2 Origin and historical development	4 - 1
4. 2. 1 First period (1170 – 1900)	4 - 2
4. 2. 2 Second period (1900 – 1945)	4 - 2
4. 2. 3 Transfusion to Yoruba land	4 - 3

4. 2. 4 Third period (1945 – 1970)	4 - 8
4.2. 4. 1 Competitions back at home	4 - 9
4. 2. 4. 2 Cynosure to opposite sex	4 - 10
4. 2. 4. 3 Appreciation, patronage and recompense	4 - 11
4. 3 Fourth period (1970 – 2005)	4 – 13
4. 3. 1 Sponsorship of short playing record albums	4 - 13
4. 3. 2 Transformation to a New Genre	4 – 14
4. 3. 3 Ighohpa music	4 - 17

CHAPTER 5

INSTRUMENTS OF IGORU MUSIC

5. 1 General and formational organization	5 - 1
5. 2 Instruments of Igoru music	5 - 5
5. 2. 1 The organization of <i>ukiri</i> ensemble	5 - 7
5. 2. 2 Vocal organization	5 - 11
5. 2. 3 Dance organization	5 - 12
5. 2. 4 Costume and paraphernalia	5 - 15
5. 2. 5 Recruitment of members	5 - 16
5. 2. 6 Training of members	5 - 18
5. 3 Medicine for voice sonority and courage	5 - 21

CHAPTER 6

POETIC ANALYSIS OF IGORU TEXTS AND THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE THEMES

6. 1 Transcription and translation of text	6 – 1
--	-------

6. 1. 1 Song as oral poetry and text; poetry as speech and song	6 – 2
6. 1. 2 Language and language import	6 – 7
6. 1. 3 The poet, composer, performer and persona	6 – 12
6. 1. 4 Symbolic communication circle in poetry	6 – 15
6. 1. 5 Tone, diction, intention and meaning	6 – 20
6. 2 Philosophical thought processes	6 – 28
6. 2. 1 Synthetic philosophy and concept of names	6 – 29
6. 2. 2 Axiology	6 – 31
6. 2. 3 Logic; deductive and inductive approach	6 – 35
6. 2. 4 Metaphysics	6 – 36
6. 2. 5 Realism and idealism	6 – 38
6. 2. 6 Essentialism and progressivism	6 – 38
6. 2. 7 Conceptual analyses of Igoru themes	6 – 39
6. 2. 8 Proverbs	6 – 44
6. 2. 9 Idioms/epigrammatises	6 – 63
6. 3 Sound elements, rhythm and effects	6 – 68
6. 3. 1 Alliteration and assonance	6 – 70
6. 3. 2 Rhetoric questions	6 – 71
6. 3. 3 Repetition	6 – 73
6. 3. 4 Homophonic doubling of words	6 – 77
6. 3. 5 Parallelism	6 – 78
6. 3. 6 <i>Egbaren emro</i> , similitude of spoonerism	6 – 80
6. 3. 7 Foundation vowel, round-off and nasality	6 – 81
6. 3. 8 Elision, truncation and word-link	6 – 84
6. 3. 9 Onomatopoeia	6 – 87
6. 3. 10 Structural poetic form, Scansion	6 – 90
6. 3. 10. 1 Versification, strophe or prosody	6 – 91
6. 3. 10. 2 Rhyme	6 – 95

