FAFALI: MUSIC AND DANCE FROM GHANA
MUS 87-A
Fall 2015
Brandeis University
Department of Music

Friday 3:00-5:20pm
Slosberg Music Center, Slosberg Recital Hall

Ben Paulding, Director
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Office hours by appointment only

Course Description:
Using an experiential learning model, students will learn to perform traditional music and dance from Ghana, West Africa. Classes will consist primarily of hands-on instruction in Ghanaian drumming, singing, and dancing, and will culminate in a final performance in the Slosberg Music Center on Friday December 4th at 8:00pm. In-class learning will be augmented with audio, video, and text posted on LATTE.

Learning Goals:
• Perform Togo Atsia drumming: identify the six percussion instruments in the Togo Atsia ensemble, explain the role of the timeline instruments, demonstrate basic stick technique, and perform Togo Atsia call and response “drum language” repertoire on the support drums.
• Perform Borborbor singing: sing traditional Borborbor songs in the Ewe language, interlock vocal melodies with the atoke bell pattern, explain song meanings in English.
• Perform Gahu dancing: time the dance steps in relationship to the gankogui bell pattern, perform movements labelled Basic, Rolling, Serious, and several Variations, dance a choreographed Gahu routine.
• Collaborate with the Brandeis Spirit Band. Fafali will perform Kinka drumming and while Spirit plays Kinka songs on their wind instruments. Fafali and Spirit members join together to sing Kinka songs.

Prerequisites:
MUS 87-A has no prerequisites. No previous music or dance experience required.

Schedule of classes:
• Week One: August 28.
  • Borborbor: song 1, first half.
  • Gahu: timing of dance steps, basic movement.
  • Kinka: gankogui, axatse.
• Week Two: September 4.
  • Borborbor: song 1, second half.
- Gahu: rolling and serious movement.
- Kinka drumming: kagan.
- Week Three: September 11.
  - Togo Atsia: gankogui.
  - Borborbor: review song 1.
  - Gahu: review of basic, rolling, serious sequence.
  - Kinka: kidi/sogo basic.
- Week Four: September 18.
  - Togo Atsia: axatse.
  - Borborbor: song 2, A section.
  - Gahu: intro.
  - Kinka: review.
- Week Five: September 25.
  - Togo Atsia: kagan.
  - Borborbor: song 2, B section.
  - Gahu: variation 1.
- Week Six: October 2.
  - Togo Atsia: kidi/sogo variation 1.
  - Borborbor: review song 2.
  - Gahu: variation 2.
  - Kinka: song 1.
- Week Seven: October 9.
  - Togo Atsia: kidi/sogo variation 1.
  - Borborbor: song 3, A section.
  - Gahu: variation 3.
- Week Eight: October 16.
  - Togo Atsia: kidi/sogo variation 2.
  - Borborbor: song 3, B section.
  - Gahu: review.
  - Kinka: song 2.
- Week Nine: October 23.
  - Togo Atsia: kidi/sogo variation 2.
  - Borborbor: review song 3.
  - Gahu: ending.
- Week Ten: October 30.
  - Togo Atsia: kidi/sogo variation 3.
  - Borborbor: intro.
  - Gahu: intro song.
• Week Eleven: November 6.
  • Togo Atsia kidi/sogo variation 3.
  • Borborbor: ending.
  • Gahu: review.
• **Performance:** Thursday November 19th. Brandeis Global Bazaar at the Levin Ballroom in the Usdan Student Center. Event time: 4:00-8:00pm. Fafali performance time: TBA.
• Week Thirteen: November 20.
  • Review all four pieces for concert.
• Week Fourteen: November 27. Thanksgiving - No class.
• Week Fifteen: December 4.
  • Review all four pieces for concert.
• **Performance.** Friday December 4th. Final Concert. Final concert in Slosberg Recital Hall, 8:00pm. Arrival time 6:30pm.

*Weekly lesson plans subject to change*

**Evaluation:**
MUS 87a is offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Credit will awarded based on attendance, participation in the final concert on December 4th, and improvement/effort demonstrated in class.

**Disabilities:**
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see instructor immediately.

**Course Materials:**
No materials required; instruments and costumes will be provided.

**Critical Dates:**
• Thursday November 19th. Brandeis Global Bazaar at the Levin Ballroom in the Usdan Student Center. Event time: 4:00-8:00pm. Fafali performance time: TBA.
• Friday December 4th. Final Concert. Final concert in Slosberg Recital Hall, 8:00pm. Arrival time 6:30pm.

**Attendance:**
Students must email instructor prior to missing class to receive an excused absence. More than two unexcused absences may result in no credit given.