



Promoting Excellence in Knowledge

GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

INAUGURAL LECTURE 2024



TOPIC

Performing Petition: Kete Songs, Lineage, and Kingship in Akan

SPEAKER

PROF. KWASI AMPENE, FGA
Professor of Ethnomusicology,
Tufts University, USA

CHAIRPERSON:
PROF. JOSEPH R. A. AYEE, FGA
Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS



DATE: THURSDAY **30** MAY 2024 | **TIME:** 5:30 PM

VENUE: KWAME NKRUMAH AUDITORIUM, GAAS

#3 Research Crescent, Casely Hayford Road, Airport Residential Area, Accra

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MEETING ID
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- Dr. Sam E. Jonah
- Madam Tina Serwaa Anokye
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■ **5:30 PM**

Welcome Address and Introduction of Chairperson

Prof. Joshua Y. Abor

Assistant Honorary Secretary, Arts Section

■ **Chairperson's Remarks and Introduction of Speaker**

Prof. Joseph R. A. Ayee, FGA

Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS

■ **Lecture Begins**

■ **Chairperson's Closing Remarks**

■ **Honorary Secretary's Remarks**

■ **Closing / Reception**

ABOUT THE CHAIRMAN
PROF. JOSEPH ROLAND ATSU AYEE, FGA
VICE PRESIDENT, ARTS SECTION, GAAS

Joseph R.A Ayee is the Vice President, Arts Section of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences since January 2023. He held the positions of Rector, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dean and Head of Department in three higher education institutions in Ghana and South Africa. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy in 2005 and served as Assistant Honorary Secretary (Arts Section), 2014 - 2015 and Honorary Treasurer, 2016-2017.

He was the occupant of the UNESCO/United Nations University Leadership Academy (UNULA) Chair in Leadership Studies, University of Jordan in 2001 and the Emeka Anyaoku Visiting Chair of Commonwealth Studies, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London in 2013.

He served as a member of a team of experts that drafted Ghana's National Decentralization Policy Framework and Action Plan, 2015 - 2019 and the National Decentralization Policy and Strategy, 2020-2024.

Prof. Ayee has over 200 publications in several areas of Political Science, Public Policy, and Administration. His latest publications include three co-edited books: (1) *Think Tanks, Governance and Development in Africa*; (2) *Political Institutions, Party Politics and Communication in Ghana: Three Decades of the Fourth Republic*; and (3) *Public Sector Management and Economic Governance in Ghana: Three Decades of the Fourth Republic*.

His current research interests include higher education governance and management, politicians and bureaucrats' relationship, political transitions, and democratic backsliding.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
PROF. KWASI AMPENE, FGA

PROFESSOR OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY, TUFTS UNIVERSITY, USA

Kwasi Ampene is the chair of the Department of Music at Tufts University in the USA. He is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and an External Examiner of Theses in the Department of Music and Dance at University of Cape Coast-Ghana. Ampene specializes in the rich musical traditions of the Akan people of West Africa. He has disseminated his research at national and international conferences and speaking engagements at major universities in Africa, United States, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and South America. He has provided expert advice for public engagement projects on Akan culture and music to the British Library, Princeton University, and the Fowler Museum at UCLA. Ampene's book publications include *Asante Court Music and Verbal Arts in Ghana: The Porcupine and the Gold Stool* (2020); *Engaging Modernity: Asante in the Twenty-First Century* (2016) and *Female Song Tradition and the Akan of Ghana: The Creative Process in Nnwonkoro* (2005). He is the leading editor of, *Discourses in African Musicology: J.H. Kwabena Nketia Festschrift* (2015). *Asante Court Music* is the winner of the J.H. Kwabena Nketia Book Prize by the African and African Diaspora Music Section in the Society for Ethnomusicology for the best monograph on African music in 2022. In addition to book publications, he has published several articles in prestigious journals. Ampene is the producer of the film documentary, *Gone To The Village: Royal Funerary Rites for Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampem II* (2019). He is a member of the Editorial Board of the School of Oriental and Africa Studies (SOAS) Music Series at the University of London. Ampene is the recipient of the 2023 3G Media Lifetime Achievement Award in New York, for his outstanding contributions to highlife music and the music industry in Ghana. Ampene is the immediate past President of Ghana Studies Association (an international affiliate of the African Studies Association), the immediate past Chair of the Society for Ethnomusicology Council, and the past Chair of the African Music Section in the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Role in Restitution of Asante Artefacts from USA to Ghana

On February 5, 2024, Ampene successfully facilitated the repatriation of artefacts from the Fowler Museum at University of California-Los Angeles to the Asante Kingdom in Ghana. The artifacts were looted in 1874 during the Sagrenti War between the Asante Kingdom and British colonial forces. The British pillaged and burned down Kumase and took away several hundreds of artifacts and boxes of gold dust. This year, February 5, marked the 150th Anniversary of the Sagrenti War and the repatriation of seven of the stolen artefacts from the Fowler Museum was timely as the Asante Kingdom organized a commemoration on Thursday, February 8 to receive the artefacts.

Philanthropy/Giving back to society

- Patron, Lovers of Highlife Ghana (LoHGHA), a non-profit in Ghana with the aim of honoring and supporting older generation of highlife legends who are going through health and financial challenges
- Donated 13 boxes of books to Lady Leech Library at Kyirapatre (near Ahinsan-Kumase)
- Donated over 60 books and 12 laptops to Jarchie Elementary and Middle Schools
- Took 12 undergrad students from the University of Michigan to Jarchie Elementary and Middle Schools to teach English, Mathematics, and Computer skills
- Raised funds from the US to purchase Electric Generator for Atebubu-Amanten District to assist with water treatment and pumping water to residents in the district
- Raised funds in the US to construct the Alice Ekye Darkwaa Catering Unit for Atebubu District Hospital. Also purchased industrial stoves, freezer, and propane tank for the canteen
- Raised funds to build Maryland Day Care Center in Atebubu to provide a safe and nurturing space for market women to keep their children during the day
- Raised funds to build a new church building for the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Grace Congregation in Atebubu
- Brought high school and university students from Deerfield, Illinois (USA) to renovate and paint Elementary and middle school blocks belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Atebubu
- Donated my honorarium from Rabindra Bharati University to support orphanage in Kolkata-India
- Raised funds in the US to support purchases of new desktop computers for Liberty Hall, Marcus Garvey Center in Old Kingston-Jamaica for at risk kids
- As a lifetime member of the fraternity of roadside bread vendors association, I anonymously donate funds to bread, pineapple, orange, and all street side vendors in diverse locations in Ghana!

Marriage/Family Life

Kwasi Ampene is married to Awura Akua and they are blessed with four children, Akosua Darkwaa, Nana Kwadwo Kye, Adwoa Ampenebea, and Akosua Dadie.

**PERFORMING PETITION: KETE SONGS, LINEAGE,
AND KINGSHIP IN AKAN**

In contested formal spaces involving court ceremonies and rituals, how do you navigate the complex web of Akan interactional routines and communication protocols to directly articulate the collective anxieties of the masses to the Asantehene following the death and burial of the Asantehemaa, Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampem II? I address the above question and additional questions that may arise by examining the performed petition presented to the Asantehene by members of the Kete chorus. I argue that in matrilineal societies, the critical role of women in lineage, kinship, and governance confers counseling and advisory role to female leadership in the matriclan. Additionally, in their privileged position as members of the exclusive Kete chorus, they used their artistic immunity to negotiate communication strategies in formal spaces to present contrapuntal voices of the masses directly to the Asantehene. As a form of political dialogue that indexes diverse registers of concerns, they implored the Asantehene, through songs, to not only choose the most qualified member of the *ɔyoko* lineage to succeed the late Asantehemaa, but also to remind him of his obligation to his forebears who made untold sacrifices to establish a state with enduring socio-political, economic, and cultural institutions.

