

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

UBC African Music & Dance Ensemble

(A Unique African Cultural Experience *through* Music and Dance)

Directed By: Kofi J. S. Gbolonyo

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Time: 12:00 noon

Venue: Barnett Recital Hall, Music Building

Program

Kundum: Kundum is a music and dance of the Nzema and Ahanta peoples of Ghana. The dance takes its name from their local harvest festival and is performed as part of the annual Kundum festival in Ghana. The festival and the dance originated in a situation of famine and hunger. Although traditionally a harvest music and dance, Kundum can now be seen on all social occasions. Kundum is performed in 2/3 sections: The first is *domo*, a slow movement, in which dancers evoke beauty, majesty and gracefulness with stately postures of tilted bodies. The second section *ewulalâ* (literally meaning "pumping"), inspires fast and masculine movements. The third section *edudule* consists of vigorous torso to torso movements, strutting movements of the body. The act of "plucking" in the fields is dramatized in the Kundum dance. Although a warrior character is evident in the music, it is essentially a thanksgiving celebration of the earth's regenerative forces.

Kpatsa: Kpatsa is a dance used in puberty rite and rituals of the Dangme of Ghana. Originally it is thought to have first been performed by dwarfs. Today, Kpatsa is the principal traditional entertainment music and dance among the Dangme and the Ga of Southern Ghana, in West Africa. The dance, which depicts uneven manner of feet movement sometimes associated with the 'manner of dwarf walking,' involves sideways and forward shuffling movements, making use of short, brisk steps with the body slightly bent.

Boboobo: Boboobo is the most popular social music and dance of the Central and Northern Ewe of Ghana and Togo. This music and dance, also known as Agbeyeye (New Life), or Akpese (Music of Joy and Freedom) is derived from an older circular dance called Konkoma. Boboobo songs texts may be sacred or secular. Songs' themes vary from love, cultural values to social-political issues. In Boboobo, many master drums may be used simultaneously. The master drum motives are usually based on well-known verbal phrases. Thus, the drums are used as speech surrogates.

Gahu

Gahu emanated from the musical traditions associated with marriage and wedding rites of the Yoruba of Nigeria. Presently, the Southern Ewe of Ghana, Togo and Benin perform the dance on most social occasions. Although this historic origin can be seen today in the rich Yoruba costume worn by many performing groups, the Ewe have significantly transformed this stylized dance by introducing some typical Ewe dance movements, songs, and drum motives. Themes of Gahu songs relate to historical, philosophical, and topical issues.

Gota: Gota originated from the Ewe and Fon of Benin and was introduced to the Southeastern Ewe in the early nineteenth century through migration. Originally performed in Benin for their war god, Gota is now performed as a recreational music and dance by the Southern Ewe of West Africa.

A Message from the Director

The UBC African Music and Dance Ensemble (MUSC 165D/565D) focuses on music and dances from Africa (particularly from West Africa). This course/ensemble introduces the drumming techniques, dances, and other artistic expressions of Africa. As a course and an ensemble, it does not limit itself to drumming but tries to present an ensemble that represents a complete or total African artistic expression—music, dance, drama, and visual arts. The ensemble is open to (1) students taking it as a course for credit and (2) all other persons within and outside the University of British Columbia interested in African performing arts.

Today, with your support, we hope to heat up your bodies, energize your souls, and elevate your spirits through the sounds and rhythms of African drums, dance steps, and simple but philosophical songs. We would present music and dances mostly from West Africa. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the pieces. Yell anytime you feel like! Scream when your spirit calls for it! Never restrict the body! Move if the rhythm hits you. This is an African musical performance. It is a communal festival celebration. Have Fun!!!

Artists/Membership: Present membership of the ensemble/class comprises of music major, non-major, graduate, and undergraduate students, UBC alumni, Faculty and staff, and other persons in the Greater Vancouver Area.

Performers: Lisa Arias, Nathan Bernacki, Leah Bruno, Emily Chan, Owen Chernikhowsky, Trinity Collie, Ryan Flores, Nikolaj Hansen, Sophie Park, Fiorella Alvanrenga Morales, Aram Bajakian, Jacqueline Boivin, and Kofi Gbolonyo