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African music to be celebrated at fest

By Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

One would think that traditional African music would be filled the sorrow of the struggle for independence that many African countries and African people have gone through. Anyone who has listened to Marimba music knows that the assumption above is incorrect.

In celebration of this music, the 1993 Northwest Marimba Fest: A Celebration of Zimbabwean Music is coming to Eugene Oct. 1 and 2.

Marimba music has its roots in the traditional music of Zimbabwe. It was introduced to the Northwest by a man called Dumilani.

Dumi (as he is called by students of Marimba) was trained by teachers at Kwanangomo, a music college in Zimbabwe. In 1968 Dumi came to the University of Washington with the knowledge he had attained at Kwanangomo and introduced the Northwest to Marimba music.

Marimba music was originally played on an instrument called a Mbira, a metal instrument vaguely resembling a stenographer's keyboard. The songs were transferred to the Marimba, an instrument much like the xylophone because the Mbira is a very quiet instrument and the Marimba is able to produce a louder sound. When the Mbira is used it is paired with a resonator or played in a wooden shell to amplify the sound.

This year's festival is being hosted by The Kutsinhira Community Marimba Center, the University School of Music and The Dorothy Project.

The festival's activities will include workshops for advanced and beginning Marimba players. Scott Barkurst, who handles publicity for the School of Music said "the educational component of the work-

shops is very important. We have been adding quite a bit of repertoire in the area of world music. This is a unique event in that it's not just a series of concerts, the workshops will help introduce people to new music. The educational component is very important because we've been locked into European music for so long."

Concerts will take place Friday night and Saturday night. Friday's concert will include performances by Maharimbos, Chiwoniso, Kudana, and Paul Prince with Zanga Zanga. Saturday's lineup consists of Shumba, Mutupo, Dandaro, Mahonyera, Musango, Russell Landers playing Chipendani, and Mai Chi & Kubatana.

Joel Linstrom, who is the Executive Director of Kutsinhira Community Marimba Community Center, encourages everyone to come to the Marimba Fest to enjoy the music and the workshops. Linstrom said that the Marimba is an easy instrument to learn even if you are musically illiterate. In addition to being an easy instrument to learn the Marimba is also unique in that the music that is made from it is very "inclusive."

Linstrom went on to say that in many African tribes there is no word for musician because everyone is a "musician because they are alive. Marimba music is about people who love music that's inclusive."

The annual festival grew out of the Zimbabwe independence festivals in Seattle.

The cost of attending this event varies, depending on activity, the workshops are \$10 per hour, lectures are free (brunch at the lecture is \$4.50), Friday's concert is \$5 per person, and Saturday's concert is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Cornucopia of music offered at Beall Hall

By John Fleischli
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

While there are many different cultural events going on around Eugene all of the time, if you are a music fan you will want to check out the coming music events at the University's Beall music hall this year.

There are many concerts going on, on campus that you would not be able to hear at the usual rock bars and venues such as the Hult Center. The talent that goes through Beall Hall is great and the scope of the music is broad.

The purpose of Beall Hall is to provide a place where sounds from the academic as well as the popular side of the music spectrum can be heard.

Beall Hall is a comfortably sized auditorium with good acoustics and a seating capacity of 550. Generally, there is no problem getting a seat, though a couple of concerts have been known to sell out, such as the University's gospel ensemble.

In addition to concerts put on by students here, there are ensembles brought in from all over. There are four main music series through the year — the children's music series, the chamber music series, the world music series, and the vanguard series, which features innovative, 20th century music.

The concerts in each series are spread through-

out the year, which is convenient if you like a certain series and want to see several or all of the events in the series without having to give up a whole week's worth of nights, as you would if a series was jammed all into one week.

The world and vanguard series include one guest performance a term, and the children's concert series will have five concerts during the course of the year and the chamber series six.

There are about 25 music ensembles made up of students from the University community. Many of these ensembles are open to non-music majors as well as majors. Several are made up of a mix. There are many different types of jazz ensembles that perform, if you are interested in that, or there are many other types of groups one could join.

Most student tickets are half-price or less for general admission. And for those with a tight entertainment budget, it's nice to know that there are also a lot of free concerts scheduled.

The recent cutbacks in funding brought on by 1990's Ballot Measure 5 have hurt the music school, but fortunately they have not affected the number of scheduled performances at Beall Hall. Instead the number of trips taken by the various campus ensembles will be curtailed, Scott Barkhurst of the Music Department said.

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