My presentation is in two parts. First, I examine events that provided the impetus for sonic actions and performed petition, the critical role of women in lineage, kingship, and governance, interactional routines in greetings and communication strategies in formal settings, and how artistic immunity and musical performance create space for agency and empowerment. In the second part, I highlight the first song unit, *Aka Wo Deɛ* (It Is Now Your Turn), performed by the Kete chorus for formal analysis, poetic and rhetorical devices, and gesture and rhetoric, as artistic enablers for the performed petition. I will conclude with a brief discussion on the implications of the performed petition for democratic dispensation and protest movements in Ghana.

INAUGURAL LECTURES

Since 1973, all newly elected Fellows have had to deliver inaugural addresses before other Fellows and specially invited guests at evening meetings arranged for the purpose. These lectures are expected to be of a high standard but not so technical as to be beyond the comprehension of non-specialists.

Originally restricted to invited guests and Fellows, the popularity of the lectures and the choice of topics which have always focused on contemporary issues of national or international significance have compelled the Academy to make these lectures public to a larger audience.

- 1993 The Search for an Anti-HIV (Aids) Drug – The Present Position, Problems and Prospects;
*Emeritus Prof. Ivan Addae-Mensah**
- 1994 Health, Medicine and Society;
*Prof. S. K. Owusu**
- 1995 Does Africa Really Need Her Universities?
Prof. Akilagpa Sawyerr
- 1997 Religion and National Identity: Assessing the Discussion from Cicero to Danquah;
Prof. Kwame Bediako
- 1997 Efficient Utilisation of the Vertic Soils of the Accra Plains: Prospects, Constraints and the Way Forward;
*Prof. Yaw Abenkorah**
- 1998 Horticultural Research in Ghana: An Overview;
*Prof. J. C. Norman**
- 1999 The Role of the Judiciary in the Establishment of Democracy in Ghana;
Dr. S. Y. Bimpong-Buta
- 2000 Scholarly Authority and the Quest for a New World Academic Order,
Prof. Kvesi Yankah
- 2001 Ghana's Animal Agriculture;
*Prof. W. S. Albassan**
- 2002 Theology and Culture: An African Perspective;
Most Rev. Peter K. Sarpong
- 2002 Private Investment and Law in a Developing Economy: Some Reflections;
Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bah
- 2003 The Future of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Ghana;
*Prof. K. Frimpong-Boateng**
- 2004 The Impact of Cocoa Research Innovations on Poverty Alleviation in Ghana;
*Dr. M. R. Appiah**
- 2004 Bricks, Blocks and the Future Administrative Capital of Ghana;
*Prof. K. A. Andam**
- 2004 Voyage from Birth to Death: Health Hazards for Ghanaians;
*Prof. J. O. M. Pobee**
- 2005 The Ethnic Factor in National Development: Uses and Abuses;
Prof. D. K. Agyeman
- 2005 Physics for Wealth Creation;
*Prof. Aba Bentil Andam**

- 2005 Chemistry – The Neglected Element in the Industrialisation Equation;
Prof. V. P. Y. Gadzekpo
- 2005 Ghana's Juvenile Justice System on Probation: Making Progress with Painful Steps and Slow;
Prof. Henrietta J. A. N. Mensa-Bonsu
- 2006 Libraries and National Development: Implications for Ghana;
Prof. A. A. Alemna
- 2006 Where there is No Silence: Articulations of Resistance to Enslavement,
Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang
- 2006 Race, Political Identity and Citizenship in Ghana: The Example of the Lebanese;
Prof. E. K. Akyeampong
- 2006 Embodiment and Epiphanies: Disability in Literature and Society;
Prof. L. A. Quayson
- 2006 Implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): Challenges and the Path to Progress;
Prof. S. K. B. Asante
- 2006 Improving Human Livelihood: A Development Challenge of the 21st Century;
Prof. K. Asenso-Okyere
- 2007 Challenges of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Some Reflections;
Dr. Eugenia Date-Bab
- 2008 The Marriage of Mathematics and Biology;
*Prof. K. S. Nokoe**
- 2008 An 11th Region of Ghana? Ghanaians Abroad;
Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh
- 2008 Some Thoughts on Ministerial Reshuffles in Ghana;
Prof. J. R. A. Ayee
- 2008 Nuclear Power for Generating Electricity in Ghana: Issues and Challenges;
*Emeritus Prof. E. H. K. Akabo**
- 2008 Urban Housing and Sanitation – Our Habitat, Our Health;
*Prof. Ralph Mills-Tettey**
- 2008 African Boundaries and Regional Integration: Ghana, OAU and ECOWAS;
Prof. R. B. Bening
- 2009 The Public Law of Ghana – A Tale of Two Legal Systems;
Emeritus Prof. Albert K. Fiadjoe
- 2009 Modernising Ghana's Agribusiness: Science, Technology, Engineering and Indigenous Bio-process Systems;
*Prof. S. K. Sefa-Dedeh**
- 2010 From Everyday Risks to Disaster Risks: Confronting 'Brown' and 'Green' Issues in Ghana's Human Settlements;
Prof. J. Songsore
- 2011 To Mine or Not to Mine: The Economic Controversy and its Resolution;
*Prof. D. Mireku-Gyimah**
- 2011 Culture and the Health of the Nation;
Prof. K. Anyidoho