6. 4	Imagery	6 – 101
6. 4. 1	Visual image	6 – 102
6. 4. 2	Audile or auditory image	6 – 104
6. 4. 3	Tactile and thermal images	6 – 106
6. 4. 4	Olfactory image	6 – 109
6. 4. 5	Olfactory image	6 – 110
6. 4. 6	Motile or kinaesthetic image	6 – 112
6. 5	Figures of speech	6 – 116
6. 5. 1	Simile	6 – 117
6. 5. 2	Metaphor	6 – 119
6. 5. 3	Metonymy	6 – 121
6. 5. 4	Synecdoche	6 – 122
6. 5. 5	Synecdoche	6 – 124
6. 5. 6	Paradox	6 – 126
6. 5. 7	Antithesis and pun	6 – 128
6. 5. 8	Pathetic fallacy and allusion	6 – 130
6. 5. 9	Bathos and climax	6 – 132
6. 5. 10	Hyperbole	6 – 133
6. 5. 11	Euphemism and Litotes or meiosis	6 – 136
6. 5. 12	Innuendo, oxymoron and irony	6 – 138
6. 6	Oral poetic form	6 – 140
6. 6. 1	Allegory and parable	6 – 140
6. 6. 2	Epic and biographical praise	6 – 141
6. 6. 3	Elegy, ode and monody	6 – 145
6. 6. 4	Fable and memoir	6 – 147
6. 6. 5	Satire and lampoon	6 – 149
6. 7	Thematic use and function	6 – 151
6. 7. 1	Education and enlightenment	6 – 154

6. 7. 2 Caution and counselling	6 – 157
6. 7. 3 Criticism and correction	6 – 161
6. 7. 4 Chronological reference	6 – 164
6. 7. 5 Entertainment, restraint and drive	6 – 168
6. 7. 6 Praise and commendation	6 – 171
6. 7. 7 Defence and immunity	6 – 173
6. 7. 8 Socio-Cultural identities	6 – 175

CHAPTER 7

COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES AND THEORIES

7. 1	Annexure	7 – 1
7. 1. 1	Transcription method	7 – 1
7. 2	Scale	7 – 3
7. 2. 1	Metre, regular durational groups and tempo	7 – 4
7. 2. 2	Pickup measure, anacrusis and syncopation	7 – 6
7. 3	Text, tone and melody relationships	7 – 6
7. 3. 1	Foundation vowel, doubling of vowel, glide and slur	7 – 9
7. 3. 2	Variable poetic metre, melodic phrasing and length	7 – 11
7. 4	Melodic interval, progression and contour	7 – 12
7. 4. 1	Harmonic interval and general progression	7 – 13
7. 4. 2	Parallel harmonic progression	7 – 13
7. 4. 3	Alternate parallelism and other alternate intervals	7 – 14
7. 4. 4	Intervallic preferences	7 – 14
7. 4. 5	Part crossing	7 – 17
7. 4. 6	Overlapping and creation of triads	7 – 18
7. 4. 7	Melodic and harmonic motions: The theory of earth orientation, longevity and heaven-ward focus	7 – 19
7. 4. 8	Liberty of tonality adjustment and the theory of relativism	7 – 20

7. 5	Melodic non-final cadence	7 – 21
7. 5. 1	Melodic final cadence	7 – 22
7. 5. 2	Harmonic non-final cadence	7 – 24
7. 5. 3	Harmonic final cadence	7 – 25
7. 5. 4	Cadential beat, position and anticipation	7 – 26
7. 6	Voice range	7 – 28
7. 6. 1	Responsorial and antiphonal forms	7 – 31
7. 6. 2	Strophic form	7 – 32
7. 6. 3	Narratives	7 – 33
7. 6. 3. 1	Segmental narrative form	7 – 33
7. 6. 3. 2	Incremental recycle form	7 – 35
7. 6. 3. 3	Multiple recycle form	7 – 36
7. 6. 4	Opening formulas	7 – 37
7. 6. 4. 1	Closing formulas	7 – 39
7. 6. 4. 2	Receiver solo statement	7 – 41

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUSION

8. 1	Out-come of Igoru warnings	8 – 1
8. 1. 1	Succession to the Orodje's [king's] stool	8 – 1
8. 1. 2	Commercial sex trade and STD	8 – 2
8. 1. 3	Itsekiri and Ugbukurusu wars	8 – 3
8. 1. 4	Christianity, traditional ethos and philosophy of healing	8 – 4
8. 2	Dividends of Igoru music	8 – 5
8. 3	Reasons for the fall of Igoru music	8 – 6
8. 4	Summary of Igoru functions	8 – 6
8. 4. 1	Summary of poetic properties	8 – 7
8. 5	Summary of compositional techniques	8 – 10

