

CU West African Highlife Ensemble

Maputo Mensah, director, percussion and vocals

Jonny Jyemo, assistant instructor

Shaun Stubblefield, teaching assistant

*Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of
the house manager.*

4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019

Grusin Music Hall

Imig Music Building



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Program

West African drumming and dance

Vii no mawaa jro
Aloo

Traditional Drumming

Dzigo Waka

Traditional Dance

This is a traditional dance which was used for social reasons, originating in Liberia. It became more and more popular in Ghana in the 19th century. It is a love dance for men and women to show their beauty.

Highlife music

Baa Sumo Me

Kojo Antwi

This is a hit Highlife song by Kojo Antwi that's about missing the one you love. The lyrics translate to: "Come and love me. Since you have gone, I keep thinking about you when I go to bed at night. When I wake up in the morning, tears fill my pillow, so please come and love me. Since you have gone, there has been no moon to show me a path to walk on. When the sun shines, it makes me feel like it's raining ... So what is happiness to me now? I will throw stars to you to show how much I love you. I miss you so deeply, so please come back and love me."

Amoulanga

Magic System

This song is an uplifting Highlife song from the Ivory Coast and speaks of the virtues of upholding tradition.

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.

Oblayoko

Kojo Antwi

Oblayoko is a song about a friend of mine who is in a hurry to go and have fun. I was sleeping when my friend came and invited me to Tema (club) to eat, drink, and dance. She is beautiful and outgoing and was in a hurry to go to Tema. I asked why she is in a hurry and she says: I'm in a hurry to go and have fun.

CU West African Highlife Ensemble

Highlife is a form of popular music from West Africa, widely heard in Ghana and Nigeria, especially. The development of Highlife is the result of interactions with European cultures, urbanization and the formation of new social identities. Hence, Highlife draws first the indigeounous dance music and topical song forms among the various ehnic groups in the countries (including Akan, Ewe, Igbo and Yoruba people); 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 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. This sensembe offers a unique opportunity, not only to explore, but to create music entirely new to American students. Our repertory goes beyond Highlife to include traditional, neo-traditional and Afro-Pop genres of countries from West African to South Africa.

Personnel

Veronica Luckert Paolone

Lydia Wagenknecht

Michael Pizzini

Toby Aldape

Maria Carilli

Coulter Church

Will Deselms

Qingyu Zhou

Tony Kadding

Charles Wofford

Upcoming performances

💰 Ticketed events 📺 Live stream at cupresents.org

Monday, Nov. 18

Thompson Jazz Combos

7:30 p.m., Old Main Chapel

Vocal Jazz and Madrigal Singers

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Artist Series

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 💰

Wednesday, Nov. 20

Symphonic Band

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 📺

Thursday, Nov. 21

Wind Symphony

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 📺

Monday, Dec. 2

Chamber Music Showcase

7:30 p.m., St Aidan's Episcopal Church,
2425 Colorado Ave, Boulder

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Faculty Tuesdays

Ryan Gardner

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Eklund Opera Scenes

5 p.m., Music Theatre

Pendulum New Music

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Dec. 6-8

Holiday Festival 2019

Macky Auditorium 💰

Monday, Dec. 9

Concert Band and Campus Orchestra

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Faculty Tuesdays

Expressions of Conflict

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Ellington's "Nutcracker"

6:30 p.m., Dazzle Club,
1512 Curtis St., Denver

Events are subject to change:

*call us at 303-492-8008 or visit us online
at cupresents.org to verify.*

Founded in 1920, the CU Boulder College of Music offers a wide range of programs for undergraduate and graduate study, uniquely combining advanced musical training with professionally oriented experiences and the rich resources of a leading research university. Learn more at colorado.edu/music.

CU Presents is the home of performing arts on the beautiful University of Colorado Boulder campus. With hundreds of concerts, plays, recitals and more on our stages each year, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Find your next performance at cupresents.org.

Keep in touch! Send your email address to be added to our events mailing list at cupresents.org/email.