



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 8:00 p.m. | Paul Voertman Concert Hall

African Cultural Festival
featuring
Afrikania Cultural Troupe *
UNT African Percussion Ensemble ^
TWU Dancers and Drummers +
Advanced Afro Cuban Ensemble ~
UNT South Indian Cross-Cultural Ensemble

Opening Procession of Chiefs *Traditional
Kete Music

Atsia ^Traditional
Musical Interlude

Gahu +Traditional
Music and Dance

Pa' Los Mayores (1998) ~ Grupo Afro Cuba de Matanzas
Rumba Yambu | Cuba

La Polemica (1988) ~ Florencio "Catalino" Calle,
Rumba Guaguanco | Cuba Los Munequitos de Matanzas

Flowers +Traditional
Music and Dance

*Program five hundred thirty-eight of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*

Tokoe * ^Traditional
Music and Dance

Adowa * ^Traditional
Music and Dance

-INTERMISSION-

UNT South Indian Cross-Cultural Ensemble

Program to be announced from the stage

Adzogbo * ^Traditional
Musical Interlude

Guinea Senegal +Traditional
Music and Dance

Dagbamba * ^Traditional
Musical Interlude

Gota * ^Traditional
Music and Dance

Kpanlogo ^ +Traditional
Music and Dance

Biographies

Professor Torgbui Midawo Gideon Foli Alorwoyie 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, Alorwoyie 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."

Alorwoyie 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. Alorwoyie 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. Alorwoyie 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 Alorwoyie 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

Afrikania Cultural Troupe, Ghana, West Africa

Gideon Alorwoyie, director

Gideon Alorwoyie | Gloria Alorwoyie | Memunatu Alorwoyie
Shine Alorwoyie | Nate Ash-Morgan | Edward Dogbe
Benedicta Forte | Kafui Gawugah Nukpeza | Jessica Williams

UNT African Percussion Ensemble

Gideon Alorwoyie, director

Major Brown | Noah Carrillo | Qaimdad Amin Hunzai | Benedict Mpeti
Moses Ortiz | Steven Daniel Gordon | Quinn Andrew Palmer
Chloe Elizabeth Purkrabek | Roxanne Marie-Gabrielle Queen
Kees William Quortrup | Sofia Budolla Ramirez
Zachary Taylor Reynolds | Kamden Dalynn Simmons
Nico Seth Strichartz | Jack Henry Williams | I- Hsuan Tsai

Advanced Afro Cuban Ensemble

José Aponte, director

Marisa Cravero and Jaden Tabor, vocalists
Josh Camacho | Bailey Dixon | Natalie Garms | Benjamin Hinlke
Zeke Strawn | Owen Troy | I-Hsuan Tsai | Ashton Weigel | Ian Yoo

Texas Woman's University African Dance

Memunatu Alorwoyie, director

Chassity Brumfield | Aja Campbell | Ashlynn Chew | Kennedy Glover
Sofia Morales | Alexa Navarro | Cara Phillips | Jewelnia Reece
Ambre Richards | Elida Saucedo | Delaine Urie

Special Guest of Honor

Mayor Gerard Hudspeth

Guests of Honor

Nana Kwame Agyapong, Asantehene of the Asanteman Association of DFW
Rev. Martin Osaе, Woodhaven Presbyterian Church at Irving, TX
Rev. Bernard Rockson, Mount Zion Praise Church, Denton, TX

Guest Performers

Gideon Alorwoyie | Gloria Alorwoyie | Memunatu Alorwoyie | Shine
Alorwoyie | Nate Ash- Morgan | Edward Dogbe | Benedicta Forte
Kafui Gawugah Nukpeza | Jessica Williams

Acknowledgements

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Mount Zion Praise Church, Denton, TX
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Mr. Kliphord Darkwa, KAD Financial, Arlington, Texas
Asanteman Association of Dallas, DFW
Ewe Association of Dallas, DFW
BLESSIZ Catering & African Market, Denton, TX