The University of Arizona
World Music Gang

The World Music Gang, founded in 2002 by Michael B. Vercelli, focuses its repertoire on traditional music from other cultures. Entirely taught through oral tradition, the ensemble members are given the opportunity to experience the learning process without written music. While the focus on the Gang is musical, the cultural contexts relevant to the music studied are inherently stressed, giving the students a deeper understanding of its meaning and personal enjoyment of the music performed.

Mike Vercelli, director
Matt Bush
Bryan Matajasik
JP Wilbur
Alex Wier
Chris Habeeb-Louks
Kendra Dawson
Mike Sammons
Anthony Meza
Scott Shinbara
Kelly Thompson
David McCaarville
Bobby Russell
Tammy Swanson
Dan Kruse
Annalyn Fassler
Aaron Emery
Steven Crawford
Thelma Díaz
Yessi Acuña
Brent King

Featuring renowned Ghanaian artists

Bernard Woma
& Peace Elewonu

Thursday, March 30, 2006
Modern Languages Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
The University of Arizona World Music Gang

Featuring Bernard Woma
and Peace Elewonu

Thursday, March 30, 2006

PROGRAM

Gahu............................................................ Traditional Ewe

About “Project Ghana 2006”
Dan Kruse

Selection will be announced from the stage
Bernard Woma & Peace Elewonu

Kpanlogo................................................. Traditional Ga

INTERMISSION

Bewaa..............................................Traditional Dagara

Velkpele..............................................Traditional Dagara

Gota..................................................Traditional Ewe

Bernard Woma is solo xylophonist and master drummer with the National Dance Theater of Ghana. He is regarded as one of Ghana’s foremost musicians, recognized around the world as an outstanding performer and teacher of Dagara xylophone music and other forms of traditional Ghanaian music. Since 1989, Mr. Woma has been the solo xylophonist and a principal member of the National Dance Company of Ghana and has been the ceremonial Atumpan Drummer for Ghanaian state functions. Through his work with the Ghana Dance Ensemble, he has traveled widely and developed proficiency with other traditional Ghanaian instruments. In 1992 the company moved from the University of Ghana to the National Theater. Bernard retained his title as solo xylophonist and was also appointed as the master drummer of the company. Bernard owns and operates the Dagara Music Center, a school of traditional African music and arts in Medie, a northern suburb of Accra. Mr. Woma has released a number of audio recordings including a 60-minute video with his own traditional dance company, Dagara Culture Troupe. For more information on Bernard Woma please see his website: www.bernardwoma.com.

Peace Elewonu is an internationally renowned dancer and teacher and has toured with the National Dance Theater of Ghana for 15 years. She received the Best Traditional Dancer in Ghana award in 1994. She currently teaches traditional dance and songs of Ghana in workshops throughout the United States and also performs her own contemporary Africa dance choreography.

Bernard Woma’s appearance is made possible in part by donors to the College of Fine Arts Dean’s Fund for Excellence, the Director’s Administrative Budget in the UA School of Music and UA Africana Studies.