

DANMORE KUSAYA

SUMMARY

THROUGH PLAYING MUSIC AND TEACHING, I WANT TO SHARE THE RICH SOUTHERN AFRICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE WITH THE WORLD.

EXPERIENCE

Afro Music Teacher & Community Music Development, 01/2019 - Current SWEET DREAMERS MARIMBA PROJECT - Indianapolis, IN

- Created the afterschool program where over 100 students attended for music, dance and English classes.
- Taught the marimba classes as well as managed the other teachers in the program.
- Organized special events, school concerts, music competitions and music examinations. This included communication with the parents, arranging transportation and management of finances.

SWEET DREAMERS MARIMBA BAND PROJECT :

The Sweet Dreamers Marimba Band Project is a project where musically gifted students from township communities in South Africa get the opportunity to learn to play the marimba and to play in professionally trained and managed marimba bands. The project was founded by Danmore Kusaya (SA) and Monika Stadelmann (CH) in January 2019. Teachers and coaches of the marimba bands are the members of the band. Besides practicing and performing with the band, the project has a strong belief that playing music – African indigenous music in particular – will give not only creative musical activities after school but also the self-confidence and joy the students need to healthily grow and develop. In May 2019 the Sweet Dreamers Marimba bands started to play their first concerts. Since then they have performed many concerts at different kinds of venues all around Mpumalanga, SA. It's amazing what they have already achieved in this short period of time! They get offers to play shows not only from different Game Lodges in Kruger National Park but also from well-known festivals in Mpumalanga. Their facebook fan community is growing every day– but they wouldn't call themselves Sweet Dreamers, if they didn't dare to dream about playing internationally in their near future.

Music Production Director, 03/2014 - 03/2021

MINANZI MBIRA BAND - White River, Mpumalanga, South Africa

- Lead singer and mbira player.
- Marketed the band and booked events. This involved filling out applications, talking with the event planners, arranging payments,



CONTACT

Address: Indianapolis, IN 46201

Phone: 317-508-8191

Email: dan.kusaya@gmail.com

SKILLS

- Proficient in playing many African instruments
 - Performance direction and production
 - Organization of special events
 - Reporting development of projects
 - Staff/student development and mentorship
 - Group and individual music instruction
 - Vocal techniques based on African songs
-

WEBSITES, PORTFOLIOS, PROFILES

<https://www.facebook.com/dankusaya>

<https://www.facebook.com/Sweet-Dreamers-Marimba-band-1634095043568411/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwl4LCDqUfQ&t=34s>

negotiating contracts and organizing tours.

- Directed all rehearsals to achieve tonal and harmonic balance.
- Constantly studied and created new innovative styles of music which was then implemented in production with band members.

Minanzi Mbira Band (since 2014) – The band mixes traditional music from Zimbabwe with South African dance vibes. We have performed at many festivals and all kinds of venues from safari lodges to wine tasting events all around South Africa. We have also done international festivals and events.

CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES AND TOURS :

- *Music Festival Lucerne, CH August 2019*
- *Innbbos National Art Festival, SA 5 – 9 July 2017-2018-2019*
- *The Grand White Dinner, SA March – June 2019*
- *Splash Fen Festival, SA April 2019*
- *Zwakala Brewery Festival, SA December 2018*
- *Mauritius –KENZI BAR/ NO STRESS/ ENZO/ HANGER/ JAM INN July-August 2017*
- *Tofo World Ocean Festival, MZ December 2016*

MARIMBA TEACHER , 04/2013 - 05/2018

CMDA ACADEMY - White River, Mpumalanga, South Africa

- Taught students how to play Marimba.
 - Organized special events, school concerts, and music competitions.
 - Completed student records and school-related documentation.
 - Worked with students to develop Marimba and dance skills.
-

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

High School Diploma, 2010

Chiundu Secondary School - Rusape, Zimbabwe

PERSONAL INFORMATION

I was born in Rusape, Zimbabwe and from early on in my childhood I displayed an interest and knack for traditional music and instruments (ngoma, hosho, marimba and mbira). In time I formed a mbira band with my brother Tendayi. We often played for my father and at community gatherings and concerts. This is how I met the lion of Zimbabwe, Thomas Mapfumo, who then took me along to play with him all over Southern Africa. From 2007-2014 my brother and I had a band named Two Brothers Mbira. We performed in Mozambique (Pa Nyungwe festival) as well as South Africa (Meropa Casino, Limpopo, Peter Makaba Stadium) and many other places. We have conducted several coaching sessions for people all over the world through the South African Casterbridge Music

Development Academy (CMDA). The journey from there, is listed above in my resume. In 2021, I moved to Indianapolis to marry my wife. I can't wait to start my new musical career here in the US!

WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE TO FACILITATE:

MBIRA- MARIMBA- AND DRUM WORKSHOPS: These events are focused on training in mbira, drumming or marimba music. In this workshop which is appropriate for any age or size, participants will learn about Southern African cultural music. This involves storytelling, learning to play together, how to sing along to mbira and marimba songs, dances that go with specific songs and original lyrics.

Zimbabwean Drumming Workshop: Learn a variety of different African grooves that fit with some of the traditional songs of Shona culture.

Traditional Dancing Workshop: Traditional dancing and music of the Shona, Pedi, Venda, Tswana tribes and the Ngetekete tribe from Mozambique.

Drumming Workshop: Every participant gets a drum and is taught the basic sounds and techniques as well as how to play several rhythms and cross rhythms together. Normally it runs for the period of an hour, but we can put together a package to suit your needs, budget and event.

Suitable for: children's parties, weddings, anniversaries, launches and team building, year end functions, birthday parties, formal and informal get-togethers, kitchen teas and corporate events.

Team Building Workshop: All the members of the team get an instrument and are taught how to play their instruments. They are taught basic exercises & techniques, many rhythms, cross rhythms, fun activities and complex styles.

Drumming Circle Workshop: Drumming circles can be held at various venues where friends meet, strangers become friends, stress is released and fun is had. Under the moon you can enjoy a beautiful night sky around a warm bonfire. Facilitation takes place to get everyone playing together and to introduce a range of instruments to the circle, creating a dynamic mixing pot of sounds and experiences.

Teaching marimba lessons at schools as an after-school program: In this program I offer schools to teach students to play the marimba at their schools as an after-school program. Students get the opportunity to learn to play the marimba, to play music, to sing and to dance. It aims to provide a meaningful activity as an after-school program where students can develop their creative and social skills.

Helping to establish a marimba teaching center in schools or communities: In this program I will help you to start your own marimba center in your community or school until you will be ready to manage it all by yourself.

Formation of marimba bands and playing concerts: To play in a professionally trained and managed marimba band not only needs a lot of musical talent and skills, it also needs a lot of practice and managerial

know-how. Furthermore, a good networking and solid computer literacy are essential to organize concerts and online shows. In all these tasks, I will be not only teaching the students to play the marimbas but also helping or teaching them to improve useful skills such as persistency, patience, empathy, teamwork and reliability.

Online Live-Shows via the platform “Socially Distant Fest”: This platform was created to give entertainers the opportunity to offset some of their financial loss after the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide entertainment to those who were isolated or quarantined. Go and have a look. Treat yourself to a live show where you can interact not only with the band, but also with the other viewers - a very special kind of music experience!
<https://www.facebook.com/dankusaya/videos/2789129998076451>