8.6	Recommendations	8 – 12
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APPENDIX I
(Annexure to chapter 6)
IGORU POETRY

FIRST PERIOD (1170 – 1900)

1.	Ose omo yo ro doro [Father is greater]	A1 – 1
2.	Emwu Omuorhoja [They captured Omuorhoja]	A1 – 2
3.	Umogu osiye oghwa [Umogu is at home]	A1 – 4

SECOND PERIOD (1900 – 1945)

4.	Edion gbe simi ame [Edion, protect us]	A1 – 5
5.	Emru irimi 1 [Sin against ancestors]	A1 – 6
6.	Emru irimi 2 [Sin against ancestors]	A1 – 11
7.	Urhomu erhome eki rhom' ode [Good luck and good name]	A1 – 16
8.	Oka olaragha obuebun [Kinds of vagabond are numerous]	A1 – 17
9.	Unugbrogodo oso-ijoro [Unugbrogodo sings songs]	A1 – 19
10.	Ighwen re den rhe [As one is destined]	A1 – 21
11.	Orilele oma ye oforo [The white chick]	A1 – 22
12.	Okpiten [Innuendo communicator]	A1 – 23
13.	Aramoghwa ro jiri otore [An old rat]	A1 – 24
14.	Wewe n'obiruo [You're commended]	A1 – 25
15.	Uruemru ogbegbon [Evil attitude]	A1 – 27
16.	Ni ti ore osa [As that of the Kingfisher]	A1 – 29
17.	Ona' kpo oben eruo [World's difficult craftsmanship]	A1 – 31
18.	Abada oda inyo [Abada is drunk]	A1 – 32

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19.	Ne je r' ukpe e mamiwota [Like the mermaid's lamp]	A1 – 33
20.	Ada ovo oro l' omo [It's the outside world that stops a child]	A1 – 34
21.	Eghware ogba ne [The assembly is packed full]	A1 – 34
22.	Mi ne rie [I will go home]	A1 – 35
23.	Havbaren 1 [Specie of mangrove tree]	A1 – 36
24.	Havbaren 2 [Specie of mangrove tree]	A1 – 38
25.	Esiso eyen [A sack of sand]	A1 – 39
26.	Otu irhobo are ateran? [Do you associate with the Itsekiri?]	A1 – 40
27.	Ukiri Emereje [The Mereje ukiri]	A1 – 41
28.	Ogbeghele, Ariemurugbe [Philanthropist, Ariemurugbe]	A1 – 42
29.	Ikun Orichedje rhe Orogho [The story of Orichedje and Orogho]	A1 – 43
30.	Odarie [It hurt him/her]	A1 - 48

THIRD PERIOD (1945 – 1970)

31.	Obora ha ovren rue [What we do with a slave]	A1 – 48
32.	Ami vwo Orodje ne [We now have a king]	A1 – 52
33.	Me tare verhe [I predicted earlier]	A1 – 55
34.	We gbe akpoo [You're not like the world]	A1 – 56
35.	Ogbe afen gbe aramoo [She's neither a bird nor an animal]	A1 – 58
36.	Ohohe otoro [He/she is like a bird]	A1 – 59
37.	Iruo ame irhe ri [The job we've perfected]	A1 – 60
38.	Inuru ame oho [We're fed up with them]	A1 – 62
39.	Ehware o kpe omo [Sex killed a baby]	A1 – 62
40.	Oterhe [Public pond]	A1 – 67
41.	Ame ogodo [The water in the pit]	A1 – 68
42.	Obo wu ruru obi Sapele [What you did at Sapele]	A1 – 70
43.	Obi ehware [Orgasm power]	A1 – 71
44.	Ame ta rien [We advised her]	A1 – 72

