

Cover painting: *The Future of Accra*,
© 2005 Bright Dankyi Mensah, Accra

DVD Paintings © 2009 Nicholas Wayo, Accra

DVD Postproduction Sound: Peter Fineberg

DVD Editing and Mastering: Jeremiah Ra Richards

DVD Duplication: Desoto Productions

Design: Michael Motley, Santa Fe

**RELATED ACCRA TRANE STATION
CD RECORDINGS ON VOXLOX:**

- *Accra Trane Station: Tribute to A Love Supreme* (2005)
- *Accra Trane Station: Meditations for John Coltrane* (2006)
- *Accra Trane Station: Another Blue Train* (2007)
- *Topographies of the Dark* (2008)

Sculptural paintings by Virginia Ryan with sound
improvisations by Nii Noi Nortey, Nii Otoo Annan,
Steven Feld, Alex Coke, Jefferson Voorhees.

**RELATED CD RECORDINGS BY
THE LA DRIVERS UNION POR POR GROUP:**

- *Por Por: Honk Horn Music of Ghana*
Smithsonian Folkways (2007)
- *Klebo!: Honk Horn Music from Ghana*
VoxLox (2009)



WWW.VOXLOX.NET

WWW.MONTAGEVIDEOPRODUCTION.COM

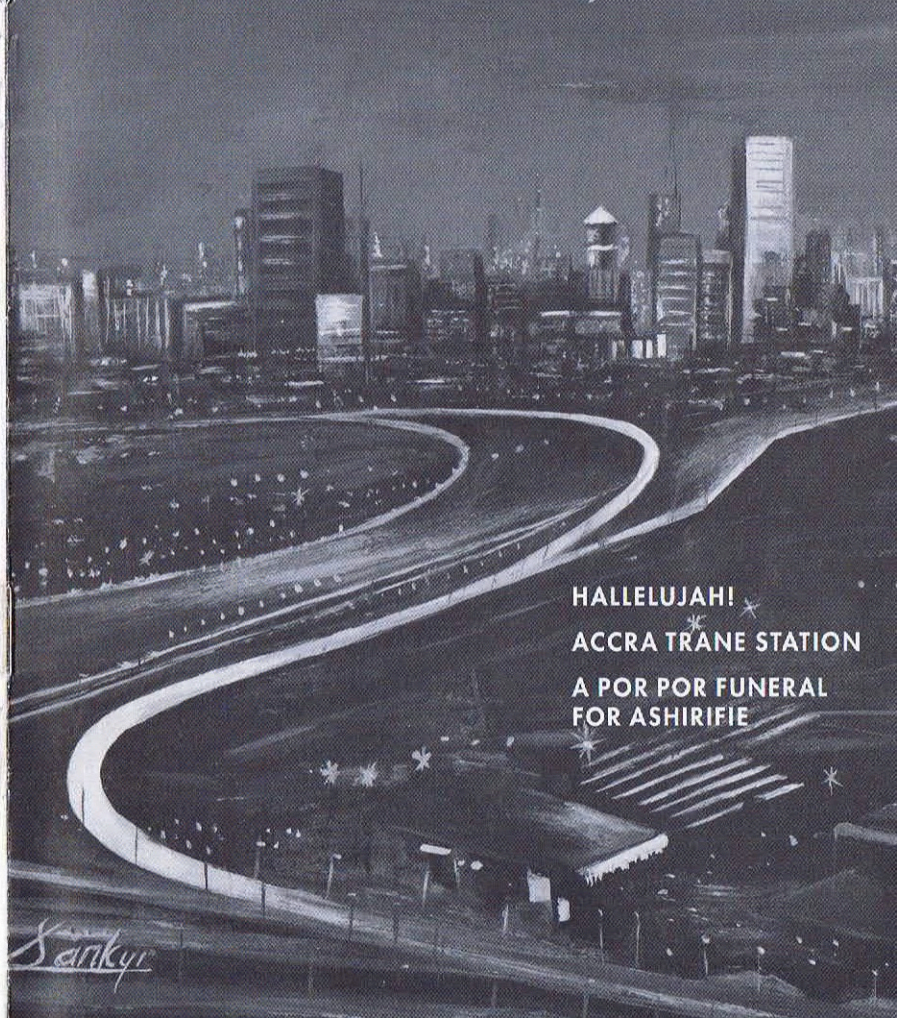
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VOXLOX 209

