

FESTAC '77

Source: *The Black Perspective in Music*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Spring, 1977), pp. 104-117

Published by: Professor J. Southern (Managing Editor-Publisher)

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1214362>

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## In Retrospect:

### FESTAC '77

**T**HOUSANDS OF AFRICANS and persons of African descent converged upon Lagos, Nigeria, during the period 15 January–12 February 1977 to participate in a mammoth festival of arts and culture. Called FESTAC, this Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture followed upon the first—which was staged in Dakar, Senegal—by eleven years. During the intervening years since 1966, most of black Africa had freed itself from the shackles of colonialism, and each of the proud African nations sent to Lagos its best artists, writers, and scholars, there to perform and to interact with one another and with those of the Africa Diaspora.

After the spectacular opening-day ceremonies, each day brought a continuous round of events, beginning as early as 9:00 a.m. and lasting until midnight or later. These included such diverse activities as concerts, ballet, drama, films, poetry readings, lectures, and fashion shows, which were enacted in four “venues”—the new national theater, the national stadium, Tafawa Balewa Square, and Lagos City Hall. In addition, the Festival included numerous exhibitions of painting and sculpture, of books, crafts, science and technology, etc. Among the spectacular attractions were the three-day Regatta—involving more than 200 boats and hundreds of dancers, boatmen, and warriors on Victoria Lake in Lagos—and a two-day Durbar, performed in northern Nigeria at Kaduna by 400 or more horsemen and camel riders.

Nigeria had stated that the “heart” of the Festival would be the Colloquium, and this proved to be true. For two weeks, 17–30 January, more than 200 of the leading black scholars of the world gathered each day to read papers, engage in debate, and prepare reports on the following themes: (1) Arts and Pedagogy, (2) Languages and Literature, (3) Philosophy and Religion, (4) Historical Awareness, and (5) Science and Technology. The principle objectives of the Festival were to provide a forum for the focusing of attention on the enormous richness and diversity of African contributions to world culture and the “opportunity for recounting the achievements of [their] ancestors” (quoted from Lt.-General Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of the Federal Military Government and Patron of FESTAC, in *Africa*, No. 65 [January 1977], p. 6 FESTAC). Certainly the Festival attained its goals! One observer said, “There is now renewed hope. The essential thing is

that black people have been brought together; no one will leave here and not think seriously about important questions. This cultural festival has made us *aware*, and given us the opportunity to design a functional agenda for finishing up the century."

Nigeria left no stone unturned to insure that the celebration should be a success. There were about 1700 participants, according to a press release, representing some sixty nations, and all were "guests" of the government. Nigeria spent over three billion dollars to stage the festival and to provide for its guests lodging, food, entertainment, transportation, and every other conceivable comfort. Special "festival villages" were built in Lagos and Kaduna to house the performers, and hotels were taken over for the scholars and visiting dignitaries.


For musicians, the highlights of FESTAC '77 were the numerous concerts and a music meeting held on 29 January 1977 under the leadership of Akin Euba (University of Ife, Nigeria), Director of Music Events for Nigeria's participation in FESTAC. Among the university professors of music present were Samuel Akpobot (University of Lagos, Nigeria), Abdourahmane Diop (Conservatory of Music and Art, Dakar, Senegal), Ian Hall (University of London), S. Mbari Katana (Makere University, Uganda), Paul Kavya (University of Nairobi, Kenya), Mwesa Mapoma (University of Zambia), J. Kwabena Nketia (University of Ghana), Mosunmola Omibiyi (University of Lagos, Nigeria), Jean Joseph Rang (University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast), and Eileen Southern (Harvard University, USA). Others present included Fotu Denton (Director, Lagos State Ministry of Education—Art and Culture), Toronaiko Arnault (Director, Ministry of Art and Culture, Madagascar), instrumentalists, singers, public school teachers, and graduate students of music. After calling the meeting to order and explaining its purpose, Professor Euba asked Professor Nketia to serve as chairman. For more than two hours the international gathering of musicians and musicologists discussed matters of mutual concern and explored ways of improving musical activities among Africans, both on the continent and of the Diaspora. Simultaneous translation into French/English was provided for the benefit of those present who spoke only one language.