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45.	'No j eve? [Would it not be exposed?]	A1 – 77
46.	Ase-Agerhe [Women bend]	A1 – 78
47.	Enyeren son [Wrongful living]	A1 – 82
48.	Onyobru [Mass movement]	A1 – 82
49.	Enana wu ne ruo? [Is this what you would do?]	A1 – 84
50.	Pilo-kesi obo ijoro Okpe [Pillow-case is a great singer]	A1 – 85
51.	Enana oye ororo [These were his considerations]	A1 – 86
52.	Owan ovwo bru udu-u [Let no one be afraid]	A1 - 87
53.	Me vbare otore Ijeddo [I acknowledge the God of Jeddo]	A1 – 88
54.	Irhorin Irhobo [The Itsekiri curse]	A1 – 90
55.	Irhorin Igoru [The Igoru curse]	A1 – 90
56.	Egbukpe re vbe ru [The year we do not farm]	A1 – 91
57.	Aphie omo igbe [A child deceived to dance]	A1 – 93
58.	Ofa ororo me [I was ashamed]	A1 – 94
59.	Oghwara [The impotent/barren]	A1 – 96
60.	Urhieme erhome eki rhom' ode [Good fate and good name]	A1 – 99
61.	Otu ra gbe Ikongo rhe Iboma [Love making with soldiers]	A1 – 101
62.	Igberadja iwwo orhan [Prostitutes had a deity]	A1 – 105
63.	Ikeru iphen ne [Focus had become clearer]	A1 – 109
64.	Eghwere me [My defensive medicine]	A1 – 109
65.	Ikiki of' omo ro hue e [Ikiki deserved not to die]	A1 – 112
66.	Aleluya [Hallelujah]	A1 – 113
67.	Erhomo Aleluya [Hallelujah prayers]	A1 – 116
68.	Uhu Orodje Okpe, Mebitaghan [The death of the king]	A1 – 118
69.	Ame ogbeva [Twice in the rain]	A1 – 125

FOURTH PERIOD (1970 – 2005)

70.	Otu re gba re, joro Orodje [Song of the king]	A1 – 126
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71.	Okakuro Ayomano rhe Orodje [Chief Ayomano & the king]	A1 – 132
72.	Ariromo [Be calm]	A1 – 138
73.	Adama emru [We try things out]	A1 - 140
74.	Orherhe ri se odin [Cricket does not fall odd]	A1 – 140
75.	Ekete oren o' vasa [Where the sun rises]	A1 – 141
76.	Eho ese [The goddess of the stream]	A1 – 143
77.	Ofi or' ukoko ne [It has become cigarette holder]	A1 – 143
78.	Iboma ihin Ikeja [No soldiers in Ikeja]	A1 – 145
79.	Wu se le amee [You can't send us packing]	A1 – 145
80.	Jehware vbo [Stop having sex]	A1 – 148
81.	Ede mi ne vbie omo [The day I'll have a child]	A1 – 148
82.	Emro otu ishoshi [The prophecy of the church]	A1 – 150
83.	Obeme Abada [Abada's abject poverty]	A1 – 151
84.	Rhurhu ubiobiomuo [Hide your ugliness]	A1 – 152
85.	Ti ewun nu oma [Pull off your shirt]	A1 – 156
86.	Otan [Squirrel]	A1 – 157
87.	Otu egboto [Young ladies]	A1 – 157
88.	Synthesis of proverbs in Igoru	A1 – 159

APPENDIX II CONTENT

[Igoru songs: Annexure to chapter 7]

FIRST PERIOD (1170 – 1900)

1.	Ose omo yo ro doro [Father is greater]	A2 – 1
2.	Umogu osiye oghwa [Umogu is at home]	A2 – 3

SECOND PERIOD (1900 – 1945)

3.	Edion gbe simi ame [Edion, protect us]	A2– 5
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4. Emru irimi [Sin against ancestors] A2 – 6
5. Urhomu erhome eki rhom' ode [Good luck and good name] A2 – 18
6. Oka olaragha obuebun [Kinds of vagabond are numerous] A2 – 19
7. We n'obiruo [You're commended] A2 – 21
8. Ona' kpo oben eruo [World's difficult craftsmanship] A2 – 22
9. Abada oda inyo [Abada is drunk] A2 – 31
10. Ada ovo oro l' omo 1 [It's the outside world that stops a child] A2 – 33
11. Ada ovo oro l' omo 2 [It's the outside world that stops a child] A2 – 34
12. Eghware ogba ne [The assembly is packed full] A2 – 35
13. Havbaren [Specie of mangrove tree] A2 – 37
14. Otu irhobo are ateran? [Do you associate with the Itsekiri?] A2 – 38
15. Ogba eghele, Ariemurugbe [Philanthropist, Ariemurugbe] A2 – 41
16. Ikun Orichedje rhe Orogho [The story of Orichedje and Orogho] A2 – 42
17. Oda rie [It hurt him/her] A2 - 47

