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Annual Report for Chamwino Connect (2025) 501(c)3

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Sustaining Traditional Arts in East Africa

Hello to our Friends of Chamwino! Many thanks for your kind donations to Chamwino Connect, (CC), a 501(c)3 NGO. 2025 was another successful year for the sustainability of Wagogo traditional arts and cultural heritage in Chamwino Ikulu, Tanzania. Across the village, children learned Wagogo traditional stories through a “visiting storyteller” program, and after-school lessons were provided in Wagogo music (especially traditional songs and dances). Many months of organization and planning went into the making of the Cigogo Festival in July, the major annual arts event in Chamwino. Every year, the staff and board of Chamwino Arts Center (CAC) envisions the festival, determines the theme of the festival, selects village groups who will participate in the festival, makes intermittent visits to the villages to observe group rehearsals (and also to teach villagers the “mass song” that’s performed by all village groups at the annual festival). CAC staff is earnest in fund-raising for the festival, and through the partnership of CAC with Chamwino Connect, the financial means are found to support the CAC’s costs (including payment to musicians, dance instructors, and storytellers; CAC’s monthly utilities; transportation and meals for festival performers; stage and audio equipment for the festival). The Wagogo arts are thriving because of gracious donations from you, Friends of Chamwino, who value the traditional arts of Tanzania. Thank you!

In these challenging times, please continue to help us to foster these traditional arts, so that they will survive and thrive across Tanzania’s Wagogo region. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the good people of Chamwino village, “over there” on the eastern edge of the African continent. By sustaining their traditional arts, the villagers are confirming their cultural identity as deeply rooted in their long-standing history and heritage.



Chamwino Connect Finances: 2025

Thanks to 112 donations from supporters around the U.S., Chamwino Connect (CC) was able to send \$13,500 in 2025 to support the Chamwino Arts Center in its multiple projects, including the 2025 Cigogo Music Festival. Donations made to CC in 2025 included \$9,389 through Donately (via the CC website) and \$4,050 in checks (totaling \$13,439); We moved \$61 from our budget to bring the total sent to \$13,500. Donations arrived in varying amounts, from a few dollars each month to large sums (hundreds of

dollars, and, in one case, over a thousand). If you're able to make a donation to Chamwino Connect, please consider joining the ranks of our "super supporters" by signing up for recurring monthly donations, of any amount, to help provide ongoing support for the work of the Chamwino Arts Center. Donations are easily done by clicking the **Donate Now** link on the [Chamwino Connect](#) website.



Chamwino Arts Center: What It Is/Who They Are

The Wagogo people at Chamwino Arts Center (CAC) work year-round to promote and sustain the music, arts and education of their Gogo cultural

heritage. CAC was first established in 2012 by Kedmon Mapana, founder and first director; He and Dr. Barbara Lundquist worked together to initiate Chamwino Connect (CC) as CAC's fund-raising partner. Donations to CC help to support the work of CAC's eight staff members and over fifty volunteers from Chamwino and nearby villages all year long. "It takes a village," a truly robust team of dedicated individuals, to meet the goals of the CAC. The CAC team now consists of Managing Director Naamala Samson, Pendo Ulanga (Executive Director), Sospeter Mapana (Festival Director), Geofrey Nicholaus (Media and Marketing), Reheme Chibutu (Festival Accountant), Kenneth Ulanga (Exhibition and Heritage Coordinator), Stanley Mpuza (Hospitality and Safety Coordinator), and Nasson Mazengo (Administrator and Transport & Volunteer Coordinator.) This CAC team of paid specialists work with community volunteers to keep Cigogo music, arts and education alive in the community and schools of Chamwino and surrounding villages.



Chamwino Connect Board

Board members of the U.S. based Chamwino Connect (CC) meet regularly to review and discuss reports from Chamwino Arts Center (CAC) concerning ongoing activities and upcoming events of the staff and board. The CC group is committed to supporting CAC in their efforts to educate

and celebrate, and thus to sustain, Wagogo and Tanzanian arts and culture. We've hosted fund-raising gatherings and house concerts, and have co-written (with CAC staff) letters of appeal and grant proposals. We talk with people interested in Africa, and the arts, and we're always ready to offer descriptions of the CAC projects. There are currently eight members of the Chamwino Connect board, scattered across the U.S. from New York City to Seattle, across four time zones. They include Patricia Shehan Campbell, co-chair, Ramona Holmes, co-chair, Laurel Sercombe, treasurer, and Amy Beegle, secretary, Sean Ichiro Manes, David Aarons, Joe Kinzer, and Kevin Schattenkirk. Another four CC members recently stepped off the board at the end of December, each having served three years, including former secretary Jan Ban, webmaster Will Coppola, Cynthia Strong (Communications) and Brian Hickory. We're grateful to them for their energy and ideas, and we were pleased to receive their kind offers to continue to serve CC in an ex-officio capacity.



