

# RHYTHM OF AFRICA

Johan Nijs

Grade / Moeilijkheidsgraad / Degré de difficulté /  
Schwierigkeitsgrad / Difficoltà **2**

Duration / Tijdsduur / Durée / Dauer / Durata **3:10**

Recording on / Opname op / Enregistrement sur /  
Aufnahme auf / Registrazione su

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Full score	1
Part 1 C / Ut (8va)	6
Part 1 C / Ut	1
Part 1 Bb / Sib	6
Part 1 Eb / Mib	1
Part 1 Eb / Mib low	1
Part 2 Bb / Sib	6
Part 2 Eb / Mib	2
Part 2 F / Fa	1
Part 3 Bb / Sib treble clef	4
Part 3 Bb / Sib bass clef	2
Part 3 Eb / Mib	2
Part 3 F / Fa	1
Part 3 C / Ut bass clef	2
Part 4 Bb / Sib treble clef	3
Part 4 Bb / Sib bass clef	2
Part 4 Eb / Mib treble clef	2
Part 4 Eb / Mib bass clef	1
Part 4 C / Ut bass clef	1
Part 4 C / Ut bass clef (8vb)	2
Percussion 1 Djembé or Conga	1
Percussion 2 Cabasa	1
Percussion 3 Claves, Talking drum	1
Glockenspiel	1

## RHYTHM OF AFRICA

### English:

Africa is the second largest continent on earth and is part of the Third World. For this new work Johan Nijs was inspired by the rhythms of African music. *Rhythm of Africa* evokes all aspects of the continent, including its music, which had its own evolution and is still quite different from Western traditions. Here, rhythm dominates the texture.

### Nederlands:

Afrika is het op één na grootste continent op onze planeet en behoort tot de derde wereld. Johan Nijs liet zich inspireren door het ritme van de Afrikaanse muziek. *Rhythm of Africa* weerspiegelt alle facetten van dit continent. Afrikaanse muziek heeft een eigen evolutie gekend en is vandaag nog steeds zeer verschillend van alle andere muziekgenres. De nadruk in deze muziek ligt vooral op het ritme.

### Deutsch:

Afrika ist der zweitgrößte Kontinent unseres Planeten und wird auch noch als „Dritten Welt“ umschrieben. Der Komponist Johan Nijs hat sich von den Rhythmen der afrikanischen Musik inspirieren lassen und hat mit *Rhythm of Africa* ein wunderbares Konzertwerk geschaffen. Das Stück spiegelt alle Aspekte dieses Kontinents wider. Musikgeschichtlich hat afrikanische Musik eine von unserer abendländischen Musikkultur losgelösten Entwicklung durchgemacht. Auch heute unterscheidet sie sich noch deutlich von anderen Musikgenres. Der Rhythmus ist dabei ein treibendes Element.

### Français :

L'Afrique est le deuxième plus grand continent de notre planète et fait partie du tiers monde. Johan Nijs s'est inspiré des rythmes de la musique africaine. *Rhythm of Africa* évoque tous les aspects de ce continent. La musique africaine a connu sa propre évolution et se distingue de tous les autres genres musicaux. C'est en effet le rythme qui prime dans cette musique.

## JOHAN NIJS

### English:

The Belgian composer Johan Nijs was born in Louvain on June 11, 1963. At age ten he began studying music and earned degrees in clarinet, piano, accordion, solfeggio, harmony and chamber music at various music academies. He then went to the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music where he was awarded several prizes for solfeggio, harmony, counterpoint, wind band conducting, history of music, transposition, clarinet and piano. He has composed since age sixteen and has won numerous international composition prizes. Today Nijs is not only active as a composer and arranger, but also as guest-conductor and adjudicator. He is also a clarinetist with the Royal Band of the Belgian Air Force. His principal teachers and mentors were André Waignein and Jean Segers.



### Nederlands:

De Belgische componist Johan Nijs werd geboren op 11 juni 1963 in Leuven. Vanaf zijn 10<sup>de</sup> levensjaar vingen zijn studies aan de verschillende muziekacademies aan. Hij haalde diploma's voor de instrumenten klarinet, piano en accordeon, maar ook voor harmonie, notenleer en kamermuziek. Haast vanzelfsprekend volgde een studie aan het Koninklijk Muziekconservatorium van Brussel waar hij diploma's haalde voor notenleer, praktische harmonie, harmonie, contrapunt, harmonie- en fanfaredirectie, muziekgeschiedenis, transpositie, klarinet en piano. Vanaf zijn 16<sup>e</sup> begon hij te componeren en won hij verschillende (internationale) compositiewedstrijden. Momenteel is Johan Nijs actief als componist en arrangeur, en treedt hij op als jurylid en gastdirigent. Daarnaast is hij klarinettist bij de Koninklijke Muziekkapel van de Belgische Luchtmacht. Zijn belangrijkste leraren en voorbeelden zijn André Waignein en Jan Segers.