[Editor]



**festac '77**

spotlight



**festac '77**

**15 JAN - 12 FEB 1977**

**GENERAL PROGRAMME** 50k

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 1977

VENUES	HOURS	DISCIPLINES	TITLE
NATIONAL THEATRE MAIN HALL	4-6 P.M.	DRAMA	LE COMBAT DE MBOMBE (GABON)
	8-11 P.M.	MUSIC	NATIONAL ENSEMBLE CONCERT (NIGERIA)
NATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE HALL	4-6 P.M.		COLLOQUIUM
	8-11 P.M.		COLLOQUIUM
NATIONAL THEATRE CINEMA HALL I	4-7 P.M.	CINEMA	(1) UJIMA: MODUPE AND THE FLOOD (2) KWANZA ) (3) LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN (4) FROM THESE ROOTS ) U.S.A.
	9 P.M.-12	CINEMA	(1) GREEN LIGHT (LYBIA) (2) GHADAMES
	9-12 NOON		
NATIONAL THEATRE CINEMA HALL II	4-7 P.M.	CINEMA	(1) NSOMBO MALIMBA (2) MAKISHI (3) AFRICAN HERITAGE ZAMBIA (4) DISLOCATION OF AMBER (SUDAN)
	9 P.M.-12	CINEMA	(1) COOLEY HIGH (USA) (2) CLASS UNDER A TREE (SWAZILAND) (3) CERTIFICATE CEREMONY
NATIONAL STADIUM SPORTS HALL	4-6 P.M.	MUSIC	SYLI ORCHESTRA (GUINEA)
	8 P.M.-12	DANCE	(1) CLYDE MORGAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE (BRAZIL) (2) GHANA CONTEMPORARY DANCE (GHANA)
TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE	4-6 P.M.	MUSIC	ORCHESTRE NATIONAL CENTRAFRICAINE (CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE)
	8 P.M.-12	DANCE	(1) TRADITIONAL DANCE (UPPER VOLTA) (2) MALI TRADITIONAL DANCE (MALI)
NATIONAL STADIUM BASKET BALL	8-11 P.M.	DRAMA	(1) HAND IN THE GATE ) (2) AS ADAM EARLY IN THE MORNING ) USA
LAGOS CITY HALL	8-11 P.M.	POPULAR DRESSING/MUSIC	

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 1977

VENUES	HOURS	DISCIPLINE	TITLE
NATIONAL THEATRE MAIN HALL	4-6 P.M.	DRAMA	BETRAYAL IN THE CITY (KENYA)
	8-11 P.M.	DANCE	1 - GHANA FESTIVAL DANCE COMPANY (GHANA) 2 - BALLET NATIONAL DU ZAIRE (ZAIRE)
NATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE HALL	4-6 P.M.		COLLOQUIUM
	8-11 P.M.		COLLOQUIUM
NATIONAL THEATRE CINEMA HALL I	4-7 P.M.	CINEMA	1 - LES MAITRES ARTISANS DE GUINEE 3 - LES TERMITES 2 - AU PIED DU MONT NIMBA (GUINEA) 4 - L'HOMME ET LE SERPENT (GUINEA) 5 - GHADAMES (LIBYA)
	9 P.M. - 12	CINEMA	LE CORPS ET L'ESPRIT (CONGO)
NATIONAL THEATRE CINEMA HALL II	9-12 NOON	LITERATURE	SWAZILAND NIGER, NIGERIA, CANADA, GHANA, CUBA, MOROCCO, CONGO, SOMALIA
	4-7 P.M.	CINEMA	1 - ETHIOPIA RISES (ETHIOPIA) 2 - THE NEW SCHOOL (CUBA)
	9 P.M. - 12	CINEMA	1 - UP TOWN SATURDAY NIGHT (USA) 2 - ART OF THE PEOPLE (CUBA)
NATIONAL STADIUM SPORTS HALL	4-6 P.M.	MUSIC	1 CHORAL E.P.C. EDEA (CAMEROUN) 3 - LOUVENIA CARROLL SINGERS (USA) 2 - ANNE MARIE N'ZIE (CAMEROUN)
	8 P.M. - 12	DANCE	1 - TRADITIONNELLES DANSES (IVORY COAST) 2 - DETROIT CITY DANCE C° (USA) 3 - LES SEGATIERES (MAURITIUS)
TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE	4-6 P.M.	MUSIC	ORCHESTRE NATIONAL CONGOLAIS (CONGO)
	8 P.M. - 12	DANCE	BALLET (BARBADOS) 2 - DANCE GROUP (JAMAICA) 3 - DANCE GROUP (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)
NATIONAL STADIUM BASKET-BALL	8-11 P.M.	DRAMA	DAHOMEY'S DANCE (USA)

**FESTAC '77**

**Concert of Nigerian Music**  
**in**  
**Contemporary Idiom**

ON

*Sunday, January 23, 1977 at 8.00 p.m.*





# **GENERAL COLLOQUIUM PROGRAMME**

**NATIONAL THEATRE  
IGANMU  
LAGOS - NIGERIA**

### STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FESTIVAL COLLOQUIUM

Organization of the Colloquium Activities: The Colloquium will be divided into plenary sessions and discussion groups. There will be a total of 10 groups corresponding to the 10 Sub-themes of the Colloquium. These 10 groups will be divided into 5 Working Parties, a Working Party to 2 Sub-themes, thus:

