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Marshall University Music Department Presents
the Marshall University African Drumming &
Dance Ensemble, Steven Hall, conductor, Betsy
Jordan, assistant conductor

Steven Hall

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Betsy Jordan

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DEPARTMENT of MUSIC

presents

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCE ENSEMBLE

Steven Hall, conductor

Betsy Jordan, assistant conductor

Tuesday, April 26, 2010

Smith Recital Hall

3:30 p.m

This program is presented by the College of Fine Arts through the Department of Music, with the support of student activity funds. For more information about this or other music events, please call (304) 696-3117, or view our website at www.marshall.edu/cofa/music.

Program

<i>Gota</i>	traditional Benin, West Africa
<i>Kassa</i>	traditional Guinea, West Africa
<i>Gahu</i>	traditional Nigeria, West Africa
<i>Bamaya</i>	traditional Ghana, West Africa

♪♪ Program Notes ♪♪

Traditional African music is a community activity and is functional. Traditional African music maintains deep connections with the aspects of the daily lives of the people including the history of their ancestors. Most traditional African music has four aspects: drumming, dancing, singing, and costumes.

Gota
Youth social music of Benin, West Africa. This dance is a celebration of friendship, kinship, and comradeship. Traditionally performed with male/female partners expressing playful flirtation.

Kassa
From the Maninka ethnic group, Kassa is performed in the Guinea regions of Macenta and Balandougou to celebrate baptisms and weddings. Kassa is also played while workers harvest the fields. The workers may have to walk miles from field to field and Kassa is sometimes played while the workers walk to the next field. It is also played to celebrate the bountiful harvest at a festival called the "Kassaladon".

Gahu

Gahu is a form of music and dance that originated in Southwestern Nigeria as a Yoruba wedding celebration. Adopted by the Southern Ewe people of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, Gahu has evolved into a recreational music and dance performed at any social occasion by both sexes and all age groups. The name Gahu comes from the Ewe words "ga" meaning rich or wealthy and "Hu" meaning drum or dance for the wealthy.

Bamaya

Bamaya, meaning, "The river valley is wet", is the most popular social music and dance performed among the Dagbombas of Northern Ghana. Originally used for religious performances and performed only by men, Bamaya is now performed by both genders for funerals, festivals and other social occasions.

During a drought and famine during the 19th century, sacrifices made by rainmakers to their land god Tingban(a) were futile. The Dagbomba men decided that prayers by women to Tingban got a faster response so they dressed in women's clothing and went with the head priest to a grove where they believed the god resided. Due to their vigorous dance, the god was touched by the plight of the "women" and sent down an abundant rainfall. The name, Bamaya, was given to the dance as a form of gratitude and joy on the behalf of the dancers who brought the plentiful rains

The two drums used for this dance are the gungon, which has a gut snare on each of the two heads to create a low-pitched buzzing tone, and the dondo or lunga, which has the ability to mimic tonal/rhythmic speech patterns by bending the sounding pitch of the drum by squeezing the string which connects the two heads.

African Ensemble Personnel

Andrick, Elizabeth	Cook, Virginia	Kiser, Greg
Bailey, Johnna	DeVoss, Jenna	Michaux, Nicole
Bailey, Keith	Grizzell, Chris	Nowak, Carrie
Bell, Courtney	Hensley, Erin	Patrick, Ross
Breslin, Jason	Humphreys, Jonathan	Pettus, Sarah
Buel, Rachel	Jasper, Allyson	Statler, Aaron *
Chappelle, Kayla	Jordan, Betsy *	* - graduate student

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Ms. Betsy Jordan for her assistance in working with the dancers.

----Steve Hall

†††

The Marshall University Department of Music is grateful for the support of many families and individuals who help make our department strong and vibrant.

If you would like to support the Department of Music through a donation and assist with student scholarships, academic travel for students and ensembles, or general support of the department please contact:

Melanie Griffis, Director of Development

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