

University of Missouri School of Music

2022-2023 Series • Large Ensemble/Guest Recital

Afriky Lolo: A Celebration of African Performing Arts

Opening Performances by:
Chiyedza Mbira Ensemble,
directed by Megan Arns and Morgan Matsiga

Mizzou World Percussion Ensemble,
directed by Megan Arns

Wontanara,
directed by Kelechi Adejo and Julie Staveley-O'Carroll

Featured Guest Ensemble:
Afriky Lolo, directed by Diádié Bathily

April 13, 2023 • 7:00pm

Missouri Theatre

Program

Chiyedza Mbira Ensemble

Nhememusasa, as taught by Musikewa Chingodza Traditional Shona (Zimbabwe)
Chigwaya, as taught by Patience Munjeri Traditional Shona (Zimbabwe)

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

Mizzou World Percussion Ensemble

Tome Na Traditional Dagara (Ghana)
Saa Be Wa Naa Traditional Dagara (Ghana)

Mary Emmons, Olivia Sletteland

Kokosawa, as taught by Emmanuel Agbeli Traditional Ewe(Ghana)
Gahu, as taught by Emmanuel Agbeli Traditional Ewe(Ghana)

Mary Emmons, Liz Fetzer, Chloe Hart, Sarah Hasekamp, Calvin Hinton,
Jeremiah Ingram, Colton Johnson, Kael Miranda, Olivia Sletteland, Greyson Smallen

Wontanara

Kassa Traditional Malinke (Guinea)
Yolé Traditional Temne (Sierra Leone)

Kelechi Adejo, Matt Arthur, Pam Fleenor-Benton, Candace Kauffman,
Katrina Knott, John Markovitz, Uzo Mbionwu, Barb Onofrio,
Julie Staveley-O'Carroll, Josh Stevens, Mira Stoddart, Verla Turner

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support of this performance!

College of Arts & Science Artist in Residence
University of Missouri School of Music

Biographies

Afriky Lolo

Afriky Lolo's mission is to share and celebrate West African dance with local, national, and international communities! We do so through classes, performances, workshops, and summer camps, volunteering and for-profit events. Through dance, we bring the rich heritage of African performance to children, teens, adults, and seniors of all levels and abilities. Whenever possible, we nurture and expand contacts between our African dance community in St. Louis, Missouri and other enthusiasts of African dance across the world.

Afriky Lolo, founded and led by Diádié Bathily, is a West African dance non-profit corporation that is committed to bringing West African dance and culture to the St. Louis, Missouri, community through teaching and performing. Bathily is a Master dancer from the Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. He immigrated to the United States in 1998. He has a strong personal and professional desire to share the beauty, culture and passion of West African dance with Americans, especially African Americans.

Diádié Bathily has danced professionally for over 30 years and has performed professionally for Marie-Rose Guiraud's Les Guirivoires, Adama Drame, Wara Danse (his company in the Cote d'Ivoire), and Diádié Bathily Dance (in the United States). Bathily is an experienced teacher who specializes in traditional dances from Mali, the Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Ghana. He teaches and performs in St. Louis elementary and secondary schools and at local universities, colleges, and dance studios throughout the Midwest. Throughout the school year, Bathily teaches and gives workshops at local elementary and secondary public schools, at Washington University and at the University of Missouri in St. Louis. Bathily also choreographs original pieces for university dance companies.

Diádié Bathily formed Afriky Lolo in 2003, and became a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation in 2007. The Company has 75 dancers — ranging in age from 6 to over 60 and 8 drummers. Afriky Lolo, meaning African Star, performs traditional West African dance at community events throughout the year. The Company's annual performance is its largest event.

Afriky Lolo performances are choreographed, staged, costumed, and directed by Diádié Bathily. These performances reflect the rich culture of West Africa, and each dance performed by Afriky Lolo is enhanced by traditional West African costumes. Costuming is a very important aspect of traditional West African dance. Bathily travels frequently to the Cote d'Ivoire and Mali in order to obtain authentic West African cloth, beads, and masks for the costumes worn by the dancers and drummers. All costumes are sewn by Bathily and/or specialists in West Africa.

Afriky Lolo continues to grow its public recognition, its teaching opportunities and its performance opportunities. The company is offering its educational program, under the Afriky Lolo name, to more schools, and is increasing the number of performances and workshops it can offer to the community. Bathily has seen African American children inspired by their heritage, excited by the opportunity to participate in this dancing, and even reporting more interest and energy in school as a result.

Mizzou Percussion

The University of Missouri Percussion Studio houses several award-winning ensembles. The University Percussion Ensemble is a versatile ensemble that performs both contemporary and historical percussion works in large and small settings. The ensemble regularly commissions new music and performs works by Mizzou student/faculty composer and guest composers through the Mizzou New Music Initiative. The World Percussion Ensemble studies and performs music from Zimbabwe, Ghana, Guinea, Latin America, and the Caribbean region. They have recently studied with master musicians such as Musekwiwa Chingodza, Patience Munjeri, Seny Daffe, Salia Camara at home in Columbia and the Agbeli and Woma families abroad in Ghana.

Both ensembles consist of undergraduate and graduate percussion majors at the University of Missouri-Columbia. In recent years, the ensemble has been a featured ensemble at the 2018 Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), the 2019 Mid-Missouri Percussive Arts Trophy (MMPAT), the 2018 Missouri Music Educators Associate Conference (MMEA), and the 2014 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. For more information about these ensembles, contact Megan Arns, Director of Percussion Studies, at arnsm@missouri.edu.

Wontanara

Our name “Wontanara” is a phrase which means “we are one.” As such, it is our mission to celebrate diversity in the Columbia community by focusing on the performing arts of Africa and her diaspora. Through educations outreach, dance and percussion classes, performances, workshops, festival, and collaborations with other community organizations, we hope to bring our community members together and cultivate an appreciation of what African culture has to offer.

We are an organization committed to social justice, and we condemn all forms of racism. We acknowledge that our privilege has allowed us to participate in this art form, and we recognize that many black people are still being oppressed all over the world.

We are a diverse group of dancers and percussionists who honor and appreciate the cultures and traditions we study. Our artistic director travels yearly to Guinea, and we invite master teachers to Columbia so we can humbly learn and expand our knowledge. We are extremely grateful to our West African friends for sharing their expertise in dance and percussion. We find these movements and music to be mentally, physically, and spiritually healing. We love and cherish this art form, and we love to share it with our community. We welcome all members of the Columbia community to participate in our workshops and events.

Requests for accommodations related to disability need to be made to building coordinator, Susan Worstell, 206 Sinquefeld Music Center, 573-884-2604, at least seven days in advance of the event. Events are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit our web site: www.music.missouri.edu

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