

Spring 4-30-2015

Marshall University Music Department Presents
the Marshall University African Drumming &
Dance Ensemble, Steven Hall, conductor, Jessica
Fox, assistant conductor

Steven Hall

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Jessica Fox

Marshall University

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SCHOOL of MUSIC and THEATRE

presents

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCE ENSEMBLE

Steven Hall, conductor
Jessica Fox, assistant conductor

Thursday, April 30, 2015
Smith Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

This program is presented by the College of Arts & Media through the School of Music and Theatre with the support of student activity funds. For more information about this or other music events, please call (304) 696-3117, or view our website at www.marshall.edu/cam/somt.

Program

<i>Tokoe</i>	Charles Powell, master drum	Ga-Dangme Ghana, West Africa
<i>Zambezi</i>	Jessica Lynn Fox, original choreography	Tinashe'
<i>Gahu</i>	Charles Powell, master drum	Ewe' Nigeria, West Africa
<i>Kassa</i>		Maninka Guinea, West Africa

♪♪ Program Notes ♪♪

Traditional African music is a community activity and is functional. Traditional African music maintains deep connections with the aspects of the daily lives of the people including the history of their ancestors. Most traditional African music has four aspects: drumming, dancing, singing, and costumes.

Tokoe *Ga-Dangme Puberty Dance-Drumming*

Entering puberty is a critical period of the ongoing communal assimilation of a child into the cultural tradition of society. The young child has developed the capability of reproducing sexually and must know the social responsibilities of that biological maturity.

Puberty rites known, as "*dipo*" are the communal forum in which the *Ga-Dangme* female acquires the knowledge of the social responsibilities of this critical biological transition. Very respected female members of the community are the officiating elders. Their wisdom, life experience, self-esteem and self-confidence provide good role models for the young adults.

Tokoe is the dance-drumming performed at the beginning of the ceremonies to introduce the very carefully selected candidates of "*dipo*" to the community. Entering "*dipo*" is an honor and privilege and all entering must meet very strict qualification measures. Among these qualification measures is the requirement that the young adult remains a virgin by the time of entering.

The *Ga-Dangme* people reside in southern Ghana along the banks of the Volta River

Zambezi

Zambezi is a song by Tinashe, a Zimbabwe-born British singer songwriter performed on the mbira or thumb piano. His musical influences range from rock, pop and R & B to traditional African music. Zimbabwe a land-locked country located in the south-central highlands of Africa is surrounded by the Zambezi River to the north and the Limpopo River to the south and is the home to the Shona people who are credited with a virtuosic mbira tradition closely tied to spirituality and ancestor-worship.

Gahu

Gahu is a form of music and dance that originated in Southwestern Nigeria as a Yoruba wedding celebration. Adopted by the Southern Ewe people of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, Gahu has evolved into a recreational music and dance performed at any social occasion by both sexes and all age groups. The name Gahu comes from the Ewe words "ga" meaning rich or wealthy and "Hu" meaning drum or dance for the wealthy.

Kassa

From the Maninka ethnic group, Kassa is performed in the Guinea regions of Macenta and Balandougou to celebrate baptisms and weddings. Kassa is also played while workers harvest the fields. The workers may have to walk miles from field to field and Kassa is sometimes played while the workers walk to the next field. It is also played to celebrate the bountiful harvest at a festival called the "Kassaladon".

African Ensemble Personnel

Bohach, Nathan
Boykin, John
Cardwell, Ryan
Decker, Brenna
Fisher, Brooke
Gilkerson, Makala
Graham, Jaime
Grandstaff, Jarohn
Hall, Emily
Hersman, Alexander
Kimler, Amanda
Lawhead, Allison
Mendenhall, Chanisha
Myers, Olivia
Nibert, Scott
Potter, Brody
Perdue, Alexandra
Powell, Charles***
Rayment, Ethan

*** - graduate student

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Jessica Fox for her guidance and creativity in working with the dancers.

----Steve Hall



The Marshall University School of Music and Theatre is grateful for the support of many families and individuals who help make our department strong and vibrant.

If you would like to support the Department of Music through a donation and assist with student scholarships, academic travel for students and ensembles, or general support of the department please contact:

Melanie Griffis, Director of Development

College of Arts & Media

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