



Lora and Sukutai marimba dance ensemble will be jammin' Saturday at 6 p.m.

Courtesy photo

African ensemble performs vibrant music, expressive of Shona culture

The 12 members of Lora and the Sukutai Marimba and Dance Ensemble will perform traditional and contemporary African music Saturday at 6 p.m. on the Main Stage.

Seven adults and five children combine dance, music and storytelling to celebrate the heritage of Zimbabwe's Shona people.

Shona culture is known for its vibrant marimba music, colorful dances with high-energy footwork and quick drumming.

Children are an integral part of Sukutai's performance. In African culture the family participates together in all facets of life.

The culture is passed down through generations orally and by working and celebrating together. "In Zimbabwe you grow up learning to sing, dance and drum. There is music for every occasion: to work in the fields, to rock the baby, to celebrate a social event..." said leader-director Lora Chiorah-Dye.

Audience participation with the group is encouraged. "There is no distinction between audience and performers in my culture. If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing!" Chiorah-Dye said.

The group has been performing since 1980 at festivals, fairs, concerts and school assemblies throughout the United States and Canada.

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