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CHAMWINO CONNECT

15th Annual Cigogo Festival. This year, 2024, marks the 15th year of the Annual Cigogo Festival of Music and Dance, scheduled for July 19-20. Featured are musicians and dancers from Chamwino and outlying Gogo villages—Kawawa, Majaleko, Msanga, Nzali, and remote areas at the edge of Gogo country. All are welcome. See the website chamwinoconnect.org for a helpful guide to traveling to Tanzania: Join us this summer in Chamwino, Tanzania!



The Business of Artist-Musicians. The Chamwino Arts Center is sponsoring capacity-building seminars and workshops for local Gogo musicians. Through lectures, discussions, and hands-on experiences, village musicians are learning “the business of artist-musicians” in preparing for employment as performers and teachers of music, the arts, and cultural heritage.



Gogo Stories of Tanzania. Many traditional views and values of the Gogo people are found in the stories that have been passed down orally over the years. The Chamwino Arts Center is engaged in the recording, transcription, and translation of centuries-old Gogo folk tales from Kenneth Ulanga and other story-tellers. In planning stages now are community events featuring the telling of Gogo stories.



Ngoma for Children. Gogo children are singing, dancing, and playing the music of their ancestors. As “the next generation”, children are all ears and full of enthusiasm for learning traditional Gogo culture. Experienced Gogo performers are working with children after school, so that they can acquire an understanding of their Gogo heritage through the music they make.

Festive Fund-raiser. The Strongs hosted a festive fundraiser in their Seattle home in late December. A lively gathering was had, with merry exchanges, lots of laughter, and tasty refreshments. With the Mapanas visiting from Dar es Salaam, Gogo music-making was initiated by Kedmon and Pendo Mapana, as their children joined in: Rasmus on drums and Ciwaye and Wendo singing and dancing.

Library-Works. Chamwino Connect board member Cindy Strong, a professional librarian, is in Tanzania for a Fulbright-sponsored library project at the University of Dodoma. A visit to Chamwino’s secondary school is in the plans, too, to learn of the successful integration of e-readers by students and their teachers (a result of one of CAC’s earlier educational projects).

Support for Projects. Chamwino Arts Center is seeking support for Artist Capacity-Building, Story-Telling, Ngoma for Children, and the Annual Cigogo Festival. Examples of funding needs include meals at the Cigogo Festival (\$60 for 3 meals for 20 villagers over 2 days), story-telling events for

school-children and the community (\$15 per event), and audio equipment rental for the festival (\$400). This support goes directly to CAC efforts to sustain Gogo identity through music, the arts, and education.



CHAMWINO
ARTS CENTER
Kituo Cha Sanaa Chamwino

July in Tanzania? For All Good Reasons!



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

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