Working Party	Sub-theme	Venue
I	Arts and Pedagogy	Venue I (Conference Hall)
II	Languages and Literature	Venue II
III	Philosophy and Religion	Venue III
IV	Historical Awareness & African Governments	Venue IV
V	Science and Technology and Mass Media	Venue V

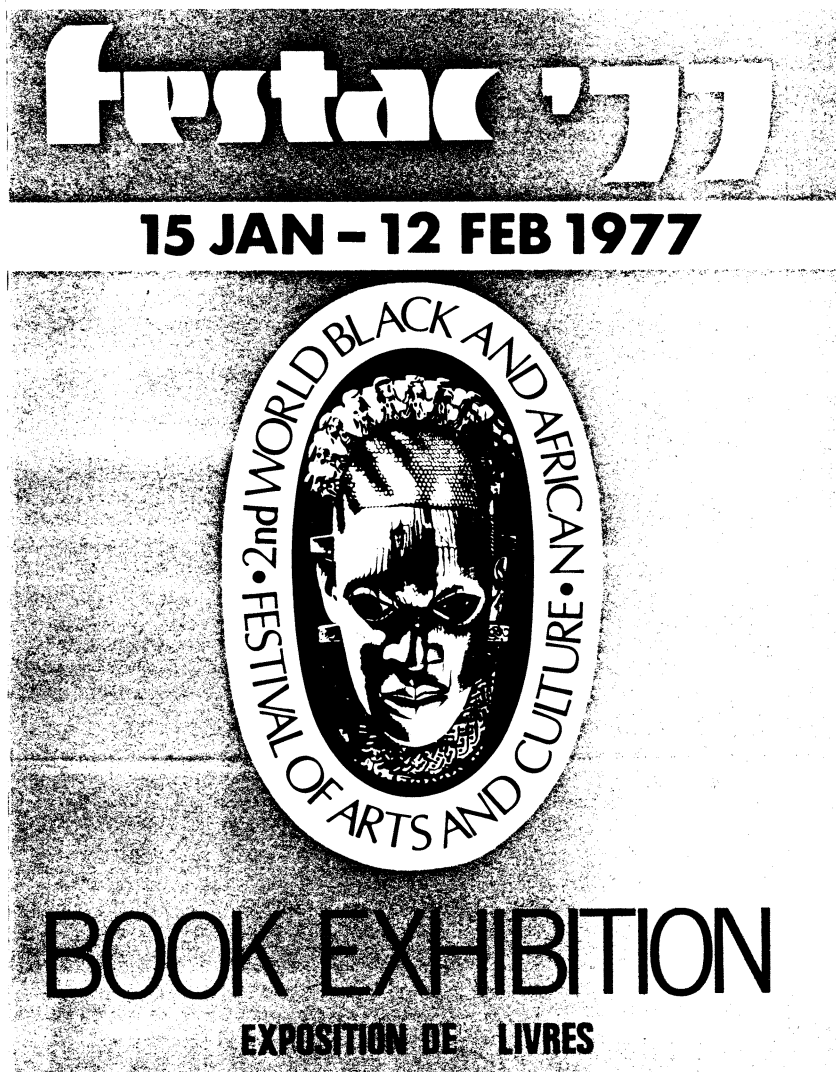
#### Time-Table

- Each Working Party will have a total of 21 hours 30 mins. for its working sessions.
- The Reporting sessions of each working party will take 7 hours 30 mins.
- The Discussions of the Reports in plenary Sessions will take 11 hours.
- A full day will be devoted to the preparation of a final Report.
- This Report will be discussed in Plenary Session in 7 hours.
- The Closing Session will be prepared in 3 hours 30 mins. and will last 2 hours.
- In addition there will be 11 public lectures on Colloquium Theme and Sub-themes, details of which will be made available at Registration on Sunday 16th January, 1977.

