

# Musekiwa Chingodza & Chiyedza Mbira Ensemble

**Saturday, November 5, 2022 - 12pm**  
**Serendipity Salon & Gallery**

**Directed by Dr. Megan Arns & Morgan Matsiga**

## Chiyedza Mbira Ensemble

Megan Arns  
Miles Bohlman  
Mary Emmons  
Liz Fetzer  
Sarah Hasekamp  
Morgan Matsiga  
Abby Rehard  
Olivia Sletteland

The traditional music of Zimbabwe reveals the Shona people's spiritual beliefs, modes of expression, patterns of communication, and forms of entertainment. This concert will feature Musekiwa's versions of repertoire from the Shona tradition on the mbira dzavadzimu accompanied by hosho, ngoma, and singing. He will be joined by the Chiyedza Mbira Ensemble, which consists of percussion students and faculty at the University of Missouri. Formed in 2014 as a collaboration between English Professor Anand Prahlad and Percussion Professor Megan Arns, Chiyedza has worked with Zimbabwean musicians Fradreck Mujuru, Patience Munjeri, and Musekiwa Chingodza, focusing on the treasured aural tradition of Shona mbira music.

Musekiwa Chingodza was born into a family of great mbira players in Mwangara village, Murewa, Zimbabwe, in 1970. He began playing mbira at the age of five and is self-taught. Through listening to other gwenyambira, or great mbira players, he developed a strong attachment to and love for mbira music. He has recorded solo albums and also in collaboration with Chris Berry, Jennifer Kyker, Bud Cohen, Sumi Madzitateguru, and Tute and Irene Chigamba. He formerly taught mbira at Prince Edward School in Harare and continues to be in demand to play mbira at ceremonies in Zimbabwe. Since 1999, he has been a regular visitor to the U.S., sponsored biennially by Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center in Eugene, Oregon, and has recently extended his musical touring to include Japan and France. He says, "Our music is both medicine and food, as mbira has the power to heal and to provide for people. Mbira pleases both the living and the dead." Musekiwa is known for his engaging personality, gentle teaching style, virtuoso mbira playing, and deep immersion in Shona culture.

Musekiwa's visit was made possible by support from Mizzou's Division of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity and the Artist in Residence Program.