Source: Alejandro Carvajal

Trans: Don Skoog

Olumbanshé

Havana Style

This toque is played for various songs to Eleguá, keeper of the spiritual paths, called *caminos*. All santería ceremonies begin and end with salutes to this Orisha who opens and closes these pathways.

Eleguá is represented in three different phases, or incarnations, that are one in the end. The first is *olosi*, the devil, the second is *Eshu*, the uncontrollable trickster, and the third is Eleguá, himself. He has been given the power to be first and last, so he is dressed in red representing life, and black representing death. He is syncretized with Saint Anthony, the child of Atocha, and Saint Roque.

The Iyá variations represent just some of those commonly played during a performance.

