

Music to the Contemporary African

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ABSTRACT Music is a phenomenon which accomplishes purposes in the lives of individuals or group of individuals. Africa has had remarkable pressures from foreign administrative invasions, social interactions, mass media, new curricular in formal education, alien religions, new job opportunities, and emerging technologies leading to some changes in the lives of individuals and indeed the entire society. The rate of change in music is directly proportional to the amount of pressure, level of resistance and the similarity of ideas being proposed. Since musical taste is individualistic, it is difficult to have everybody in the society to accept new ideas at the same rate. Besides this, sometimes, new music types in the society are additions to existing repertoires and not replacements; leading to pluralist existence of concepts, utility and types/typologies of music in contemporary Africa. Music as a living corporate part of the society, cannot, but adapt to some of these changes so as to retain its usefulness in the scheme of human priorities. While conservatism does not encourage speedy propagation of African musical heritage to the wider world, issues of adaptation should be carefully visited in order to retain African identities in contemporary situations.