



Shona Marimba, Mbira and Dance

The Band

Since Spring 2011 Zimdiana has wowed crowds at local bars, festivals and community events. Quickly becoming a staple for local organizers Zimdiana is known for bringing in good crowds and turning first time listeners into long time fans with their high energy shows that get people to their feet. The band formed in the spring of 2011 in West Lafayette Indiana. Their first show was playing at the ZimExpo Business Consortium. The Zimbabwean attendees were amazed to hear Americans play their music with so much skill, embodying its authentic feel and sound. Aaron Spalding- who acts as the musical director of the band has studied Mbira, Marimba and Ngoma with some of the best Shona musicians from Zimbabwe and has taught and performed Shona music for over 14 years. Other members of Zimdiana consist of Jim Harney, a multi-instrumentalist with years of experience playing many musical styles plays Marimba and Mbira with Zim, Adam Rice, percussionist and guitar player playing marimba and percussion and Taylor Davis on drum set having experience with rock and reggae bands



Contact Zimdiana@gmail.com

The Music

Zimdiana's take on the traditional Shona music is a high energy blend played on Marimba, Mbira, and Drum set. The sound is both beautiful and complex with the interlocking notes of the songs creating a polyphonic and polyrhythmic vortex. Often the two Alto Marimba will be weaving parts around each other while the Baritone holds down the low end- creating the funk- while the Drums and Hosho drive the sound forward. Most of the Marimba repertoire is based off of songs traditionally played on Mbira that have been arranged and adapted to the Marimba.



The Instruments

Zimdiana's instrumentation includes a Baritone Marimba, Two Alto Marimba, Drum set, Hosho, Mbira Huru and Nyunga-Nyunga. The Marimba is an instrument that features tuned wooden keys suspended over tuned resonators. A Shona style Marimba has bigger keys for more volume and the addition of a buzzer placed over the bottom of the resonator to create the distinct sound of an African tuned keyed instrument. The Mbira is an instrument that features a set of tuned metal keys mounted on a sound board that are played with the thumbs and fingers. The mbira is often played inside of a large gourd called a Deze as a resonator. Both the Mbira and Deze have shells, bottle caps or some other item mounted on them to add a buzzing quality that brings out the overtones and reacts to create interesting rhythmic variations. Traditionally, the Hosho is a gourd rattle used as the main time keeper in an mbira ensemble. The Drum set plays Hosho-like patterns on the bass and hi hats while improvising around the basic rhythm. Ngoma are the traditional drums used in Zimbabwe; Zimdiana uses Congas in place of Ngoma since the sound is very similar, and tuning and maintenance is easier due to their modern hardware. All of Zimdiana's Marimba were made by Aaron.

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Venues and Shows played and upcoming

Snowsey Gras Lafayette Brew Co	Lafayette, In	Feb.	2013
Fall Fling	Lafayette, In	Nov.	2012
Zombaid	Lafayette, In	Oct.	2012
Fall Bash Peoples Brewing Co.	Lafayette In	Sept.	2012
Brawlin Dolls Half Time Show	West Lafayette In	June	2012
Grateful Heart Art Gallery	Lafayette In	May	2012
TEDx PurdueU reception	Lafayette In	Jan.	2012
Snowsey Lafayette Brewing Co	Lafayette In	Jan.	2012
Black Sparrow	Lafayette In	Jan.	2012
Purdue Banquet The Fowler House	Lafayette In	Jan.	2012
Black Sparrow	Lafayette In	Dec.	2012
Athena, Lotus Festival	Bloomington Indiana	Sept	2011
Global Fest	West Lafayette Indiana	Sept.	2011
Black Sparrow	Lafayette Indiana	Aug.	2011
Mosey Down Main Street	Lafayette Indiana	Aug.	2011
ZimExpo Business Consortium	Cincinnati Ohio	May	2011

For booking contact Aaron at

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On the web

Zimdiana.com

Youtube.com/Zimdiana

Zimdiana Data CD includes files for promotional use.

Photos from past performances

Videos from Global Fest

MP3s from gigs and practice recordings made in Aug 2011