

ZIMFEST 2025

Music Dancing Across Borders



Live at
Central Washington
University
August 7-10, 2025

Audio recording: Thaddeus Moore; Concert Production: Alex Weeks;
Mixing and Mastering: Stephen Spitalny



2. Tonobayana/Tondobayana– Rubatano Marimba

“Tonobayana,” also “Tondobayana”: Shona traditional song meaning “Going to War.” Inspired and taught by Jacob Mafuleni and Paul Mataruse. This marimba version was arranged by Dana Moffett and recorded by Ruzivo. The lyrics sung at Zimfest, inspired by Abel Mafuleni, are from Chiwoniso’s song “Mai,” sung here as a tribute to the late Martha Thom Mafuleni.

3. Thula Sizwe–Lucky, Tsungi, Mike and Friends

“Thula Sizwe” (Zulu: “Be still my country”) a traditional song that has been arranged by various composers and performed as an anthem of protest during apartheid; Tsungai sang it as a child in her school choir. Lucky Moyo writes “many groups sing it in SA ... it was also widely sung in the camps during the struggle for Zimbabwe’s independence.”

1. Nhemamusasa–Musekiwa Chingodza and Friends

“Nhemamusasa” is a traditional Shona mbira song. Musekiwa Chingodza says that “Nhemamusasa” means, “Building a new home – so this is the song we play at the housewarming ceremony.” He adds that some of the words he sings are: “Gwenyambira ndonzwe vakomana/vasikana,” “I listen to the mbira music guys/girls,” and “Gwenyambira ndodyembira vakomana/vasikana,” “Mbira is food for me, guys/girls.”

4. Siti, Musikana Akanaka–Jeff Brahe Band

“Siti, Musikana Akanaka” (“Siti, the beautiful girl”). Shona/Marembe/Sena traditional, arranged by Jeff Brahe. Based on Andrew Tracey's 1971 field recordings of Saini Madera, Saini Murira, Sinati Nyamande, et al.

5. Taireva Mbuya Nehanda– Kudana Marimba

“Taireva Mbuya Nehanda” (Shona: “We used to tell you about Mbuya Nehanda”) is a traditional Shona mbira song, arranged for marimba by Kudana (especially Jennifer Kyker, Caleb Donahue, and Heron Calalang–LaCroix). Singing lines from Patience Munjeri.

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7. Gomo Ramasare (Jam)- Chimurenga Combo

“Gomo Ramasare” (Shona: “The mountain of Masare”): “The idea of telling a story was suggested by the whole Zig Zag band. Emmanuel Nkomo had the chorus part only where Gomo Ramasare is repeatedly sung. We then suggested that he [Nkomo] tell the story about that mountain named ‘Masare’ where they used to hang out while herding goats and cattle. While in that mountain they enjoyed themselves watching the wild animals and enjoying some wild fruit.” – Gilbert Zvamaida

8. Dindingwe (arr. Tendai Muparutsa)- Kutandara Marimba

“Dindingwe” (Shona: “Cheetah” – fastest land animal) Kutandara had the awesome opportunity to learn this Tendai Muparutsa arrangement of the traditional drum/dance song in preparation for their 2025 Winter Concert that featured Tendai.

9. Mukai Tiende-Pamwe Marimba

“Mukai Tiende” (Shona: “Wake up, let’s go”) arr. Caden Davis (from mavembe mbira tuning). Arrangement inspiration from Musekiwa Chingodza and Peter Swing.

6. Mbirimo (Zvichapera)-Anzanga Marimba

Anzanga’s arrangement of “Mbirimo” was inspired by Newton Gwara Matemai’s mbira playing. Sheree Seretse and Zack Norman infused their musical ideas into the marimba arrangement of the song. “Mbirimo” as Anzanga understands it, talks about a wealthy man oblivious to sharing with the community not realizing that it is where true wealth is found.

10. Chipindura-Mahonyera Mbira Ensemble

“Chipindura” (Shona: “Winds of Change”) – Song from the traditional mbira repertoire. Thanks to Chartwell Dutiro for the lyrics!

11. Kwa Langa Ku Ya Kwa Kwa-Boka Marimba

“Kwa Langa Ku Ya Kwa Kwa” (Xhosa: “Friday night, the joy of payday”) Traditional, rec. by Themba Tana & African Heritage (1984). Arranged for marimbas by Boka Marimba.

12. Sadza-ZiMBiRA

“Sadza” is Zivanai’s original composition. The gist of it is “give me the real roots sound... it’s the sound of peace, joy... it’s the sound of sunshine.” (Zivanai Masango)