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PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

AFRICAN Journey

Music Inspired by the Rhythms and
Traditions of the African Continent

The **EVERGREEN CHORALE**
and **KUTANDARA**,
a Zimbabwean Style
Marimba Band in Concert

Saturday, November 19 - 7:30 PM

Evergreen Christian Church

Sunday, November 20 - 4:30 PM

Wellshire Presbyterian Church



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Ovation West Performing Arts
presents

African Journey

*Music inspired by the Rhythms and Traditions
of the African Continent*

Performed by
The Evergreen Chorale and Kutandara
A Zimbabwean Style Marimba Band

Musical Direction
Kirsten Carpenter-Ortman and Randy McIntosh

Featuring
Blessing Chimanga

EVERGREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 19, 7:30 P.M.

WELLSHIRE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DENVER
NOVEMBER 20, 4:30 P.M.

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PROGRAM

African Journey

THE EVERGREEN CHORALE AND KUTANDARA

Betelehemu, by Via Olatunji & Wendell Whalum,
arr. by Barrington Brooks | *Soloist*: Haelyn Bloxam

African Noel, arr. by André J. Thomas

Maruva Enyika

Ndikhokhele Bawo, arr. by Michael Barrett
Soloists: Heather Rains, Haelyn Bloxam
Jason Duteil and Ingrid Ulbrich

Wana Baraka, arr. by Shawn L. Kirchner

Sisi Ni Moja, by Jacob Narverud

INTERMISSION

Noel, by Todd Smith & arr. by Brad Holmes
Soloists: Jason Duteil and Dodge McCord

Yemaya Assessu, arr. by Judy A. Rose
Soloist Trio: Mande Mischler, Ingrid Ulbrich, and Lisa Wald

Vakuru Vanaorapa

Bonk' Abaphandle, by Michael Barrett & Mbuso Ndlovu

Noel, by Naomi LaViolette

Heartbeat, by Kyle Pederson

Please turn off your cell phones!

Photography, video and audio recording strictly prohibited. Thank you!

KUTANDARA

Blessing Chimanga

Guest Artist

Heather Doty

Maria Elron

Perry Lawrence

Randy McIntosh

Amy Stewart McIntosh

Claire O'Quinn

Elena Parthemer

Charlie Plehaty

Noah Randall

David Simon

Kutandara

Kutandara is both a band and a school!

Kutandara *the band* fuses ancient African music traditions with indie-pop, rock, jazz, gospel, classical, and world folk influences. Their exuberant and hi-energy polyrhythmic performances manage to be innovative and deeply-rooted at the same time. Kutandara means to come together and have a good time, which is the group's purpose as they exchange energy of music and movement with their audiences. The sound is pure marimba, as it is taught and performed in Zimbabwe. <https://kutandara.org/kutandara/>

“Kutandara showcases the best world music talent.”

—*The Boulder Weekly*

“Kutandara pounds out infectious polyrhythms . . . the music is irresistible.”

—*New West Magazine*

“Kutandara is all about having fun.”

—*Colorado Daily*

Kutandara *the studio* offers on-going marimba, drumming, and mbira classes for kids, teens, and adults, as well as custom one-time music

workshops for co-workers, families, and community groups. They also host First Friday open houses, produce several Visiting Artists Events each year, and offer in-depth experiential programs for schools.

<https://kutandara.org/classes/>

Interested in travelling to Zimbabwe? They also offer Cultural Immersion & Music Performance Tours of Zimbabwe.

<https://kutandara.org/music-culture-tour-zimbabwe/>

Composers

Blessing Chimanga

Blessing is a percussionist and singer from Zimbabwe. A self-taught multi-instrumentalist, he has toured internationally, performing in Italy, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Argentina, Mozambique, South Africa, and the United States. He co-founded the Let the Drums Speak Festival in 2010, to engage his local community and showcase developing talent in Zimbabwe. In 2019, he launched the Celebrate Africa Music Competition to encourage Zimbabwean young adults to take pride in their traditional instruments and languages; Season 3 launches next month. Blessing also sits on the Kutandara Board of Directors. Driven by passion and a singular drive to “live, dream, eat, see and smell music,” he believes he was “born to bring a change in this world for the better through music.”

