

CU★PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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Spring 2022

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Photography

CU Boulder Photography

AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the **University of Colorado Boulder College of Music** is to inspire artistry and discovery, together.



The College of Music acknowledges that the university sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to Colorado lands.

African Highlife Ensemble

Maputo Mensah, director

7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 2, 2022

Grusin Music Hall

Program

SEGMENT 1: INDIGENOUS AFRICAN DANCES

Kolomashi

This is a Ghanaian group protest song against colonialism. Song types by this group are named after the group leader Oko Kolomashi and the song chosen for this program is selected from the repertoire.

Mutukuzi

Mutukuzi is a Kenyan youth dance.

Gumboot Dance

This dance was crafted during the oppressive apartheid era in South Africa, gumboot dance was performed by the subjugated mine workers as a secret communication. This dance in its earliest days was performed by these workers wearing Wellington gumboots.

SEGMENT 2: HIGHLIFE MUSIC BY THE CU WEST AFRICAN HIGHLIFE ENSEMBLE

Ayi Langa

Naakpe Noko

This song speaks about tensions that sometimes exist in families and marriages. The song is translated below:

“Something is bothering me, and it is between me and my in-laws. I need someone to take me to them so that I can tell them what is bothering me. I told Ayi to go with me because he is wise and able to mediate and resolve this problem.”

Baa Sumo Me

Kojo Antwi

This is a highlife hit song by Kojo Antwi. The lyric of this song is nostalgic and translated herein:

“Come and love me. Since you left, I keep thinking about you. In my bed at night, I think about you. I wet my pillow with my tears. In the morning when I wake up, I think about you. Please come back and love me. Since you left, there has been no moon light to shine on my path. When the sun shines, it feels like rain. Where can I find joy to move on? I will build your statue to show how much I love you. I miss you dearly. Please come back and love me.”

Oblayoko

Kojo Antwi

“I was sleeping when a friend came and invited me to Tema for a dance, food, and drinks. She is beautiful and outgoing but was in a hurry to leave for Tema, so I asked her why the hurry? She says ‘because my friends are waiting for me, I need to go and have fun.’”

Personnel

Maputo Mensah, ensemble director

Maputo Mensah has more than 20 years of experience performing traditional Ghanaian dance and drumming. He grew up in a family of drummers and dancers and began performing in a family group at the age of 5. His first professional performance was at the age of 10 with the West African Folkloric Troupe. Maputo studied with the renowned Mustapha Tettey Addy for 14 years and has performed solo in his self-found Ligi Troupe and as guest drummer and dancer internationally. Maputo combines a love of Ghanaian culture with a passion for sharing joy with people around the world. Maputo takes students to Ghana every year to study African drumming and dance.

West African Highlife Ensemble

Sarah Alsaffar

Sean Applebee

Caroline Butcher

Charlie Chelson

Maggie Frecking

Alyssa Gasca

Sarah Lather

Aidan Lindstrom

Kathrina Lott

Nicky Shindler

Emma Stanek

Jack Szabo

Iris Wong

Sammy Wubben

Ensemble assistant: Tober Schorr

Class TA: Ubochi Igbokwe

Director: Maputo Mensah

CU ★ PRESENTS



Upcoming events at the College of Music

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up-to-date.

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Student Ensembles

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Musical Theatre

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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Personnel

As of Jan. 10, 2022

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