# The Akonting Banjo Ancestor: A Journey into the Heart of Traditional Gambian Music

The Akonting banjo is a unique and beautiful instrument that has been played in Gambia for centuries. It is a four-stringed instrument with a goatskin head and a long, thin neck. The Akonting is played by plucking the strings with a thumb pick and a finger pick.



## The Akonting: Banjo Ancestor by Steve Levitt

**★** ★ ★ ★ 4 out of 5 : English Language File size : 1685 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 54 pages : Enabled Lending



The Akonting is used to play a variety of traditional Gambian music, including songs, dances, and lullabies. It is also used to accompany storytelling and other forms of oral tradition.

The Akonting banjo has a rich history and culture. It is believed to have been brought to Gambia by slaves from West Africa. The Akonting quickly became popular in Gambia, and it is now considered to be one of the most important instruments in Gambian music.

The Akonting banjo is a versatile instrument that can be used to play a variety of musical styles. It is a popular instrument for solo performances, as well as for accompanying other instruments. The Akonting is also used in traditional Gambian orchestras.

The Akonting banjo is a beautiful and unique instrument that is an important part of Gambian culture. The Akonting Banjo Ancestor is a book that explores the history, culture, and music of the Akonting. The book is written by Steve Levitt, a world-renowned expert on the Akonting.

The Akonting Banjo Ancestor is a fascinating and informative book that is a must-read for anyone interested in Gambian music or African music in general.

#### **About the Author**

Steve Levitt is a world-renowned expert on the Akonting banjo. He has studied the Akonting for over 20 years, and he has written extensively about the instrument and its music.

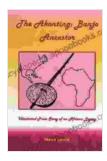
Levitt is a professor of ethnomusicology at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the director of the Center for West African Music and Dance.

Levitt's work on the Akonting has helped to raise awareness of this important instrument and its music. He is a passionate advocate for the preservation and promotion of Gambian music.

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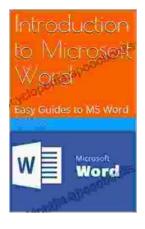
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