Chiwoniso Maraire

Chiwoniso, a Zimbabwean-American singer, songwriter, and exponent of Zimbabwean mbira music, rose to international acclaim as a recording artist. She began playing mbira at the age of 4 years and recorded her first album with her parents when she was 9. At 11 she was performing with her father and her siblings in the family mbira group Mhuri yaMaraire (the Maraire Family). At 21 she recorded her first solo album, followed by many more over the life of her short career. Chiwoniso was celebrated for the way in which she modernized the ancient instrument mbira, which had traditionally been used by male musicians, and for the way in which she used the mbira as the backing for her own songs, which often dealt with social and political issues, and in collaborations involving hip-hop and jazz. Chiwoniso succumbed to a lung infection in 2013. She was 35.


Marimbas

Wikipedia says, “The marimba is a musical instrument in the percussion family that consists of wooden bars that are struck by mallets. Below each bar is a resonator pipe that amplifies particular harmonics of its sound. Compared to the xylophone, the timbre of the marimba is warmer, deeper, more resonant, and more pure. It also tends to have a lower range than that of a xylophone. Below each bar is a resonator pipe that amplifies particular harmonics of its sound. Today, the marimba is used as a solo instrument, or in ensembles like orchestras, marching bands (typically as a part of the front ensemble), percussion ensembles, brass and concert bands, and other traditional ensembles.”

Kutandara’s marimbas are designed after the ensembles found in Zimbabwean schools and arts centers. Designed in the 1960s, the Zimbabwean marimba originated at Kwanongoma College in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to teach teachers traditional music to keep it alive in the schools. A Zimbabwean marimba ensemble is comprised of soprano instruments, tenor instruments, a baritone, and a bass.


The standard treble instruments (sopranos and tenors) usually have 17 keys—two octaves of a C major scale with an F sharp in each octave, which makes it possible to play in the key of G major as well. Kutandara has expanded these ranges slightly and plays with a 20-key lead soprano, three 20-key altos, two 20-key tenors, and sometimes two baritone marimbas, along with the bass marimba in their ensembles. The keyboard is primarily the C major scale with an F sharp in each octave, which makes it possible to play in the key of G major, and many other minor keys and modes, as well.

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THE EVERGREEN CHORALE

KIRSTEN CARPENTER-ORTMAN *Conductor*
PATRICK LEE *Accompanist*
JORDAN ORTMAN *Assistant Accompanist*
HAELYN BLOXAM *Assistant Conductor*

SOPRANOS

Jeannette Armbrustmacher Amy Poole
Bonnie Bloxham Heather Rains
Cristi Galan Claire Terry
Ruth Hund Lisa Wald
Deborah Karsell Carol Wood
Mande Mischler Alex Woosley
Linda Morris

ALTOS

Jeanne Ambrosier Patricia Magerkurth
Laurie Atkinson Emilie McDonough
Julie Bell Ann Moore
Emilie Bickel Elizabeth Moore
Deborah Burger Michelle O'Laughlin
Carole Callaghan Ingrid Ulbrich
JoAnn Dunn Kris Waggoner
Sarah Ellis

TENORS

Kevin Atkinson Steve Montigne
Haelyn Bloxham Tom Scripps
Greg Bond Dick Scudder
Jason Duteil Ken Scudder

BASS-BARITONES

Richard Aylor David McDonald
Fred Bloemendaal Mike Moore
Stan Bull Alan Rubin
Ken Frick Johan Stokstad
Bill Karsell Gerald Van Eeckhout
Dodge McCord