## DETAILED TIME-TABLE

## WORKING GROUP I: BLACK CIVILIZATION, THE ARTS AND PEDAGOGY

DATE	TIME	VENUE	SPEAKERS AND COUNTRY	TOPIC
Tuesday 18 Jan. 1977	15.00 - 18.30	Venue I	1. C. BAKER (UK) 2. S. F. GALEVO (GHANA) 3. KUFIMBA, NEHWINE, GWETE (ZAIRA) 4. L. E. MITCHELL (GHANA) 5. A. K. QUARCCO (GHANA)	Black Civilization and the Arts in general
Wednesday 19 Jan. 1977	10 <sup>h</sup> 30 - 13.00	Venue I	1. F. GADAMU (ETHIOPIA) 2. T.M. MAZINGA-KALYANKOLO (UGANDA) 3. D. NWOKO (NIGERIA) 4. G. KAKOOZA (UGANDA) 5. C.P. VALLANDARES (BRAZIL) 6. S. WOLDE (ETHIOPIA)	Aesthetics and History of Art.
	15.00 - 18.30	Venue I	1. J. ADEDEJI (NIGERIA) 2. L.E. EKWUEME (NIGERIA) 3. F. FOUCHÉ (CANADA) 4. P.N. KAVYU (KENYA) 5. L.M. KOLENCE (ZAIRE) 6. A. MENSAH (GHANA) 7. M. NZEWI (NIGERIA) 8. E. SOUTHERN (USA)	Music and the
Thursday 20 Jan. 1977	10.30 - 13.00	Venue I	SYMPOSIUM for all working group I	Problems concerning the African Artist.
	15.00 - 18.30	Venue I	1. T. AKA, T. SEMITIANI, Y. FOFANA, G. TAPE, P. N'DA (IVORY COAST) 2. A. FAJANA (NIGERIA) 7. G. MAMBA (SWAZILAND) 3. G. GRAH (IVORY COAST) 8. B. MOORE (LIBERIA) 4. F. INDIKE (KENYA) 9. H. MWAMZI (KENYA) 5. O. JAH (GAMBIA) 10. E. NANSENE, N. GOTOAS-NOUZON (C.A. EMP.) 6. W. KAMERA (TANZANIA) 11. E. SAWYERR (SIERRA-LEONE) 12. C. TALWO (NIGERIA)	Traditional Education
Friday 21 Jan. 1977	10.30 - 13.00	Venue I	1. B. GOORDYAL (MAURITIUS) 2. A. ISHUMI (TANZANIA) 3. H. KAMANGA (ZAMBIA) 4. I. MATSHOKO, K. KALEMBA-VITA M. MBODI (ZAIRA) 5. S. NWOSU (NIGERIA) 6. N. UKA (NIGERIA) 7. C. YEKEYE (USA) 8. A.D.B. HENRIES (LIBERIA)	Problems of Modern Education
	15.00 - 18.30	Venue I	1. M. BESHIR (SUDAN) 2. A. FAFUNWA (NIGERIA) 3. E. JONES (SIERRA-LEONE) 4. M. MARTIN (USA) 5. S. MBARI-KATANA (UGANDA) 6. T. MBUAGAW (CAMEROON) 7. A. OLABIMTAN (NIGERIA) 8. D. SIFUNA (KENYA)	Africanisa- tion of the School System
Saturday 22 Jan. 1977	10.30 - 18.30	Venue I	SYMPOSIUM for all Working Group I	Curriculum Development; Theory, Proce- dures and imple- mentation.
		Venue I	SYMPOSIUM for all Group I	African Art and African Education for the future.
Sunday 23 Jan. 1977	10.30 - 13.00	Venue I	Rapporteur and Moderators of Working Group I	Preparation of Working Group I Report.
	16.00 - 18.00	Venue I	-do-	-do-
	9.30 - 13.00	Venue I	-do-	Final Preparation of the Working Group I Report
Monday 24 Jan. 1977	15.00 - 17.00	Conf. Hall	PLENARY SESSION	Adoption of the Working Group I Report





*The New National Theater*



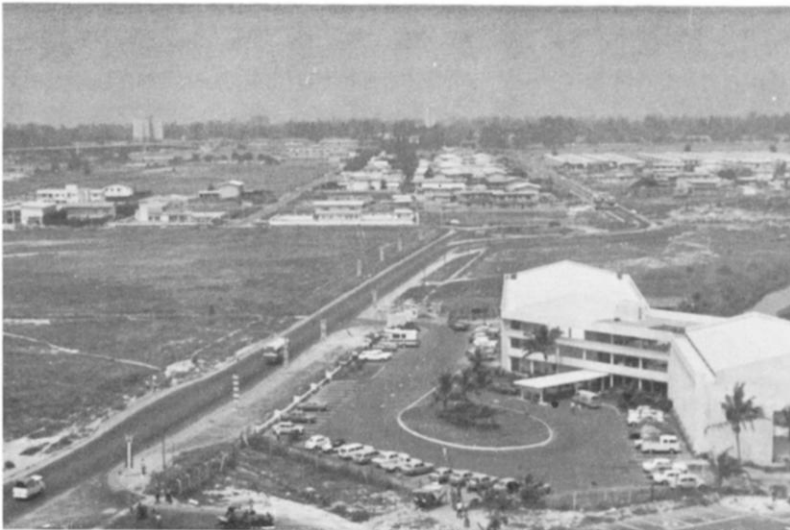
*Tafawa Balewa Square with FESTAC decorations*



*Festival Village – USA Buildings*



*FESTAC Chauffeur and Bus*



*Eko Hotel*