



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

# West African Highlife

## Ensemble

Maputo Mensah, director

*with*

Paa Kow, assistant instructor

Ben Kammin, teaching assistant

7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 14, 2018

Grusin Music Hall

Imig Music Building

**Be engaged. Be inspired. Be here.**

**Be Boulder.**

# Program

## **Come and Dance**

Traditional Drumming

*Drumming is fun and it's not hard. Everybody can drum and everybody can have fun!*

## **Gota**

Traditional Drumming

*Gota is a style of drumming that came from Benin and Ghana, and is played by the Ewe people.*

## **Kpanlogo**

Traditional Dance

*The Kpanlogo dance was invented by Otoo Lincoln. He was told the following Ansee folk story by his grandfather: Kpanlogo, Mma Mma and Algodzan were the names of three triplet girls. Their father was the chief and said whoever could guess their names could marry them. A man went to their home pretending to be a mad man asking for water, met the girls, and learned their names as they called to each other. To remember them he kept singing to himself 'Kp. Mma. Al,' and of course he married the girls. Soon after Ghana became an independent nation in 1957. Kpanlogo came to symbolize the youth independence of a young nation and was played at funerals, state occasions, and became an anthem for the ruling party at the time. It remains popular today.*

## **Akpeteshie**

Dela Yaw Botri

*This song is a good example of pure highlife style. You can hear the up-beat bell pattern drive the ensemble. The lyrics are a sort of public service announcement: "Drinking and driving is not good. If you are drinking, don't drive, because safety is important." This song provides an excellent opportunity to get up and dance!*

## **Love Dance**

Paa Kow

## **Oblayoko**

Kojo Antwi

*I was sleeping when a friend came and invited me to Tema for a dance, food and drinks. She was beautiful and outgoing, and she was in a haring to go to Tema. I ask her why she was in a haring. She says it is because friends are waiting for her and she wants to go have fun.*

## **Dreams Come True**

Paa Kow

*I remember when I was young,  
All the wonderful dreams.  
And now I realize  
My dreams are coming true.*

*Dreams come true,  
Dreams come true,  
Dreams come true.  
Agya, Dreams come true.*

# Personnel

## **Members of the CU West African Highlife Ensemble**

### **Maputo Mensah, director**

Maputo Mensah, director, has over 20 years of experience performing traditional Ghanaian dance and drumming. Growing up in a family of drummers and dancers, he 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 has studied with the renowned Mustapha Tettey Addy for 14 years, and has performed solo in his own Logo Ligi troupe and as a 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 drumming and dance. For more information, visit [maputomensah.com](http://maputomensah.com).

### **Paa Kow, assistant director**

### **Ben Kammin, teaching assistant**

### **Students**

Ben Cefkin, Alex Bozik, Zachary Ruther, Jack Evans, Matthew Genelin, Jasmine Mitchell, Jared Muenks, Shelby Carne, Megan Odgen, Adrienne Havelka

## Highlife and CU Boulder West African Highlife Ensemble

Highlife is a form of popular music from West Africa, widely heard especially in Ghana and Nigeria. The development of highlife is the result of interactions with European culture, urbanization, and the formation of new social identities. Hence, highlife draws first from the indigenous dance music and topical song forms among the various ethnic groups in the countries (including the Akan, Ewe, Igbo, and Yoruba peoples), late 19th century sounds of the British Regimental Band music on the West African coasts and 20th century palm wine guitar music. For urbanized Africans who may be working far away from home, highlife continues from where traditional music left off. Highlife is performed in the cafes, nightclubs, ballrooms, concert halls and other venues of entertainment.

The CU West African Highlife Ensemble was formed in the fall of 2000 when Kwasi Ampene joined the College of Music faculty. It is the only student Highlife ensemble in the United States, functioning as a key component of the College of Music's venture into the intriguing world of ethnomusicology. The Highlife Ensemble offers a unique opportunity, not only to explore, but to create music entirely new to American students. Our repertoire goes beyond Highlife to include traditional, neo-traditional, and Afro-Pop genres of countries from West Africa to South Africa.

# Japanese Ensemble

**2 p.m., Sunday, April 22**

Grusin Music Hall

The CU Japanese Ensemble, dedicated to hands-on learning of Japanese music and dance, studies several traditional Japanese instruments, Japanese poetry and performs a wide variety music and dance from many regions of Japan.



**CU PERFORMING ARTS**  
*music*

## Student Ensemble Events at the College of Music

### **Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Chamber Orchestra**

7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Percussion Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Monday, March 19  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Latin Jazz**

### **Percussion Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 5  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Early Music Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Friday, April 6  
Grusin Music Hall

### **CU Chamber Choirs**

7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 8  
Mtn. View United Methodist  
Church, Boulder

### **African Highlife Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 14  
Grusin Music Hall

### **CU Choirs**

7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 15  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Campus Orchestra**

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17  
Macky Auditorium

### **Concert Band and Symphonic Band**

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 18  
Macky Auditorium

### **Boulder Laptop Orchestra (BLOrk)**

7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 21  
ATLAS Black Box

### **Japanese Ensemble**

2 p.m., Sunday, April 22  
Grusin Music Hall

### **Latin American Ensemble**

4:30 p.m., Sunday, April 22  
Grusin Music Hall

### **University Choir and University Singers**

7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 22  
Grusin Music Hall

### **CU Symphony Orchestra**

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 24  
Macky Auditorium

### **Concert Jazz & Jazz II**

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25  
Grusin Music Hall

### **CU at Boettcher**

7:30 p.m., Monday, April 30  
Boettcher Concert Hall  
Denver Performing Arts Complex

Learn more at [colorado.edu/music](http://colorado.edu/music)

**Keep in touch!** Send us your email address to be added to our music events mailing list by texting **612-888-3403**.

*All data is confidential. Phone numbers are not collected nor used.*

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