PRODUCTION STAFF

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	<i>Kirsten Carpenter-Ortman</i>
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KUTANDARA	<i>Amy McIntosh</i>
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, KUTANDARA	<i>Randy McIntosh</i>
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST	<i>Patrick Lee</i>
ACCOMPANIST	<i>Jordan Ortman</i>
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR	<i>Haelyn Bloxam</i>
PRODUCTION MANAGER	<i>Alex Woosley</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Carole Callaghan, Tonje Williams, Kevin Atkinson, Jason Duteil, Deb Karsell, Clarie Terry, JoAnn Dunn, Laurie Atkinson, Steve Montigne, Dodge McCord, and Johan Stokstad</i>
LIBRARIAN	<i>Kevin Atkinson</i>
FRONT OF HOUSE AND TICKETING	<i>Christine Emery, Tonje Williams</i>
MARKETING	<i>Sarah Gumina, Claire Terry, Christine Emery, Tonje Williams</i>
GRAPHIC DESIGN	<i>Beth Foster (program), Tim Johnson (marketing materials)</i>

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Kutandara
Blessing Chimanga
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT CENTER STAGE

December 3 & 4, 2022
Warren Miller Film: *Daymaker*
RMAE PTO Event


December 8, 2022
***A Winter's Eve with
David Arkenstone & Friends***
A QDV/Victoria Page Mererink
Production

December 9, 10 & 11, 2022
Dancing In The Light
Evergreen Children's Chorale

December 16, 17 & 18, 2022
Seasons Readings
Evergreen Players

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BIOGRAPHIES



KIRSTEN CARPENTER-ORTMAN

*ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR,
EVERGREEN CHORALE*

Kirsten Carpenter-Ortman is the Director of Choirs at the Colorado School of Mines as well as the interim vocal music instructor at Ralston Valley High School. Additionally, Kirsten is the assistant director of the Evergreen Chorale. Kirsten's choirs have performed in a variety of venues including Carnegie Hall, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. In addition to conducting, Mrs. Ortman also frequently performs as an opera and musical theater singer. Recent roles include Jenny in *The Threepenny Opera*, Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. Kirsten recently music directed *Godspell* for Ovation West in the spring of 2022. Kirsten holds a BME in vocal music and MM in conducting from the University in Northern Colorado.



BLESSING CHIMANGA

FEATURED ARTIST

Blessing Bled Chimanga is a musician from Zimbabwe. He is well-known for playing the drum, marimba and percussion. He is a music teacher and music creator. He is also the founder of Let the Drums Speak Concert, an annual concert that he hosted every year with new acts of Blessing Performing with his drums.

He has played with many artists such as Hope Masike, Josh Meck, Dudu Manhenga, the late Chiwoneso Maraire, Taririo Negitare, Chikwata263, the late Sam Mtukudzi and Andy Brown. Eric Wainaina from Kenya, Amanda Tosoni from Italy, Ary Morais from Norway, Umoja Zimbabwe, Mother Africa and many others in Zimbabwe and across the world.

He has toured countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Norway, Sweden, Italy and the U.K. The qualified musician is a composer and songwriter in his own right. He is also part of a four piece international Collaboration called ZIMBOITA meaning Zimbabwe Italy music collaboration. The project was designed to celebrate friendship, culture exchange, fusion of music styles and instruments.



PATRICK LEE

PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

Patrick Lee is a Colorado native, a graduate of CU's jazz department, and is a teacher of piano up in Evergreen. He has released over thirty albums of original music influenced by sampling culture, cassettes, records, collages, animals, field recordings, hip-hop, and electronic music. When not chasing his three-legged dog down the street, Lee can be found trying to root for Buffs football and betting on mixed doubles tennis.



RANDY MCINTOSH

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, KUTANDARA

Randy McIntosh is Kutandara's Artistic Director. Randy graduated from Colorado State University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in music, and from the University of Colorado in 1996 with a master's degree in music composition. Randy's love of Zimbabwean music inspires him to write and arrange his own Shona-style compositions. Randy is Kutandara's in-house composer and musical visionary.

Randy's focus in teaching is group marimba classes for teens and adults, primarily with intermediate-advanced level students and performing bands. He also teaches private lessons in mbira, and incorporates mbira concepts into his group marimba classes. Randy has taught Zimbabwean music at the University of Colorado, Metropolitan State University, Regis University, New Vista High School, the Colorado School of the Arts, and Boulder Country Day School.

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Missy Cook (In Kind)
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