THIRD PERIOD (1945 – 1970)

18. Me tare verhe 1 [I predicted earlier] A2 – 48
19. Me tare verhe 2 [I predicted earlier] A2 – 49
20. Oterhe [Public pond] A2 – 50
21. Ame ogodo [The water in the pit] A2 – 51
22. Ame ta rien [We advised her] A2 – 53
23. 'No j eve? [Would it not be exposed?] A2 – 59
24. Onyobru 1 [Mass movement] A2 – 63
25. Onyobru 2 [Mass movement] A2 – 64
26. Enana wu ne ruo? 1 [Is this what you would do?] A2 – 73
27. Enana wu ne ruo? 2 [Is this what you would do?] A2 – 74
28. Pilo-kesi obo ijoro Okpe [Pillow-case is a great singer] A2 – 75
29. Enana oye ororo [These were his considerations] A2 – 77

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30.	Owan ovwo bru udu-u [Let no one be afraid]	A2 – 79
31.	Me vbare otore Ijeddo [I acknowledge the God of Jeddo]	A2 – 83
32.	Egbukpe re vbe ru [The year we do not farm]	A2 – 85
33.	Aphie omo igbe [A child deceived to dance]	A2 – 91
34.	Oghwara [The impotent/barren]	A2 – 93
35.	Otu ra gbe Ikongo [Love making with soldiers]	A2 – 103
36.	Erhomo Aleluya [Hallelujah prayers]	A2 – 107
37.	Uhu Orodje Okpe, Mebitaghan [The death of the king]	A2 – 109
38.	Ame ogbeva [Twice in the rain]	A2 – 118

FOURTH PERIOD (1970 – 2005)

39.	Ijoro Orodje [The song of the king]	A2 – 119
40.	Ariromo [Be calm]	A2 – 142
41.	Adama emru [We try things out]	A2 – 144
42.	Orherhe ri se odin [Cricket does not fall odd]	A2 – 145
43.	Iboma ihin Ikeja [No soldiers in Ikeja]	A2 – 146
44.	Ofi ore ukoko ne [It has become cigarette holder]	A2 – 147
45.	Wu se le amee [You can't send us packing]	A2 – 148
46.	Jehware vbo [Stop having sex]	A2 – 156
47.	Ede mi ne vbie omo [The day I'll have a child]	A2 – 157
48.	Ami mevi ugbenu [We're on a mountain]	A2 – 159
49.	Otan [Squirrel]	A2 – 161
50.	Otu egboto [Young ladies]	A2 - 162

Scale system	A2 - 163
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Appendix III: Unstructured research questions	A3 - 1
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APPENDIX IV

