

presents

WAGOGO MUSIC FROM TANZANIA
with
KEDMON MAPANA
Visiting Artist In Ethnomusicology
and his students

December 6, 2011

7:30 PM

Brechemin Auditorium



The five ensemble pieces featured in the program are associated with the traditional initiation music of the Wagogo of Tanzania, along with one contemporary piece, in this order:

- * **'Upendo**, a Wagogo song about love.
- * **Muheme drumming** was once played by only by women in the Wagogo girls' initiation ceremonies. In the 1960s, the drumming became a secular form of entertainment for social gathering and political campaigns. In recent years, muheme drumming style has also entered into the realm of church services.
- * **Ngadu gwe nzo nkhutume** ("Tortoise, come!"). This song serves a utilitarian function in teaching young children to respond with positive enthusiasm and respect when asked to help with household chores.
- * **Sahani Yangu hedukila** ("My plate is shining, look at it"). A traditional song about a Gogo (Wagogo) man who is very proud of his beautiful wife.
- * **Nindo** is a specialized musical style reserved for performances for a chief. The song's language is first Kiswahili, the national language of Tanzania, and later switches to Cigogo, the language of the Wagogo people. The Swahili translation concerns fighting the devil, while the Cigogo meaning is that the performing group wants to show you that they can really perform Wagogo music and dance. The men are wearing *ndalagunyi* tied around their legs to emphasize rhythmic accents as they stamp and move.
- * **Beula Satani** is a contemporary church song about stomping out the devil. It is sung in both Tanzania's national language of Kiswahili and the Bena language of the Bena people of the Iringa region of Tanzania.

Tanzania and the Wagogo People

The region of the Wagogo people is centered at Dodoma, Tanzania, about 298 miles due west of the Indian Ocean. This region covers an area of 25,612 square miles, with an altitude of 480ms to 12ms above sea level (Cidosa, 1995). Much of the land is situated on an arid plateau dotted with small bushes and the occasional baobab tree. On a yearly average, the region receives rain approximately 7.8 to 23.6 inches--but for only three to four months of the year (Mascarenhas 2007: 376).

The Wagogo are a Bantu ethnic group, one of 120 cultural-linguistic groups living within the boundary of the Republic of Tanzania, formerly known as Tanganyika; they comprise 3% (1,735,000 people) of the population of Tanzania. They live largely in rural villages, and are primarily engaged in agriculture and pastoral activities. Many are farmers on small plots of family land, growing maize, millet and sorghum for food, and peanuts and sunflower for trade. Some herd cows, goats and sheep, traveling to and from their family homes every day to wide-open fields where there are low grasses for them to feed upon.

KEDMON MAPANA is an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Department of Fine and Performing Arts. He earned a Music Education Certificate from Butimba Teachers College, a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Dar es Salaam. Currently, he is a doctoral student at Seattle Pacific University in the School of Education, studying curriculum and instruction with emphasis on music education and ethnomusicology. He is a dancer, singer, drummer, performer on Gogo flute, kayamba and ilimba, a music performance organizer, choir director, scholar and community music teacher. He has organized, on site and from the U.S., four large Wagogo cultural festivals featuring Gogo music and musicians from a number of villages in his home area: Chamwino Village in the Dodoma Region of central Tanzania with the long-term goal of establishing a cultural center in the area. In this program the artist is interested in the facilitation of musical experiences for teachers who work with children, so that singing, dancing, and drumming can happen in schools, preschools, after-school programs, and other places where children gather. Through music and dance Mapana hopes to bring teachers to an understanding of how they might incorporate daily 'ngoma' experiences in their lives.

The graduate and undergraduate students involved in this performance are majoring in such programs as ethnomusicology, music education, anthropology and composition. Prior to this Autumn term experience, most of these students had not heard Wagogo music of Tanzania and so have assembled on a twice weekly basis to learn the language of the song, the melodies and their harmonizing parts, the dance moves, and the instruments. They have learned in the traditional way, by listening and watching, and through mimesis have acquired the repertoire they will share today. In the process, many have acquired a taste for Wagogo music and for knowing more about the rich traditions of the Wagogo people.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Elizabeth Allen | Maren Haynes | Rebecca Pirwitz |
| Jeffrey Bowen | Karen Howard | Jerred Poitra |
| Julia Day | Hilary Johnson | Eva Reich |
| Melissa Dugaw | Bonnie McConnell | Daniel Silberman |
| Sean Dugaw | James Morford | Michael Srouji |
| Cameron Gerhold | Jocelyn Oakley | Matt Swanson |

Upcoming Visiting Artist in Ethnomusicology residencies:

January 9-19, 2012: **ANDY STATMAN**. Renowned clarinet and mandolin virtuoso and specialist in Eastern European Jewish instrumental music (Klezmer), Andy Statman leads a free Klezmer master class Thursday, January 19, at 12:30 PM in Brechemin Auditorium.

April 1-15, 2012: **ADE SUPARMAN**. An instrumentalist and composer of Sundanese music from West Java, Ade Suparman performs music of West Java, Indonesia, on Friday, April 13, 2012 at 7:30 PM in Brechemin Auditorium.

April 23-May 4, 2012: **HOMAYOUN SAKHI** and **SALAR NADER**. Homayoun Sakhi, preservationist and innovator of the musical traditions of Afghanistan and acclaimed performer of the rabab (short-necked lute) and Salar Nader, noted percussionist and tabla player specializing in the musical traditions of Afghanistan, perform music from Afghanistan Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 PM in Meany Theater.