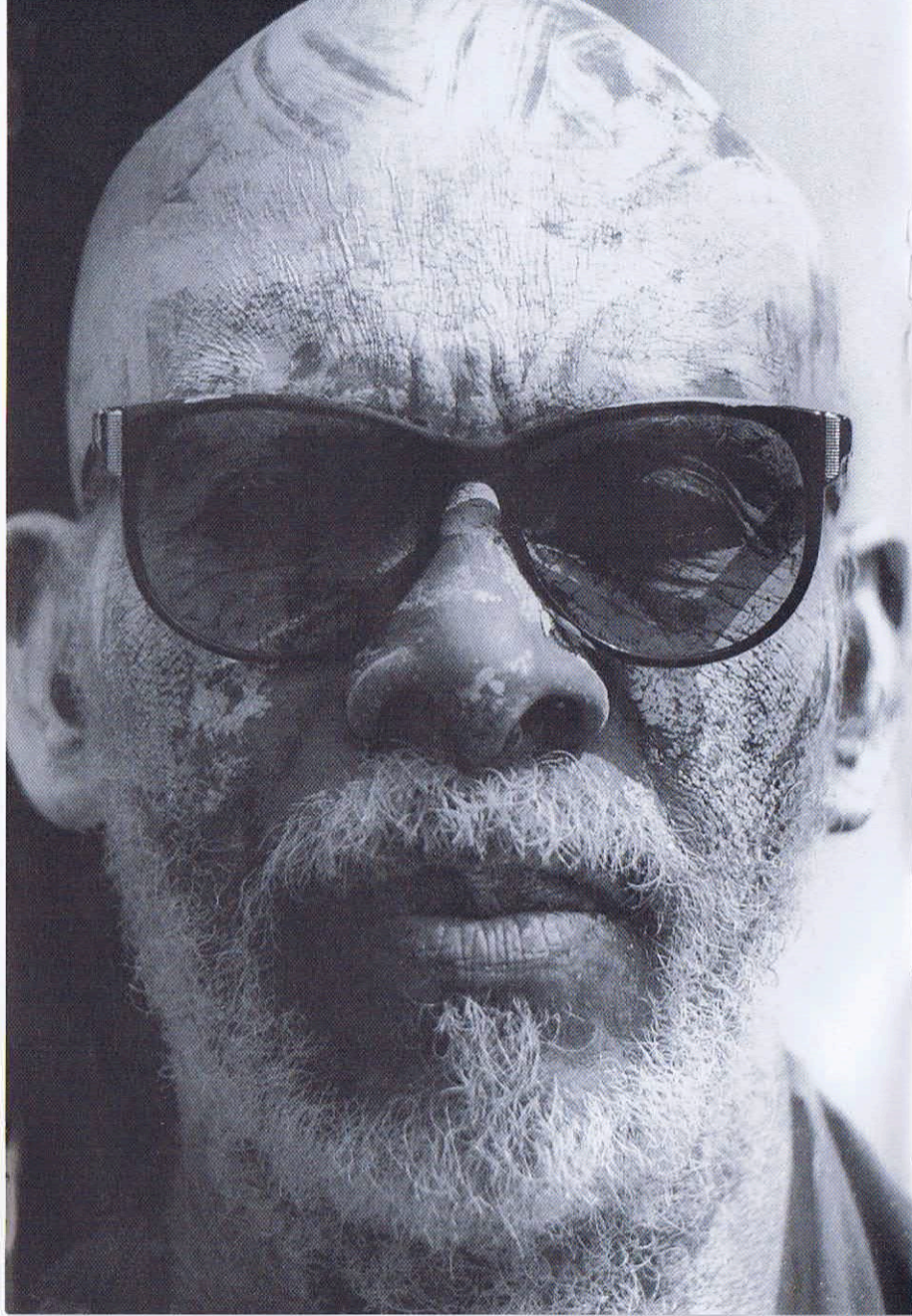
Jazz

Cosmopolitanism in Accra, Ghana



HALLELUJAH!
ACCRA TRANE STATION
A POR POR FUNERAL
FOR ASHIRIFIE

Sankyi



Hallelujah!

Filed in 2005, **Hallelujah!** presents an African talking drums version of Georg Friedrich Händel's Hallelujah chorus, as staged and performed by legendary drummer Ghanaba together with the Winneba Youth Choir. Ghanaba's unique approach to Händel mixes elements of African, Christian, and Islamic ritual with formal European concert performance, Ghanaian ceremony, and improvisation. The performance, filmed in a single continuous shot at Ghanaba's request, and framed by his introductory remarks, is followed by a feedback conversation, filmed in 2007, discussing the place of African, jazz, European, and "world" musics in his career. One hundred historical photographs appear in this section as well. The film was launched in Ghana by the Goethe Institut on Ghanaba's 85th birthday, May, 4, 2008, to honor one of the country's best known musicians. He passed away on December 22, 2008.

SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

- 01 Performance
- 02 Conversation

Producer and Video: Steven Feld

Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards

Location Sound: Nana Agazi

Still Photographs and Associate Producer: Nii Yemo Nunu

Archival images courtesy African Heritage Library



Accra Trane Station: The Music and Art of Nii Noi Nortey

This film distills three years of conversations, 2005-2008, with Nii Noi Nortey, the Ghanaian sculptor, instrument inventor, and avant-garde instrumentalist. Nortey discusses the African legacy of John Coltrane, and how it inspired invention of his afrifone instruments, and a series of twenty Accra Trane Station sculptures. The film also features Accra Trane Station percussionist Nii Otoo Annan. Included are scenes of Nortey creating sculptures and Accra Trane Station rehearsing, recording, and performing in Ghana and the USA.

SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

- 01 Introduction, the Accra Trane Station sound sculptures
- 02 Afrifones, Nii Otoo Annan
- 03 Making the Por Por trotro sculpture
- 04 Instruments
- 05 A Love Supreme
- 06 Anyaa Arts Library
- 07 Ghanaba
- 08 Music, art, and politics

Producer and Video (Accra): Steven Feld

Video (USA) and Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards

Location Sound: Nana Agazi, Steven Feld

BONUS FILM ON SAME DVD: From Accra to Santa Fe

Live studio sessions for the CD *Topographies of the Dark*; Nii Noi Nortey and Nii Otoo Annan with Steven Feld, Alex Coke, and Jefferson Voorhees. Filmed in August 2007 at Fourth World Studios, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



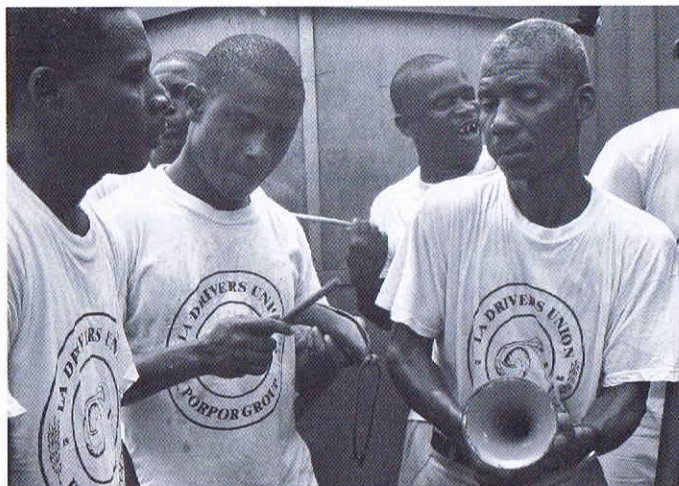
SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

- 01 Mood Duke/Kpele Lala
- 02 Black Heat

Video and Editing:
Jeremiah Ra Richards

Top, left: Nii Noi Nortey with Africa Brass, 2006

Left: Nii Noi Nortey with Afrifones, 2005



A Por Por Funeral for Ashirifie

Por Por music (pronounced “paw paw”) is named for the honking sound of antique squeeze-bulb car horns, ubiquitous on the wooden lorries of Ghana’s early transport history. After electric horns arrived in West Africa, these obsolete signaling instruments virtually disappeared. But a union of bus and truck drivers in the Accra township of La kept the *por por* horns and invented a jazzy honking music adding bells, drums, and voices. The La drivers only perform *Por Por* at funerals of their fellow union transport workers, and their music has gone largely unnoticed until recently. In March 2008 the La Drivers Union Por Por Group lost one of its key members, Nelson Ashirifie Mensah. This film documents the funeral performed in his memory and discusses *Por Por*’s relation to the New Orleans jazz funeral.



SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 01 Titles, Ashirifie performs with Por Por in 2005 | 06 Funeral processions |
| 02 Musical condolences, part 1 | 07 Wake, part 1 |
| 03 Musical condolences, part 2 | 08 Wake, part 2 |
| 04 Going to the mortuary | 09 Funeral, part 1 |
| 05 At the mortuary | 10 Funeral, part 2 |
| | 11 Procession and cemetery |
| | 12 Por Por and New Orleans |

Producers: Steven Feld and Nii Yemo Nunu
Video and Sound: Steven Feld
Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards

*Left: Ashirifie honking in 2007 with the Por Por band
Right: Honking for President Obama in Accra, 2009*