- 2011 Treating Ghana's Sick Health Service;
*Prof. A. B. Akosa**
- 2011 The Political Economy of Poverty, Equity and Growth;
Prof. K. Ewusi
- 2012 Poverty and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Are We Winning or Losing the Game?
Prof. G. K. S. Aflakpui
- 2013 Politics in the African Development Bank: A Study on the Role and Limits of Politics in an Intergovernmental Institution;
Kantinka Sir Dr. K. Fordwor
- 2013 The Dangers that Obsolete Chemicals Pose to Us;
*Prof. J. H. Ephraim**
- 2013 Harnessing Science for Development of Medicines: Challenges for Ghana in the Global Matrix;
*Prof. Arthur C. Sackeyfio**
- 2013 The Role of Veterinary Medicine in National Development;
*Prof. Paa Kobina Turkson**
- 2014 The Law and Practice of Contempt of Court in Ghana;
Justice Stephen A. Brobbey
- 2014 Truth and Nation-State Building: A Theologian's Perspective;
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- 2014 Tailor Light to Task, for Sustainable Development in Ghana;
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- 2015 Building Biomedical Research Capacity for Malaria Vaccine and Public Health from Grassroots to Policy: Challenges, Achievements and Future Perspectives;
*Prof. Isabella Quakyi**
- 2015 Architecture for Autism: A Technical Response with Mind and Heart to a Dire Human Need;
*Prof. Dr. Ing. Nii-Adziri Wellington**
- 2015 Will Our Food Animals Live Beyond Tomorrow?
*Prof. Ben K. Abunu**
- 2015 Distressed Fish in Dying Waters?
*Prof. Rose Emma Mamaa Entsua-Mensab**
- 2015 An Audit of Our Contemporary Art Heritage: Rationale for the Preservation of the Legacy and the Restoration of the Culture
Prof. Ablade Glover
- 2016 Channels of Prayer, Prophecy and Power: Contemporary Religion, New Media and Transformation of the Public Sphere in Africa;
Very Rev. Prof. J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu
- 2016 Medicines and Healthcare In Ghana;
*Prof. David Ofori-Adjei**
- 2016 Slavery in Ghana: Our Story and Our Heritage;
Prof. Akosua Adoma Perbi

