



Bio: Patience Munjeri

Patience Munjeri, one of Zimbabwe's rare women mbira players, has played in traditional ceremonies since she was very young. Because her mother is a traditional healer and medium and her brothers also played mbira for the spirits, Patience grew up immersed in mbira music and deep Shona culture. She has also earned a University degree, making her unusually adept at communicating with English-speaking students. Patience holds a BA in Divinity, with a specialty in Comparative Religions, from Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Patience is on her 6th tour through the U.S. and Canada (2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017), confirming her ability to convey musical as well as cultural content to her students. Patience takes her teaching role seriously; patient yet precise, she brings energy and authenticity to all her classes and performances.

Patience has consistently proven her ability to teach traditional mbira, drumming, hosho (shakers), dance, singing, choral singing, and Shona cooking. She also offers presentations on Shona culture for academic and public audiences.

After each tour, Patience returns to her family in Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe. There, she teaches in a high school of 2,000 students, over 700 of whom are orphaned. She steadily advocates for these children, and works with mbira students between teaching her scheduled classes.

Patience Munjeri (photo courtesy of Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center)

Partial list of Patience Munjeri's previous North American hosts:

- MBIRA, Berkely, CA (2008, 2009 sponsor)
- Kutsinhira Cultural Center, Eugene, OR (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 sponsor)
- Zimbabwean Music Festival (Zimfest), Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, 2008
- Zimbabwean Music Festival (Zimfest), University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 2009
- Zimbabwean Music Festival (Zimfest), Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 2011

- Zimbabwean Music Festival (Zimfest), Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR, 2015
- Camp Nhemamusasa, North Duncan, B.C., Canada
- Music Works Northwest, Seattle, WA
- Zimbira, Boulder, CO
- Chihera, Centennial, CO
- University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- Metropolitan State University, Denver, CO
- Colorado Academy, Denver, CO
- New Vista High School, Boulder, CO
- Cleo Parker Robinson School of Dance, Denver, CO
- Zimbabwe in the North Fork, Hotchkiss, CO
- Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR
- Reed College, Portland, OR
- Indiana University, Southeast School of Music, Bloomington, IN
- Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY