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CHAMWINO
ARTS CENTER
Kituo Cha Sanaa Chamwino

Chamwino Connect Newsletter (September, 2024)

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Cigogo Festival #15, Summer 2024

Cigogo Festival #15 came and went, thanks to the Chamwino Arts Center (CAC) staff, the many Gogo musicians and dancers, volunteering villagers, and the support of Chamwino Connect. A magical time was had on July 19-20-21 by all in attendance from Chamwino, other Gogo villages, and Dodoma (the capitol city of Tanzania). Participants were of all ages, from enthusiastic (and skilled) children, to well-toned and well-trained adults, to wise elders.

Highlights of the Festival this year: The seamless (and professionally-organized) series of events over the festival days (thanks to CAC staff), the comfortable new lodge for visitors (Mapinduzi Lodge), the coming together of a community of villagers with the CAC staff to provide cows, goats, rice and vegetables from their own herds

and gardens for meals, and guests who included members of the Tanzanian parliament, and Tanzanian Arts Council. The energy of music and dance, NGOMA!, was unstoppable throughout the festival, with a sense that Wagogo culture is sustained, alive and very well.



From Dr. Kedmon Mapana, Secretary General of the Tanzania Arts Council:

“As Festival founder and now advisor, I was so very happy to see the celebration of dancing, singing, and sharing of meals together at the Cigogo Music Festival this past July. The festival continues as a community-based festival, with community ownership. This year, villagers not only performed but also contributed rice, cows and goats to feed performers and guests. For those interested in investing in culture, the Cigogo Music Festival is prime.”



From Frank Mjimwa, Managing Director of Chamwino Arts Center:

“Culture is the heart of the Wagogo people. The purpose of Chamwino Arts Center is not only the preservation of the Wagogo culture but also the safeguarding of the tangible and intangible Tanzania cultural heritage through the annual Cigogo festival, documentation of cultural heritage, training for artists, as well as educational support for both children and the community.”



Be a Friend of Chamwino Arts Center

Please consider becoming a “Friend of Chamwino ArtsCenter.” 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 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

See the [Chamwino Connect](#) website 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!



Remembering Barbara

We are remembering Dr. Barbara Reeder Lundquist, co-founder of Chamwino Connect, who passed away in August 2023. We recall her love of the music and people of sub-Saharan Africa, her wisdom, and her *joie de vivre*. We can still see her smiling eyes, and hear her laughter, and feel her presence in the ways in which she so generously supported musicians and music teachers whose aim was to preserve, transmit, and carry on the cultural heritage of their community.

From Patricia Shehan Campbell, Chair, Chamwino Connect Board:

I first saw Barbara in the act of teaching music in 1976, and was immediately taken by her wisdom, “kid smarts,” and infinite love of music and people. Years later, Barbara handed me a CD of Hukwe Zawose, master Gogo musician, which prompted my first of many journeys with her to Tanzania in search of Gogo music. Always an ace, Barbara continues to be a life-force for me.

From Laurel Sercombe, Chamwino Connect Board:

Barbara’s decades-long love and enthusiasm for African music was contagious, and during the years we both worked in the UW School of Music, she introduced me to dozens of recordings of musicians, sharing her passion with exuberance and that amazing Barbara smile!

From Ramona Holmes, Chamwino Connect Board:

Barbara always started from the music, knowing that was the hook. Consequently, in 1987, in her graduate program, she started classes with a song taught call and response, then the drum patterns. I learned those patterns so well that they became the cornerstone of my teaching any Sub-Saharan African music. Barbara knew how to teach the essence of music she loved and send it straight to your heart.

From Will Coppola, Chamwino Connect Board:

My favorite memory of Barbara was my first memory of Barbara—on a trip to Dar es Salaam and Dodoma in 2016. She was embraced and loved by every Tanzanian she encountered, and she carried herself as if she had never met a person she didn’t love as her own child.

From Sean Ichiro Manes, Chamwino Connect Board:

Barbara was already retired from the UW when I was a graduate student there, but

she came to a seminar and made clear her passion for African music. Later, when we were together on the board (even with her nearing the end of her life), her passion never wavered for Chamwino village, the people and their music.

From Jan Ban, Chamwino Connect Board:

Remembering Barbara, Chamwino 2016, recalling her happiness and contentment there in her one-room apartment, just steps away from the Festival site. She welcomed friends, and walked back and forth to the festival grounds, already in her early 80s, to take in the days chock-full of performances.



Resonating with the Ilimba

When you go to the Cigogo Festival, you will hear the fascinating, interweaving sound of the ilimba! The ilimba is a plucked lamellophone with a wooden resonator and as many as 72 tuneable metal keys. A leather strap is used to hold or hang the ilimba.



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

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