

da ancestral forefather Kintu and his wife Nambi.⁷⁷ In some traditions he is the first kabaka (king) of Buganda; in others a later individual named Kato Ruhuuga took on Kintu's name and became the first kabaka. In the absence of relevant written documentation until the second half of the nineteenth century, some scholars have estimated generations backward and dated the origins of the Buganda kingdom to Kabaka Kintu in the early fourteenth century CE. The oldest of the royal instruments, a pair of drums that formed the nucleus of the Kawuugulu set, are believed to date back to at least this first king. It was during the reign of the ninth king, Kabaka Mulondo, that the full six-drum Kawuugulu set emerged.⁷⁸

The kingship of Buganda had major repercussions for the modern nation of Uganda. The Uganda Agreement of 1900 established British colonial rule and British indirect rule via the kabaka of Buganda and his chiefs. British administrators appointed Baganda chiefs to govern other areas of Uganda, which gave the Baganda a privileged status. Due to arbitrary colonial boundaries, Uganda encompasses the relatively centralized Bantu kingdoms in the predominantly Christian south, where there is greater urbanization, as well as the unrelated Nilotic and Sudanic peoples who live in the predominantly Muslim north.

When Uganda gained independence in 1962, it was ruled by prime minister Milton Obote along with the thirty-fifth kabaka, Muteesa II, as a ceremonial president. In 1966 Obote's army, led by Colonel Idi Amin, attacked the kabaka's palace (called Lubiri) located in the Mengo suburb of the capital Kampala, forcing the king and others to flee. The army occupied the palace and destroyed instruments and other symbols of the kabaka's rule. In 1967 a new constitution abolished the traditional kingdoms of Buganda, Ankole, Bunyoro, Busoga, and Toro. Idi Amin ousted Obote in a military coup in 1971 and notoriously expelled tens of thousands of South Asian residents and immigrants. Buganda royal court music was not heard again until 1993, when the Buganda kingship was restored, with Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II as the thirty-sixth kabaka.⁷⁹ English and Swahili are official national languages in Uganda.

The Buganda royal court has a rich history with a variety of music ensembles. Just to give a sense of the diversity of music patronized by the court, here

is a list of ensembles and solo instruments associated with it.⁸⁰

- ✧ Entamiivu ensemble (six drums and twelve-key amadinda xylophone)
- ✧ Akadinda (twenty-four-key xylophone)
- ✧ Kawuugulu (set of six drums)
- ✧ Mujaguzo (drums of kingship)
- ✧ Emibala (praise drums of the king)
- ✧ Amaggunju (dance drums)
- ✧ Entenga (tuned drum/drum-chime ensemble)
- ✧ Lyre (endongo)
- ✧ Harp (enanga)
- ✧ Fiddle (endingidi)
- ✧ Flute (ndere)
- ✧ Side-blown trumpet (amakondere)
- ✧ Abalere (flute and drum ensemble)
- ✧ Abadongo (fiddle, flute, and lyre ensemble)

In the mid-1960s, just before the palace was attacked, there were 315 drummers employed by the kabaka's government. During this time there was a rich musical life around the palace. Musicians lived within the royal enclosure, and there were several daily performances, not only to entertain the kabaka, but also to let the public know that he was present in the palace.⁸¹

XYLOPHONE AND DRUM ENSEMBLE (ENTAMIIVU)

The xylophone that we will examine closely has



An akadinda (similar to an amadinda, but with more slats).