

## Historical Background on *Yen ara asase ni*

Originally composed in the *Ewe* language (May 1929), with the title *Amewo dzife yigba*, *Yen ara asase ni* was later translated into *Twi* by the composer in June 1931. It was written for school children in Peki, (composer's birthplace) at the request of a teacher for the celebration of Empire Day, hence the "strongly patriotic flavor of the text" as stated by the composer. Dr. Amu chose the text carefully to inspire the children to become good citizens in the future. The catchy rhythm was intended to arouse the interest of children at that age. It has been translated also into *Ga* and *Dagbani*. The song is played on the National Television, GTV, and national radio, *Unik FM* at the close of day every evening. It has become recognized as the "National song" and is played at official functions; a patriotic song that is very inspiring and has been embraced nationally. It is also played at the various missions abroad during official functions. *Yen ara asase ni* is just one of Dr. Amu's nearly 200 works composed for schools, churches, and community groups in his lifetime. It will be included in a forthcoming critical edition of his complete works, edited by Dr. Felicia Sandler and proofread by Dr. Misonu Amu. All inquiries regarding the present edition can be directed to Felicia.Sandler@necmusic.edu.

## Publisher's Note

To assist performers in acquiring proper pronunciation and style, search for performances of this work by The Dwenesie Singers and The Harmonious Chorale on YouTube.

## IPA guide by Dr. Felicia Sandler – English Translation by Dr. Misonu Amu

### Lyrics

Yen ara asase ni,  
eye aboodenne ma yen  
Mogya na nananom hwie gui nya  
detoo ho maa yen.

Adu me ne wo nso so,  
se yebeye bi atoa so  
Nimdee ntraso nkotokranne  
ne apesemenkomenya  
Adi yen bra mu dem ma  
yen asase ho do atom se.

oman no se ebeye yie o.  
oman no se erennye yie o.  
eye nsennaho se  
omanfo bra na ekwere.

Nhomanim dee  
huhu gyan,  
ana adenya ara kwa,  
Ne obrakyaw de esee  
oman na ebo no ahohora

Asoommre ne obu pa,  
yanko yiyedi pe daa,

Ahofama ntetekwa mu  
ma onipa biara yiyedi  
enonom na ede asomdwoe  
ne nkoso pa bre oman.

### IPA Guide

[jɛŋ ara asasi ni,  
ɛjeaboedɛŋ ni ma jɛŋ  
muɖza na nananum h<sup>w</sup>ɛ  
gwi nia ditu ho ma jɛŋ.]

[ɛdu mɪ ni wonsu su,  
sɛ jɛbɛjɛ biatɔa su  
nɪmdeɛ ʔtrasunkutunakrani  
ni apesemenkumɪnia  
ɛdi jɛŋ brɛ mu dem ma jɛŋ  
asasi ho do atum sɛ.]

[ɔman no sɛ<sup>h</sup>bɛjɛ jio!  
ɔman no sɛ<sup>h</sup>renɪɛ jio!  
ɛjɛnsɛnaho sɛ,  
ɔmanfo bra n<sup>h</sup>ɛʔrɛ.]

[humanɪmdeɛ  
huhu dʒaŋ  
ana adɪnia ra kwa,  
ni ɔbraʔju di esɛman  
na ɛbo n<sup>h</sup>ahohora]

[Asoomrɛ ni obu pa  
jɔŋko jɪjɛdi pɛ da

ahofamantitikwam<sup>h</sup>  
m<sup>h</sup>onipa biara jɪjɛdi  
ɛnum n<sup>h</sup>ɛdi asumɔɛdʒɔɛ  
nɪnkɔsu pa brɛ ɔman.]

### English Translation

*This is our own land;  
It is precious to us.  
Blood did our forefathers shed to  
obtain it for us.*

*It is the turn of me and you to  
continue.  
Abundant knowledge, conceit and  
selfishness  
Have destroyed our life such that we  
fall short of love for our land.*

*For this nation to prosper; For this  
nation not to prosper; It is a clear  
fact that it depends on the conduct of  
the people.*

*As for book knowledge  
that is vain, or acquiring  
wealth without toil,  
and dishonesty destroy a nation and  
defame it.*

*Obedience and respect,  
wishing your fellow man well  
always,  
sacrificing with dedication,  
to the needs of all and sundry, these  
bring peace, and sound development  
to a nation.*

# This Is Our Own Land

*(Yen ara asase ni)*

*for SATB Chorus unaccompanied*

Ephraim Amu (1899–1995)

(♩ = 88–92)

*(mf)*

Soprano  
Alto

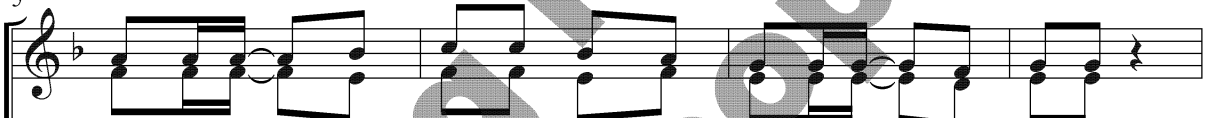


1. Yen a - ra — a - sa - se ni, ε - ye a - bo - den - ne ma yen.  
2. Nho - ma nim - de - hu - hu gyan, a - na a - de - nya 'ra kwa,

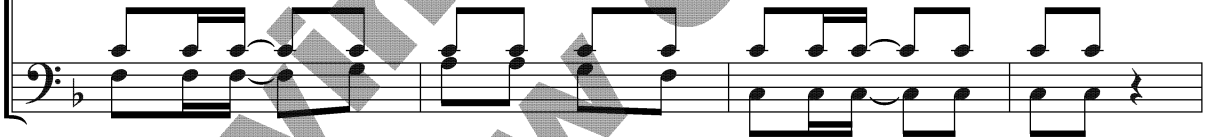
Tenor  
Bass



5



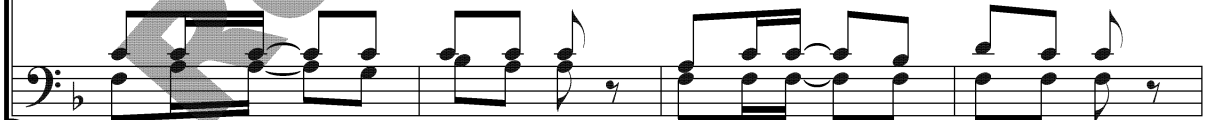
Mo - gya na — na - na - nom hwie gui nya de too ho maa yen.  
ne o - bra - kyew de ε - see o - man na ε - bo n'a - ho - hora.



9



A - du me ne wo n - so so, se ye - be - ye bi a - toa so.  
A - so - mmre ne o - bu pa, yan - ko yi - ye - di pe daa,



13

Nim - deē 'tra - so n - ko - to - kran - ne ne a - pe - se - men - ko - mi - nya.  
a - ho - fa - mā n - te - te - kwam mā o - ni - pa bia - ra — yi - ye - di.

17

A - di yen — bra mu dem ma yen a - sa - se ho — do a - tom se.  
ε - no - nom — n'ε - de a - som - dwoe — ne n - ko - so — pa bre o - man.

*(f first time)*  
*(p on repeat)*

21

o - man no se 'be - ye — yie o! o - man no se 're - nnye — yie o.

25

ε - ye n - se - nna - ho — se, o - man - fo bra n'ε - ky're. (no ritard.)

(\* After second verse, execute the dynamics on the refrain in reverse order: *p* first, and *f* on the repeat.)

1929 (Ewe  
1931 (Iwi)  
1:53