Tax-Smart Giving

To our Friends of Chamwino, thank you for being among our key financial supporters.

Did you know that if you are at the stage at which you are required to take an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your IRA, you can use contributions from the RMD to support our Chamwino Connect nonprofit organization in a tax-smart way?

Simple Steps

- 1. Contact your IRA custodian** (bank or investment company).
- 2. Ask them to send a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly** from your IRA to Chamwino Connect 5518 38th Ave NE. Seattle, WA 98105. Our **EIN is 26-3296138**.
- 3. Do not withdraw the money to yourself first.** QDCs must be received and clear your IRA by December 31 to count towards a year's RMD.
- 4. Tell us about your gift** so we can send you an acknowledgement for your records.

How it benefits you

- The donation **counts toward your RMD** for the year
- The amount given by QCD **is not included in your taxable income**, which may lower your tax bill
- You support a cause you care about.

Note: QCDs must be made directly from an IRA.



A Banner Event: Cigogo Festival 2025

Over a period of three days in late July 2025, the 16th Annual Cigogo Music Festival drew over 3,000 attendees to Chamwino a central Tanzanian village in Wagogo country, groups of traditional dancers, singers, and instrumentalists, as well as visual artists gathered from across the region to celebrate Cigogo culture. Chamwino Connect was the primary sponsor of the festival, whose theme was the importance of “unity through diversity.” Featured were ten exhibitions, four seminars, and the traditional performances of 50 groups. A festival favorite was the participation of children from Fountain Dodoma Preschool and Primary School, guided by their manager, Mr. Fred Tchalewa Ndeki. All-in-all, the 16 th festival lived up to its claim as one of the important festivals of its kind in all of Tanzania, offering local people a platform for expressing their Wagogo cultural identity through the arts.



On the Horizon: Cigogo Festival 2026

Mark your calendars July 24, 25, and 26, 2026, for the 17th annual Cigogo Music Festival. The Chamwino Arts Center set a course for gathering over one thousand artists to the center-point of Chamwino, Tanzania. The goal of the festival is, as always, the preservation and promotion of the traditional Wagogo arts and culture, with dawn-to-dusk performances and participatory events. Festival performances will include participation by children and youth, as well as by adults (including all-women's groups and groups of Wagogo elders), with representation of villagers from across the central Tanzanian region of the Wagogo people. Guests of honor typically include Tanzanian Members of Parliament and other dignitaries. This year's notable guest was the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mwigulu Nchemba, an economist, who was recently appointed by the president of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassnan, to this influential position. Interested in attending the 2026 Cigogo festival? Please be in touch with us at Chamwino Connect for information on travel, accommodations, and festival events. For questions, please write pcamp@uw.edu (Patricia Shehan Campbell, co-chair of Chamwino Connect).



Become a “Friend of Chamwino Arts Center”

Do consider becoming a “Friend of Chamwino Arts Center”

Monthly donations (for example, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$100) are welcome by the people of Chamwino, Tanzania, in support of their annual Cigogo Music Festival and various projects through the year.

Your Donation of \$10 monthly amounts to \$120 annually and pays for these things:

- 12 visits by Gogo musicians to schools
- 9 recording sessions of Gogo folk tales by elder Gogo storytellers
- Seminars for village musicians on arts management for their sustainable development
- Transportation by CAC staff to village rehearsals, and village musicians to the festival
- One cow for a Gogo festival meal (to feed 40 villagers for 3 days)
- Books and magazines for Chamwino’s village secondary school library

Visit the Chamwino Connect website www.chamwinoconnect.org and consider signing up for a monthly donation for the sustainability of Gogo culture through music, the arts, and education. From the people of Chamwino, Tanzania, and the Chamwino Connect board, thank you for your generosity!



We are committed to preserving the spirit and culture of Tanzania. Part of that work includes fundraising. Please join us.

**DONATE
HERE**

On the Horizon: Cigogo Festival 2026



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