

# The Hatsiatsia

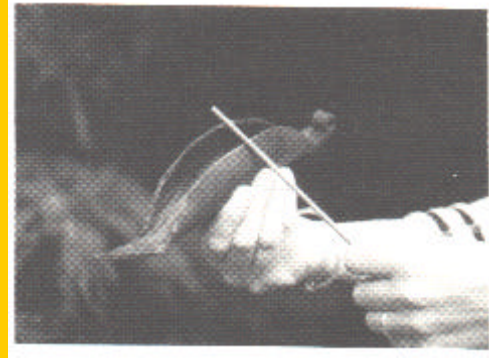
The Hatsiatsia (pronounced Hat-cha-cha) is a traditional piece of music from Ghana which is played by four bells of different shapes and sizes. The music for Hatsiatsia is played as part of a ceremony that also involves dancing and singing.

The Hatsiatsia ceremony is often part of the meetings which are held in Accra (the capital of Ghana) on the first Sunday of each month. Groups from different villages - some of them hundreds of miles from Accra - will meet to dance, sing, swap gossip and news, celebrate their traditional culture and collect money which may be used for something their home village needs, like a new well.

Hatsiatsia is performed by the people of the Ewe tribe (pronounced Eh-vay). The Ewe are the main people from the south east of Ghana. Everyone takes part. Perhaps 100 people or more form a large circle, often around a tree that provides shade from the hot sun. A bucket of water is blessed and placed just inside the circle. A slow, shuffling dance step gradually takes everyone past the bucket and people dip their hands or a handkerchief into it, wiping their faces with the water. Sometimes someone will rush up to the bucket, cup their hands, scoop the water and throw it over as many people as possible. This ceremony is a chance to forgive and forget all the arguments you have had with friends and family during the last month - they are washed away. The music is played on two types of metal bell. The bells are quite heavy and are made from iron.



This is a double bell called the **Gankogui** (pronounced gang-cog-



This is a single bell called the **Atoke** (a-toe-kay). It is played with a metal

Answer questions in full sentences

1. Where is the Hatsiatsia from?
2. Where would we hear the music for Hatsiatsia?
3. The Hatsiatsia ceremony is held where?
4. What things would people do at the Hatsiatsia ceremony?
5. Why is the bucket of water important at a Hatsiatsia ceremony?
6. What is a gankogui?
7. What is an atoke?
8. Draw a picture of the two bells.