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**Evening Concert Series**

**2012-2013 Season**

Sara M. Snell Music Theater

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 PM

**West African Drum and Dance Ensemble**  
**Julie Hunter, Director**  
**with Guest Artist, Martin Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng**

Gahu (Traditional)  
Se Ajo  
Gahu Woe Lo  
Kinini Tana

Ewe recreational music originally from Nigeria, West Africa, performed today in Ghana and Togo. The music is typically played at special events such as religious and harvest festivals, or for the installation of a chief. Instrumentation includes *gankogui* (iron double bell), *toke* (boat-shaped bell), *axatse* (gourd rattle), *sogo* (large stick drum), *kidi* (medium stick drum), *kagan* (small stick drum) and *gboda* (large lead drum).

Oprenten Solo Martin K. Obeng  
Martin Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng

Kpanlogo (Traditional)  
Ose Aye  
Salam Malekum  
Kawie Saka Saka  
Se O Se O Lele  
Cho Boi  
Ante Ayelevi

Ga recreational music from southern Ghana typically played at funerals, festivals, and parties. This genre developed in the 1950s during Ghana's independence period. The song lyrics and dance movements embody the lifestyle of urban West African youth. Instrumentation includes *mi* (hand drums), *nonota* (iron double bell), *shekeshe* (gourd shaker), *dodampo* (small iron bell), and *tamalin* (frame drums).

### **Ensemble Performers**

Kevin DeVivo  
Katherine Doe  
Alyssa Filardo  
Leanna Guerrieri  
Marian Hotopp  
Amy Krempf  
Ashley Oxenford  
Christine Pando  
Elizabeth Parkes  
Sean Shibata  
Aidan Talbot  
Bradley White

### **Additional Guests**

Jolade Aderounmu  
Israel Payero  
Demario Reed  
Derrick Rogers  
Liam Kingsley  
Raquel Klein  
Peter McCoy  
Lazarus Richardson

**The West African Ensemble would like to give a special thanks to all of the following people who have helped with its organization this semester:**

Dean Sitton, Peter McCoy, Martin Obeng, Karen Miller, Lorelei Murdie, Kathleen Jandreau, Kirk Severtson, Jill Pearson, Jordan Mensah, Yaw Atiso, Stephen Atiso, Linda Hunter, David Hunter, Marsha Baxter, Janet Sussman, Alexis Foster, Kwabena Boateng and Matthew Goldberg.

**Martin Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng** is a well-renowned drummer, composer, dancer, and educator originally from Ghana who has worked internationally for the past 30 years. He began drumming at the age of five, and by seventeen he was appointed Royal Court Drummer to the high chief of the Aburi-Akuapim region of the Eastern Region of Ghana. He toured as a drummer and dancer with Ghana's National Arts Council Folkloric Company, and later moved to the United States where he has continued to perform traditional music of West Africa, in addition to jazz, Latin music, reggae, and different fusions of these styles. He teaches at Brown University, and has shared the stage with such luminaries as Max Roach, Roy Hargrove, Randy Weston, Anthony Braxton, Gideon Alorwoye, and Obo Addy.

**Gertrude Maalisuo** originates from the Northern Hausa tribes of Ghana, in West Africa. She is a lead dancer with the Saakumu Dance Troupe (from Ghana) under the direction of master percussionist Bernard Woma. Saakumu organizes an annual dance tour across the United States. Gertrude performs a repertoire of energetic Ghanaian dances, and she is also a dance instructor of the Shidaa Cultural Troupe in Montpelier, Vermont.

**Joel Yartey Mensah** is from Accra, Ghana and moved with his family to Montpelier, Vermont in 2004. He started drumming at age 10 and is a hand and stick drum instructor, as well as a lead drummer of the Shidaa Cultural Troupe in Vermont. Joel has taught African drumming in numerous Elementary, Middle, and High schools across Vermont, and performed at various festivals and community events, including several performances at the University of Vermont with Shidaa. Joel also performed as a jazz percussionist with the Red Clay Ensemble at Montpelier High School. He just completed his freshman year at Clarkson University where he is studying Engineering.

In order to ensure a pleasant concert experience for both performers and audience, please refrain from:

- Entering or leaving during the performance.
- Bringing food or drink into the concert hall.
- Taking flash photographs.
- Using electronic devices (please completely turn off any devices that make sounds or have glowing screens).

Children who are able to sit quietly during the performance are welcome to our concerts.

Audio/video recording of performances is strictly prohibited without permission of the performers!

Thank you!

**In Case of Fire Emergency**

Leave the building immediately by walking to the nearest safe exit. Once outside, please move fifty feet away from the building and safely away from emergency traffic. Do not return to the building until authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.

Please bear with us during the construction phase of the new Performing Arts Building. Parking is limited in front of Snell Theater. Additional parking may be found in Lot 2 or Lot 1, near the front entrance of Raymond Hall.