### Français :

Compositeur belge, Johan Nijs est né le 11 juin 1963 à Louvain. Dès l'âge de dix ans, il étudie successivement à plusieurs académies de musique et obtient des diplômes de clarinette, piano, accordéon, solfège, harmonie et musique de chambre. Il poursuit ses études au Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles où il reçoit des prix de solfège, harmonie pratique, harmonie, contrepoint, direction d'orchestre à vent, histoire de la musique, transposition, clarinette et piano. Il compose dès l'âge de seize ans et obtient plusieurs prix internationaux de composition. Actuellement, Johan Nijs est actif comme compositeur et arrangeur, mais aussi comme chef invité et membre de nombreux jurys. Il est également clarinettiste à la Musique Royale de la Force Aérienne Belge. Ses principaux professeurs et exemples sont André Waignein et Jean Segers.

### Deutsch:

Der belgische Komponist Johan Nijs wurde am 11. Juni 1963 in Löwen geboren. Seine erste musikalische Ausbildung erhielt er im Alter von zehn Jahren in den Fächern Klarinette, Klavier, Akkordeon, Solfeggio, Tonsatz und Kammermusik. Am königlichen Konservatorium in Brüssel absolvierte er anschließend Studien in Solfeggio, Harmonielehre, Kontrapunkt, Blasorchesterdirigieren, Musikgeschichte, Transposition, Klarinette und Klavier. Mit dem Komponieren begann Nijs, als er 16 Jahre alt war und erhielt für sein Schaffen zahlreiche nationale und internationale Preise. Johan Nijs ist derzeit als Klarinettist beim Königlichen Musikkorps der Belgischen Luftwaffe tätig und wirkt zudem als Arrangeur, Komponist, Dirigent und Juror. Zu seinen wichtigsten Lehrern und Vorbildern zählen André Waignein und Jean Segers.

# RHYTHM OF AFRICA

Johan Nijs

African beat ♩ = 120

3

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes:

- Part 1: Treble clef, *mf*
- Part 2: Treble clef, *mf*
- Part 3: Bass clef, *mf*
- Part 4: Bass clef, *mf*
- Glockenspiel: Treble clef, rests
- Percussion 1 (Djembe or conga): *mf*, rhythmic notation with 'b', 'o', 's' markings
- Percussion 2 (Cabasa): *mf*, rhythmic notation with 'x' markings
- Percussion 3 (Claves/Talking drum or Tom Tom): *mf*, rhythmic notation with '1', '2', '3', '4' markings

The second system includes:

- Vocal parts: Treble and Bass clefs
- Percussion 1 (Djembe or conga): *mf*, rhythmic notation with 'b', 'o', 's' markings
- Percussion 2 (Cabasa): *mf*, rhythmic notation with 'x' markings
- Percussion 3 (Claves/Talking drum or Tom Tom): *mf*, rhythmic notation with '5', '6', '7', '8', '9' markings

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a piano and a bass line. The piano part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The bass line starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and transitions to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, possibly a keyboard or guitar accompaniment, and a bass line in the left hand. The measures are numbered 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Musical score for measures 15-18. The score continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It features a piano and a bass line. The piano part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The bass line starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and transitions to piano (*p*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*). The piano part includes a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, possibly a keyboard or guitar accompaniment, and a bass line in the left hand. The measures are numbered 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a piano part. The piano part includes a dense sixteenth-note accompaniment, a xylophone-like pattern, and a bass line. Measures 27 and 28 are marked with a 'p' (piano) dynamic, while measures 29 and 30 are marked with an 'f' (forte) dynamic. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many accidentals.

Musical score for measures 31-35. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a piano part. The piano part includes a dense sixteenth-note accompaniment, a xylophone-like pattern, and a bass line. Measures 31 and 32 are marked with a 'p' (piano) dynamic, while measures 33, 34, and 35 are marked with an 'f' (forte) dynamic. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many accidentals. A box containing the number '32' is placed above the first staff of measure 32. The text 'Solo (or free improvisation)' is written below the piano part in measure 33.