



Agbobli ..... Musical Interlude

Drummers

Gideon Alorwoyie | Nate Ash-Morgan | Gidi Agbeko | Bismarck Danyo  
Advanced African Percussion Ensemble

Atsiagbekor ..... Music and Dance

*Stylized war music and dance of the Ewe-Anlo-speaking people of Ghana*

Drummers

Gideon Alorwoyie | Nate Ash-Morgan | Gidi Agbeko | Bismarck Danyo  
Beginner African Percussion Ensemble  
Advanced African Percussion Ensemble

-INTERMISSION-

Bamaya..... Music and Dance

*Harvest dance music of the Dagbani-speaking and Dagomba-speaking  
people of the Northern Region of Ghana, West Africa*

Dancers

Memunatu Alorwoyie | Bismarck Danyo

Drummers

Gideon Alorwoyie | Nate Ash-Morgan | Gidi Agbeko  
Advanced African Percussion Ensemble

Lain Nebaj..... Traditional Guatemalan  
arr. Tristan Brown

Mi Lupita..... Marimba El Valle  
arr. Tristan Brown

The Bridge Ensemble

Yamama ..... Music and Dance

*Masked dance from the Susu people of Guinea,  
performed to honor a female spirit*

Dancers

TWU African Dancers

Drummers

Edward Dogbe | Nate Ash-Morgan | Brittany Padilla  
Gidi Agbeko | Bismarck Danyo

Dagbamba ..... Music and Dance

*Special music of the Northern-speaking people of Ghana*

Drummers

Gideon Alorwoyie | Nate Ash-Morgan | Gidi Agbeko | Bismarck Danyo  
Beginner African Percussion Ensemble  
Advanced African Percussion Ensemble  
African Music and Movement Class

Kpanlogo ..... Music and Dance

*Recreational music and dance of the Ga-speaking people of Ghana*

Afrikania Cultural Troupe

Beginner and Advanced African Percussion Ensembles  
African Music and Movement Class | TWU African Dancers

## **Acknowledgements**

### Special Guest of Honor

Mayor Gerard Hudspeth

### Guests of Honor

Nana Kwame Agyapong,

Asantehene of the Asanteman Association of Dallas-Fort Worth

Reverend Martin Osae,

Ghanaian Fellowship of the Woodhaven Presbyterian Church, Irving

Reverend Bernard Rockston, Mount Zion Praise Church, Denton

Winfred Kobla Gbedemah, President of the Ewe Association of Dallas

Julius Akoto, Ewe Association of Dallas

Mr. and Mrs. Kliphord Darkwa, KOD Financial LLC

Mr. Emmanuel Ohene, Suburban Real Estate

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## **Biographies**

**Professor Torgbui Midawo Gideon Foli Alorwoye** is from Anlo-Afiadenyigba in the Volta Region of Ghana, West Africa, and is highly regarded as one of Ghana's foremost experts in African traditional music and dance. He is a virtuoso instrumentalist who has expanded the range of traditional African drumming and possesses extraordinary control of tonal inflection over a wide dynamic range. When he performs, one senses his total command of the medium.

Discovered in 1964 by Phillip Gbeho of the Institute of Art and Culture in Accra, Alorwoye worked in the Department of African Studies at the University of Ghana starting in 1967, rising to become the chief master drummer of the national company, the Ghana Dance Ensemble. During his time with the ensemble he had the opportunity to tour over a dozen countries. He worked with notable ethnomusicologist scholars like David Locke and John Chernoff as a main informant and gave Steve Reich private lessons in Ewe drumming, an experience that would prove to be a main inspiration in Reich's famous minimalist piece, "Drumming."

Alorwoye joined the faculty at the State University of New York College at Brockport in the mid-70s, and would move on to teach in Chicago at the American Conservatory of Music and the Old Town School of Folk Music. Alorwoye has been teaching African music and dance at UNT since 1996, challenging students with complex polyrhythmic ensemble drumming and dance styles while serving the community with countless performances. Alorwoye was installed ("enstooled") as a Paramount Chief (*Torgbui*) in 2004 under the stool name Torgbui Foli Amanyo III (Dufia of Tsiyunu-Afegame/Afife Traditional Council) and has served as a chief high priest (*Midawo*) in the Yeve religion since 1980.

**Memunatu Gariba Alorwoye** was principal dancer in the Ghana Dance Ensemble, the national dance company of Ghana, located at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon from 1992-2002. She is the principal dancer and teacher for the Afrikania Cultural Troupe of Ghana. She also led the Afrikania Cultural Troupe of Ghana to participate in the Fifth Annual African Cultural Festival of ethnic music and dance in March 2002 at the Murchison Performing Arts Center.

## **Ensemble Personnel**

### **Beginner African Percussion Ensemble**

Tristan Brown | Levi Christopherson | Zane Crider  
Bailey Dixon | Henry Duff | Hannah Dugger | Hanna Le  
Christian Mullino | Holden Everett Myers | Jonathan Williams

### **Advanced African Percussion Ensemble**

Joshua Camacho | Noah Carrillo | Katelyn Crouch | Nicholas Dunn  
Rune Hale | Brayden Haslam | Benjamin Hinkle | Alex Mann  
Paul Martini | Benedict Mpeti | Hudson Phillips | Elijah Roth | Landon Stein  
Caden Thompson | I-Hsuan Tsai | Benjamin Waddill | Joseph Woodburn

### **Advanced Afro-Cuban Ensemble**

Reagan Garza | Margaret Nicholson | Bailey Dixon  
Natalie Garms | Aaron Heldman | Elijah Marrewa | Zeke Strawn  
Caden Thompson | Simon Von Hatten | Ashton Weigel

### **The Bridge Ensemble**

Tristan Brown | William Chenoweth | Henry Duff | Kaylee Glover  
Rune Hale | Qai Hunzai | Will De Martini | Elijah Roth

### **African Music and Movement Class**

Caleb Corley | Nada Elbasheer | Bria Maiden | Braylan Yarbrough

### **TWU African Dancers**

Cay Banks | Emily Boyd | Marquenys Brice | Millenique Brown  
Nesha Delaney | Tyreana Handley | Nayla Mireles | Sofia Morales  
Demetrius Peebles | John Robles Rodriguez | Carla Rodriguez Oliva