

DEPARTMENT OF  
**MUSIC**  
AT PRINCETON



Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 8:00 PM  
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

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# African Music Ensembles

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**Olivier Tarpaga, Director**

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*The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance. **For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit [music.princeton.edu](https://music.princeton.edu).***

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## PROGRAM



### **YAFA/Forgiveness**

Inspired by a heroic story in Barsalogho (Burkina)

### **ACCRA**

Afrobeat

### **WAYA**

A feel-good ternary rhythm song from Burkina Faso

### **YELKAYE/No Problem**

Afrobeat

### **SAHEL VIBES**

West African reggae

### **BÖBÖ**

A complex ternary song from West Africa

### **WASSA WASSA**

Our beloved Afrobeat song

### **GOROM GOROM BLUES**

Desert blues

### **SOUKOUSS**

Celebratory music from Congo

### **FUNKY CAMEL**

Tuareg nomad rock music

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## FEATURING

### **Director**

Olivier Tarpaga

### **Drummers**

Oleg Aleksandrovich Golev

Michelle Liu

Harit Raghunathan

Davis Polito

### **Lead Guitar**

Saidou Sangare

### **Second Lead Guitar**

James Moore

### **Third Electric Guitar**

Daniela Vita

### **Electric Bass Guitar**

Joel Kologo

### **Drum Set**

Wesley Rast

### **Piano**

Grace Opong

### **Trumpet**

Gabriel Chalick

### **Trumpet**

Cueyoung Lee

### **Trombone**

Wesley Sanders

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## ABOUT

### **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY AFRICAN MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

Led by **Olivier Tarpaga**, Senior Lecturer in Music and award-winning composer and choreographer, the **African Music Ensembles** (AME) at **Princeton University** offer students a dynamic and immersive exploration of Africa's rich and diverse musical heritage. Comprising two distinct ensembles, AME provides an in-depth opportunity to engage with both **traditional** and **contemporary African music**, drawing from the continent's vast array of rhythms, instruments, and cultural expressions.

### **THE DRUMMING ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble focuses on the rhythms and sounds of **Mandingo** and **West African traditional music**, immersing students in the complex patterns and vibrant percussion techniques that have shaped the musical landscape of the region.

### **THE AFROBEAT ENSEMBLE**

The **Afrobeat Ensemble** delves into the urban and contemporary sounds of Africa. This ensemble explores the diverse musical genres emerging from cities across the continent, from the iconic **Afrobeat** of Nigeria (popularized by **Fela Kuti**) to the infectious **Soukous** from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The ensemble also studies **Desert Blues** and **Tuareg rock** from the Sahara Desert, the traditional **Mandingo acoustic music** of West Africa, and a wide range of contemporary rhythms and sounds from cities such as **Bamako, Johannesburg, Kinshasa, Abidjan, Lagos, Nairobi, and Ouagadougou**. By engaging with these varied styles, students gain a comprehensive understanding of Africa's vibrant musical landscape, from urban to rural, traditional to contemporary.

### **AFRICAN MUSIC AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

African Music at Princeton University connects students with artists and scholars from all five regions of the African continent to enable vibrant creative experiences and the rigorous study of African music, dance, and culture.

Through courses, performing ensembles, workshops, and conferences, the Department of Music's offerings in African music emphasize the importance of cultural understanding, illuminates the history of Africa and diasporic communities, and promotes an environment of acceptance and positivity.

**Keep up to date about Princeton University African Music Ensembles concerts on the Performance & Events page of the Princeton Music Department website [music.princeton.edu](https://music.princeton.edu) or the African Music Ensembles website, [www.africanmusicatprincetonuniversity.com](https://www.africanmusicatprincetonuniversity.com)**

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