Audio CD: Annexure to chapter 6 and 7

List of tracks

- Track 1. Ose omo yo ro doro (Father is greater)
- Track 2. Umogu osiye oghwa (Umogu is at home)
- Track 3. Edion gbe simi ame (Edion, protect us)
- Track 4. Emru irimi (Sin against ancestors)
- Track 5. Urhomu erhome eki rhom' ode (Good luck and good name)
- Track 6. Oka olaragha obuebun (Kinds of vagabond are numerous)
- Track 7. We n'obiruo (You're commended)
- Track 8. Ona'kpo oben eruo (World's difficult craftsmanship)
- Track 9. Abada oda inyo (Abada is drunk)
- Track 10. Ada ovo oro l' omo 1 (It's the outside world that stops a child)
- Track 11. Ada ovo oro l' omo 2 (It's the outside world that stops a child)
- Track 12. Eghware ogba ne (The assembly is packed full)
- Track 13. Havbaren (Specie of mangrove tree)
- Track 14. Otu irhobo are ateran? (Do you associate with the Itsekiri?)
- Track 15. Ogba eghele, Ariemurugbe (Philanthropist, Ariemurugbe)
- Track 16. Ikun Orichedje rhe Orogho (The story of Orichedje and Orogho)
- Track 17. Oda rie (It hurt him/her)
- Track 18. Me tare verhe 1 (I predicted earlier)
- Track 19. Me tare verhe 2 (I predicted earlier)
- Track 20. Oterhe (Public pond)
- Track 21. Ame ogodo (The water in the pit)
- Track 22. *Ame ta rien* and *iboma ihin Ikeja* (We advised her and Ikeja lacked soldiers)
- Track 23. 'No j' eve? (Would it not be exposed?)
- Track 24. Onyobru (Mass movement)

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- Track 25. Enana wu ne ruo? (Is this what you would do?)
Track 26. Pilo-kesi obo ijoro Okpe (Pillow-case is a great Okpe singer)
Track 27. Enana oye ororo (These were his considerations)
Track 28. Ijoro Orodje (The song of the king)
Track 29. Uhu Orodje Okpe, Mebitaghan (The death of the king)
Track 30. Erhomo Aleluya (Hallelujah prayers)
Track 31. Egbukpe re vbe ru (The year we do not farm)
Track 32. Me vbare otore Ijeddo (I acknowledge the God of Jeddo)
Track 33. Out ra gbe Ikongo (Those who make love with soldiers)

List of maps

- Map of Nigeria, showing the States 3 - 2
Map of Delta State, showing the Local Government Areas 3 - 2
Map of Okpe, showing towns and villages 3 - 3

List of tables

- Table 6 – 1: Length of single verse 6 - 93
Table 7 – 1: Selection of tones within Okpe scale system 7 - 4
Table 7 – 2: Frequency and percentage of harmonic intervals 7 - 16
Table 7 – 3: Frequency and percentage of melodic final cadence 7 - 23
Table 7 – 4: Frequency and percentage of cadential position 7 - 27
Table 7 – 5: Frequency and percentage of voice range 7 - 29

List of figures

- Figure 5 – 1: Tree of offices in rural Igoru ensembles 5 - 1
Figure 5 – 2: Organizational structure under Okpe Union 5 - 2
Figure 5 – 3: The structure of *ukiri* 5 - 7
Figure 5 – 4: Approximated size of the baby *ukiri* 5 - 8

Figure 6 – 1: Symbolic communication circle in poetry 6 - 18

List of plates

Plate 2 – 1 Amukeye Okodide (left) and Titi Ovren (right) female ensemble leaders and Esther Eni, member	2 - 68
Plate 3 – 1: Photograph of <i>opha</i> (circumcised lady)	3 - 17
Plate 3 – 2: Cross section of old friends and relations at burial ceremony	3 - 18
Plate 4 – 1: Peter Etalo of Mereje, Igoru performer	4 - 6
Plate 4 – 2: Amereka Emakpo of Okwovu Oduado, Igoru composer	4 - 11
Plate 4 – 3: Idisi Adibo of Onyeke, Igoru musician	4 - 12
Plate 4 – 4: Udogu Michael Olocho	4 - 14
Plate 4 – 5: Egbikume Azano of Ughwoton	4 – 17
Plate 4 – 6: Egbikume Azano and some members of his ensemble	4 – 18
Plate 5 – 1: Omaromwaye John Igbide and ensemble members of Jeddo	5 – 3
Plate 5 – 2 The pedestal <i>ukiri</i>	5 - 6
Plate 5 – 3: Tuning of <i>Ukiri</i>	5 - 9
Plate 5 – 4: The <i>ukiri</i> ensemble	5 - 11
Plate 5 – 5: Igoru performers marking major vocal cadence	5 - 14
Plate 5 – 6: Igoru dance performers at Ughwoton	5 - 15