- 2016 Peak Phosphorus: What it Means for Ghana's Agricultural Productivity and Food Security;
*Prof. E. Owusu-Bennoah**
- 2017 The Philosophy of Man;
Justice Prof. V. C. R. A. C. Crabbe
- 2017 Space Technology Unleashing a Wave of Disruptive New Technologies – To Post-Scarcity Economy;
*Dr. Asbitey Trebi-Ollennu, FGA**
- 2017 Plant Diseases, Crop Production and Food Security in Ghana;
*Prof. G. T. Odamtten**
- 2017 "Who are We and Whose are We? Identity and Transforming the Nation";
Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo
- 2017 The Government of Ghana and International Arbitration;
Dr. Richard Frimpong
- 2017 Access to Sustainable and Affordable Energy for All: The Role of Nuclear Energy;
*Prof. B.J.B. Nyarkob**
- 2017 The Tyranny of Foreign Expertise: Epistemic Injustice in the Global Arena with Impacts for Ghanaians' Public Health Care;
Prof. Helen Lauer
- 2017 Achieving Food and Nutrition Security Through Plant Breeding;
*Prof. Hans Adu-Dapaah**
- 2018 Addressing the Crisis of Work in Ghana: What Role for Transformative Social Policy?
Prof Dzodzi Tsikata
- 2019 Understanding Biodiversity as an Infrastructure of Life for Development;
*Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah**
- 2019 Deficit of Critical Citizenship in Ghana: A Critique of Political (il)literacy, Civic (ir)responsibility and (un)critical Followership;
Prof. Wisdom Tettey
- 2021 The Origins and Consequences of the Mass Migration from West Africa to Libya and Europe - A West African Perspective;
Prof. Steve Tonah
- 2021 The Changing Trends in Land Law, Policy, Governance and Management Under the Land Act 2020 (act 1036);
Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei
- 2021 Laughing, Singing, Dancing for Health: Creative Arts and the Science of Health Communication in Ghana;
Prof. Ama de-graft Aikins
- 2021 Ghanaian Humour in a Time of Crisis: Reflections on the Making of Cultural Meaning;
Prof. Helen Yitab
- 2021 The Meat Industry and National Development;
*Prof. Gabriel Ayum Teye**
- 2022 Linguistic Pan-Africanism as a Global Future;
Prof. Adams Bodom
- 2022 Pain; the Bane of Mankind;
*Prof. Gladys Amponsab**

- 2022 Establishment of Academic Medical Centres in Ghana;
*Prof. Aaron Lante Lawson**
- 2022 Upgrade in Gold Recovery from Refractory Carbonaceous Gold Ores: the Use of
Phanerochaete Chrysosporium;
*Prof. Grace Ofori-Sarpong**
- 2022 *Kasabuum-kasafi*: Polite and Impolite Language in the Ghanaian Media and Political
Landscape;
Prof. Kofi Agyekum
- 2023 Fidelity to Constitutional Values: Key to National Survival;
Prof. Kofi Quashigah
- 2023 Contribution of African Popular Music Studies to Universities;
Prof. John Collins
- 2024 Prioritising Antimicrobial Resistance Needs in Ghana: A National Choice Between Life
and Death;
Prof. Eric Sampene-Donkor

****Science-oriented Presentations***

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is Ghana's Premier Learned Society. It was founded in November 1959 by Government Instrument of Incorporation. Its aim is to bring together the highest level of intellectuals, experts and professionals in the country to constitute a 'Think Tank' in the Arts and Sciences to enable it advise government and other relevant bodies on issues of importance to national development.

Mission

The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to encourage the creation, acquisition, dissemination and utilization of knowledge for national development through the promotion of learning.

Objectives

The Academy's objectives partly reviewed over the years are to:

- Promote the study, extension and dissemination of knowledge of Arts and Sciences.
- Establish and maintain proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the Arts and Sciences.
- Recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Arts and Sciences in Ghana.
- Contribute actively to the development of Ghana and Africa generally by examining and addressing critical issues of development.
- Do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objectives.

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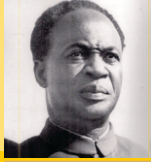
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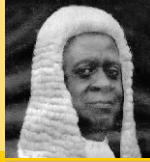
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Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, FGA
1959 - 1981



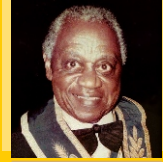
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Mr. Justice N.A. Ollennu, FGA
1969 - 1972



Prof. E.A. Boateng, FGA
1973 - 1976



Prof. C.O. Essmon, FGA
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1997 - 1998



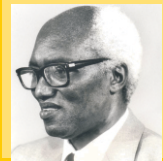
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2003 - 2006



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2011 - 2014



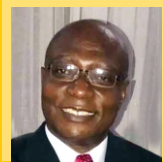
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2017 - 2019



Justice Prof. Henrietta J.A.N.
Mensa-Bonsu, FGA (2019 - 2020)



Emeritus Prof. Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, FGA
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Prof. Kofi Opaky Nti, FGA
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