



CHAMWINO CONNECT



Cheers for the 14th Successful Cigogo Music Festival (July 2023)

One of the key events every year in Chamwino Ikulu, Tanzania, is the Cigogo Festival. Envisioned by Dr. Kedmon Mapana and organized by the Chamwino Arts Center, the [Cigogo Music Festival](#) ("Tamasha la Muziki wa Cigogo") celebrates the sustainability of the creative forms of music, dance, and storytelling as a reflection of the history and identities of Cigogo-speaking Wagogo villagers and their invited guest groups from throughout Tanzania. The festival is scheduled for July of each year, between the seasons of planting and harvesting, as a culmination of many months of preparations by village performers. Leading up to the festival, staff members of the Chamwino Arts Center travel to various villages to observe rehearsals and to introduce the new "mass song" that all groups will perform together at the festival. "Tamasha, Oye!" is the oft-heard cry at the festival, this collective cheer that comes up from performers and audience members alike in praise of the beauty of this vibrant annual festival.

Sean Ichiro Manes, CC Board Member, in Tanzania

I'm Sean Ichiro Manes, a musician, a teacher, and [Chamwino Connect](#) board member. I traveled to the 14th Cigogo Festival in July, my second visit to the festival, and

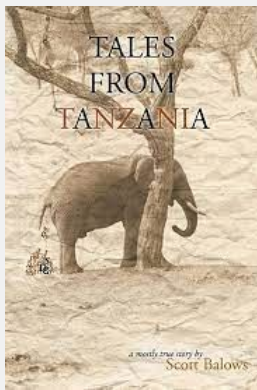


spent an amazing week of listening, learning, and living Cigogo music and dance. I was invited to rehearse with the Nyati (group from the village of Nzali) and then to sing and dance on-stage with them at the festival. We sang together a song about Foibe, a beautiful Wagogo woman, and they welcomed me as a member of their group. Truly a highlight!



July 2024: Tanzania's 15th Annual Cigogo Music Festival

Tanzania: Think of it as you plan ahead for summer 2024! Tanzania is the location of the Serengeti National Park, home to elephants, lions, giraffes, hippos, hyenas, and zebras. It is also the country of 120 cultural-linguistic groups, including the Wagogo of Chamwino Ikulu, who will host the National Cigogo Music Festival on July 19-21, 2024. Come! To experience the music and dance of the Wagogo of Tanzania as well as 20 more groups from other regions of Tanzania. Note these things: All are invited, participants can fly to Dar es Salaam and on to the nearby capitol city of Dodoma, stay in hotels, enjoy local foods, and meet the featured musicians and dancers. Come to Tanzania in 2024!!



Storytelling, Cigogo-Style

The art of storytelling is highly revered among the Cigogo-speaking Wagogo people, and the stories themselves are important sources of history and cultural heritage. [Chamwino Arts Center](#) has initiated a project geared to the collection of Wagogo stories from storytellers, in the Cigogo (Gogo) language of the people. These stories will tell of families, food, relationships, work and play, beliefs and rituals, including aspects of boys' initiation ceremonies. While there are published collections of stories from Tanzania, a collection of Wagogo stories is yet to come. Look for the book when the project is completed.

Festivals and cultural projects require support:
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