



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble

Kevin Jones, director
Angel Hernandez, assistant director

Friday, April 4, 2025
Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Rhythms and Songs from Congo

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Yembala | Titos Sompá |
| Aire Pinoéré | Traditional |
| Ganza | Titos Sompá |

Rhythms and Songs from Cuba

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Matanzas Rumba Guaguancó | Traditional Cuban Rhythm |
| Congo Yambumba | Jesús Alfonso Miró (1948–2009) |
| Rumba Columbia | Traditional Cuban Rhythm Angel Hernandez and Cory Doran, soloists |
| Four Beat Mambo | Tito Puente (1923–2000) |
| Mozambique | Traditional Cuban Music |
| La Conga | Traditional Cuban Rhythm |

Intermission

Djembe Orchestra

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Intro – Baku Mani | Origin unknown |
| Sunu featuring | Traditional Rhythm from Mali arr. Mamady Keita |
| Sorsonet | Traditional Rhythm of Guinea |
| Zaouli and Kuku | Mask Dance from Cote d'Ivoire arr. Mamady Keita & Djobi Irie Simon |

PROGRAM NOTES

Yembala, by composer and arranger Titos Somba (born, unknown, in Brazzaville, Congo), is a song and arrangement utilized for villagers to bless hunters' safety and success. The rhythm is a traditional rhythm called **Zebola**.

Aire Pionéré is a traditional celebration rhythm that was played all over the Kongo Kingdom. This rhythm can be heard in such celebrations as marriage, harvest, and other celebrations in the community.

Ganza, by composer and arranger Titos Somba, is a traditional rhythm, dance and song to celebrate the rite of passage for young boys to become men.

Matanzas Rumba Guaguancó is a group of rhythms that have their origins in Africa, particularly Congo and West Africa. Matanzas Rumba Guaguancó is traditional rhythm from the Matanzas region of Cuba. The song **Congo Yambumba** is based in these rhythms and composed by Jesús Alfonso Miró, one of the founders of the group "Los Muñequitos de Matanzas".

Rumba Columbia is a traditional rhythm and dance from Cuba. Created by dock workers in Cuba, it was traditionally danced by only men to show off their skill and machismo.

Four Beat Mambo is by composer Tito Puente (1923–2000). This will feature students from our Monday class which emphasizes "Latin" or Afro-Cuban Percussion.

Mozambique - The "Mozambique" rhythm is a style of Cuban music and dance that was invented by Pello El Afrokan (Pedro Izquierdo) in 1963 and is derived from Cuban street carnival music, featuring conga drums, bombos (bass drums), cowbells, and various brass instruments. The Mozambique rhythm, like the conga, originated from the music of Cuban street carnivals or comparsas.

La Conga is a Cuban rhythm and dance characterized by staccato rhythms played on various conga drums, bombos, and cowbells in which dancers and musicians form a line and move in a snake-like fashion, often during carnivals or street parades. These musicians and dancers developed Cuban conga music from rhythmic street parade performances by groups called comparsas and its origins are from the eastern Cuban city of Santiago de Cuba.

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Djembe Orchestra

Djembe drumming has been around for centuries, originating in the Mali Empire which is now the West African countries of Guinea and Mali. In this region, people played this percussive music for all daily life events for such a long time that eventually the music blended into the culture and traditions, and it has remained that way ever since. A Guinean traditional orchestra is composed of eight or more percussive instruments, the djembe being one of them. The bass drums of the orchestra are called dundunba drums. Each instrument of the orchestra plays a different percussive pattern.

Intro - Baku Mani (origin unknown) – A traditional West African Rhythm played and taught by Babatunde Lea.

Sunu featuring, a traditional rhythm (arrangement by Kevin Jones), is a popular rhythm played at all popular festivities. Originally named after a female dancer named Sunun, the rhythm has seen many variations over the years and most of the songs are about weddings or marriage.

Sorsornet is a Guinea traditional rhythm and arrangement. The mask, Sorsornet, is one of the masks that is seen as bringer of good luck and considered to be almost a deity. When this mask is inside the village, the rhythm Sorsornet is played and the mask moves through the village. Today, Sorsornet is also a popular rhythm to which men as well as women dance.

