

TUE TUE

traditional singing game from Ghana

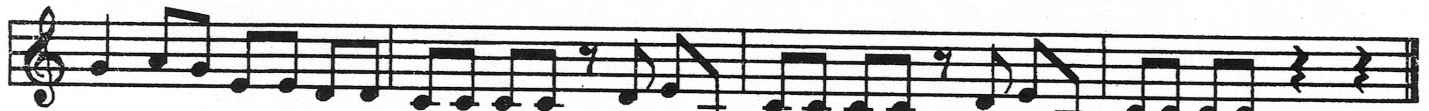
Although originating in Ghana as a game played during harvest festivals, there are many different versions of this terrific game-song, as it has been sung and played by people of diverse cultural backgrounds. The word "barima" is sometimes "marimma"; instead of "ariba", some sing "barima" or other words; some versions simply sing "la la la" for the last half. The words are a combination of more than one language from Ghana: (Hausa, Twi and Akan) as well as changed words adapted by people who did not speak these languages. According to Paul Ofori-Ansah in the FolkLife Program booklet from the '76 Summer Festival of American FolkLife from the Smithsonian Institution, the game is played during harvest festivals and is basically an expression of gratitude to the Supreme Being for providing delicious food, health and well-being. Because of the difficulty in obtaining "correct" words and spellings, the words are spelled phonetically here. Try this game with adults as well as kids — everyone will love it!



Tu - e tu - e ba - ri - ma tu - e tu - e (clap) (clap) tu - e tu - e ba - ri - ma



tu - e tu - e Am - ba - sa - da a - ma da - wa da - wa tu - e tu - e am - ba - sa -



da a - ma da - wa da - wa tu - e tu - e A - ri - ba tu - e tu - e a - ri - ba tu - e tu - e (clap)(clap)

"Tue Tue" is a noncompetitive, communal clapping and singing game with many variations. Here is one way to play:

Stand in a circle. As everyone sings, follow these motions:

- pat knees 2 times,
- clap own hands 2 times,
- clap neighbor's (or "partner's") hands 2 times,
- clap own hands 2 times,
- clap other neighbor's (or "corner's") hands 2 times,
- back to own 2 times, etc.

Then begin to move around the circle, taking small steps (side-step, close, side-step, close, etc.) to the beat as you continue to follow the clapping pattern above.

One can add more complexity by playing this in concentric circles, moving in opposite directions!

One version (which would not be done in Ghana) adds singing this as a 2 (or more) part round as you clap and move around the circle. It can also be played as a rock passing game. An exciting version has two children holding long bamboo poles: while everyone sings, they tap the poles flat down on the ground twice then up in the air twice while individual children take turns jumping or dancing between the poles when open on the ground, then getting out in time before they close!