Cover painting: The Future of Accra,
© 2005 Bright Dankyi Mensah, Accra
DVD Paintings © 2009 Nicholas Wayo, Accra
DVD Postproduction Sound: Peter Fineberg
DVD Editing and Mastering: Jeremiah Ra Richards
DVD Duplication: Desoto Productions
Design: Michael Motley

RELATED ACCRA TRANE STATION
CD RECORDINGS ON VOXLOX:
- Accra Trane Station: Tribute to A Love Supreme (2005)
- Accra Trane Station: Another Blue Train (2007)
- Topographies of the Dark (2008)
  Sculptural paintings by Virginia Ryan with sound
  improvisations by Nii Noi Nortey, Nii Otoo Annan,
  Steven Feld, Alex Coke, Jefferson Voorhees.

RELATED CD RECORDINGS BY
THE LA DRIVERS UNION POR POR GROUP:
- Por Por: Honk Horn Music of Ghana
  Smithsonian Folkways (2007)
- Klebol: Honk Horn Music from Ghana
  VoxLox (2009)
Hallelujah!

Filmed in 2005, Hallelujah! presents an African talking drums version of Georg Friedrich Händel’s Hallelujah chorus, as staged and performed by legendary drummer Ghanaba together with the Winneba Youth Choir. Ghanaba’s unique approach to Händel mixes elements of African, Christian, and Islamic ritual with formal European concert performance, Ghanaian ceremony, and improvisation. The performance, filmed in a single continuous shot at Ghanaba’s request, is followed by a feedback conversation, filmed in 2007, discussing the place of African, jazz, European, and “world” musics in his career. One hundred historical photographs appear in this section as well. The film was launched in Ghana by the Goethe Institut on Ghanaba’s 85th birthday, May 4, 2008, to honor one of the country’s best known musicians. He passed away on December 22, 2008.

SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

01 Performance
02 Conversation

Producer and Video: Steven Feld
Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards
Location Sound: Nana Agazi
Still Photographs and Associate Producer: Nii Yemo Nunu
Archival images courtesy African Heritage Library

Photo by Nii Yemo Nunu
Accra Trane Station: The Music and Art of Nii Noi Nortey

This film distills three years of conversations, 2005-2008, with Nii Noi Nortey, the Ghanaian sculptor, instrument inventor, and avant-garde instrumentalist. Nortey discusses the African legacy of John Coltrane, and how it inspired invention of his afrifone instruments, and a series of twenty Accra Trane Station sculptures. The film also features Accra Trane Station percussionist Nii Otoo Annan. Included are scenes of Nortey creating sculptures and Accra Trane Station rehearsing, recording, and performing in Ghana and the USA.

SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

01 Introduction, the Accra Trane Station sound sculptures
02 Afrifones, Nii Otoo Annan
03 Making the Por Por trotro sculpture
04 Instruments
05 A Love Supreme
06 Anyaa Arts Library
07 Ghanaba
08 Music, art, and politics

Producer and Video (Accra): Steven Feld
Video (USA) and Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards
Location Sound: Nana Agazi, Steven Feld

BONUS FILM ON SAME DVD: From Accra to Santa Fe
Live studio sessions for the CD Topographies of the Dark; Nii Noi Nortey and Nii Otoo Annan with Steven Feld, Alex Coke, and Jefferson Voorhees. Filmed in August 2007 at Fourth World Studios, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:

01 Mood Duke/Kpele Lala
02 Black Heat

Video and Editing: Jeremiah Ra Richards

Top, left: Nii Noi Nortey with Africa Brass, 2006
Left: Nii Noi Nortey with Afrifones, 2005
A Por Por Funeral for Ashirifie

*Por Por* music (pronounced “paw paw”) is named for the honking sound of antique squeeze-bulb car horns, ubiquitous on the wooden lorries of Ghana’s early transport history. After electric horns arrived in West Africa, these obsolete signaling instruments virtually disappeared. But a union of bus and truck drivers in the Accra township of La kept the *por por* horns and invented a jazzy honking music adding bells, drums, and voices. The La drivers only perform *Por Por* at funerals of their fellow union transport workers, and their music has gone largely unnoticed until recently. In March 2008 the La Drivers Union Por Por Group lost one of its key members, Nelson Ashirifie Mensah. This film documents the funeral performed in his memory and discusses *Por Por’s* relation to the New Orleans jazz funeral.

**SCENE SELECTION, CLICK LEFT OF CHAPTER NUMBER:**

01 Titles, Ashirifie performs with Por Por in 2005  
02 Musical condolences, part 1  
03 Musical condolences, part 2  
04 Going to the mortuary  
05 At the mortuary  
06 Funeral processions  
07 Wake, part 1  
08 Wake, part 2  
09 Funeral, part 1  
10 Funeral, part 2  
11 Procession and cemetery  
12 Por Por and New Orleans

Producers: Steven Feld and Nii Yemo Nunu  
Video and Sound: Steven Feld  
Editor: Jeremiah Ra Richards

*Left: Ashirifie honking in 2007 with the Por Por band  
Right: Honking for President Obama in Accra, 2009*