Zaouli and Kuku (arrangement by Mamady Keita and Djobi Irie Simon) – **Zaouli** is a mask dance originating from the Gouro people of Cote d'Ivoire. Each village and family has their own mask and typically the movements of the dancers are coordinated with the drummers. In modern times and with the advent of ballet, Zaouli is often paired with Guinean rhythms Kassa or **Kuku**, which is a celebration rhythm known as the “fishing dance”.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIO

Percussionist, bandleader, producer and educator **“Bujo” Kevin Jones** has played percussion for 54 years. Growing up in Englewood, New Jersey, he was immersed in jazz, soul, gospel and blues. Surrounded by excellent teachers like Master Drummers Karl Potter and Babatunde Lea, he was touring by age thirteen with “Spoonbread”, a soul group opening for acts like The Four Tops, War, and The Chi-Lites. At the age of sixteen, Jones joined Tanawa, a Drum and Dance Company under the leadership of Congolese Master Drummers and Dancers Titos Sompá, Coster Massamba, and Malonga Casquelourde. He studied with Max Roach and Archie Shepp at UMASS Amherst. His studies and playing led him to a number of disparate stages, including years of touring and recording with The Isley Brothers, Whitney Houston, and jazz greats Archie Shepp, Reggie Workman, Winard Harper, Charles McPherson, John Benitez, and Hilton Ruiz. An eternal student of the drum, Jones continues his study of multiple African Diaspora musics with Djobi Irie Simon (Ivory Coast) and M'bemba Bangoura (Guinea), as well as Afro-Caribbean music with Luisito Quintero. Jones currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been teaching African Diaspora World Percussion to students at MSU for three years.

STUDENT BIO

Angel J. Hernandez is a percussionist specializing in Afro-Cuban music. He is currently pursuing his Master degree in Percussion Performance at Michigan State University under the direction of Dr. Jon Weber, Professor Gwendolyn Dease, and Professor Kevin-Dalton Jones. Angel has performed with various groups such as the MSU Wind Symphony, MSU Salsa Verde, Orquesta Ritmo, MSU Drumline, MSU African Diaspora Ensemble, LanSINGout Men's Chorus, and more. Angel is currently the instructor of percussion at the MSU Community Music School in East Lansing and is the assistant director of the African Diaspora Ensemble at MSU. Angel is active in the Lansing/East Lansing and Grand Rapids area.

PERSONNEL

African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble

Angel Hernandez – assistant director

Evan Moore

Peyton Stramel

Ethan Strickland

Adrienne Evans

Zander Soon

Alonso Umana-Chan

Deegan Hutting

Mackenzie Edick

Cadence Miller

Kayla Mears

Margaret Parker

Jacob Danca

PRIVATE GIFTS play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, student travel and performance opportunities, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 SPONSORS

- **Anonymous Donor Family** (Holiday Glory)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Wind Symphony, Oct. 25; Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 27; Musique 21, Oct. 28; Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series; Jazz Spectacular)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, Apr. 26; Fall Opera)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Jazz Nonets concerts)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Whirlwinds)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Baroque Fest)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Piano Monster)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Sinder, Feb. 16; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Thea Glicksman** (From Vienna with Love, Jan. 17)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Nov. 25)
- **Anne Hiller** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Lauren Harris** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 27)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Zuber, Feb. 17)
- **Robert Last and Jill Canny** (MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artist in Residence, J. Clayton, Dec. 8; Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Holiday Glory; Wind Symphony, Nov. 24)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Wind Symphony, Apr. 24)
- **Clare Mackey** (Pass a Good Time, Oct. 6; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)

- **Patrick and Victoria McPharlin Guest Artist Endowment for Jazz Studies in the College of Music** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Pat & Mary McPharlin** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Vive La France)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Helton, Oct. 31)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Milton Powell, in memory of Sue Powell, accomplished pianist and organist** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andrew Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, Nov. 9 and April 8)
- **Joy A. Rimpau** (Tuba and Euphonium Alumni Concert, April 13)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (MSU-Stanford Piano Quartet)
- **Michael and Elaine Serling** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Symphony Orchestra, Sept. 27; Woodward String Quartet, Mar. 13; Bagratuni, Mar. 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 7)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Richard Witter** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (Holiday Glory)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

Sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000. Sponsors will receive recognition in the form of event publicity, promotions, programs, and through online recognition. For information about event sponsorships and giving to the college, please call (517) 353-9872 or e-mail music.giving@msu.edu.

MAKE A GIFT

