# **AFRICAN MUSIC**

### JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY OF AFRICAN MUSIC



### JOURNAL DE LA DISCOTHÈQUE INTERNATIONAL DE MUSIQUE AFRICAINE

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#### COVER ILLUSTRATION

"Visual African music", a Luchazi ideograph as drawn in the sand of the *ndzango* men's meeting house, which can be seen as paralleling some of the formal elements of African music such as a cycle number (24), the interlocking technique for combining parts, and optical puzzle effects (inherent patterns), reproduced from the book by Gerhard Kubik which is to appear in early 1984, "*Tusona* – Luchazi ideographs; a graphic tradition as practised by a people of West Central Africa". This *kasona* is called *Vamphulu* (gnus) and was drawn by the late Chief Mwangana Kalunga at Chikenge, N.W.Province, Zambia in 1973. This is the Luchazi text associated with it:

Ndzita yezile muchifuti. Kaha ngwavo ineza mukutsiha vantu. Kaha vatinine kumusenge. Kaha muvevwa Mbi! Ngwavo vuta vene ovwo. Kaha ndzo, ou ngweni: "Vika?" Ngweni: "Njinevu mbi!" "Ove unevu mbi?" "Ee". Ngweni: "Angecho njinevu, iii! Ngweha vantu". Ou ngweni: "Vantu?" Ngweny': "Ee". "He! Tutitenyu vovo vene vakwanakutsiha vantu". Kaha mwatu, hoho havatininine. Kaha vatinina mumusenge, vakayoya. (War came to the country. So they (the gnus) said, it has come to kill people. And they ran away into the forest. When they heard the sound mbi they said, That is surely a gun! So then one of them said: "What is this?" The other replied: "I have heard mbi". "You have heard mbi?" "Yes". The third one said: "Me too, I have heard it, terrible! It is like people". And this one here said: "People?" The other one replied; "Yes". "Hey, let us run away, over there they are just killing people!" Then they were off, scattered, in a moment they had run away. So they fled into the forest and survived.)

Apart from drawing attention to the possible synaesthetic interest of this kasona, Gerhard Kubik also comments on the apt symbolism for today in this contemporary world of wars: the gnus survive by running away from man into the forest. The publisher is Verlag E. Stiglmayr, Wienerstrasse 141, A-2833 Fohrenau, Austria.

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