

CU ★ PRESENTS

COLLEGE OF MUSIC 2025-26 EVENTS



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

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CU Boulder is a **SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS**.



West African Highlife Ensemble

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Grusin Music Hall

PROGRAM

Dancing: The Sogo dance!

Drumming: Agbnye, followed by Kalela.

Traditional songs will be between the rhythms.

Akpeteshie (Akpeteshi)

This song is a good example of pure highlife style. You can hear the up-beat bell pattern drive the ensemble. The lyrics are a sort of public service announcement: “Drinking and driving is not good. If you are drinking, don’t drive, because safety is important.” This song provides an excellent opportunity to get up and dance!

Dela Yaw Botri

Eni Aber (Niabe)

“Whenever palm nuts fall in a soil, it germinates” is a proverb that this song expresses. A parent puts pressure on their grown son that it is time for him to take care of them since they took care of him until he became a man (as culture demands). He promises to take care of them when he is ready. *Eric Agyemang*

Ayi Langa

The song speaks about tensions that sometimes exist in families and in marriages. “Something is bothering me a lot between my in-laws and me. I want someone to take me to them so I can talk to them about what is bothering me. I call Ayi to go with me because he is wise and could be a mediator to help solve the problem.”

Naakpe Noko

Gota (Rearranged)

One person said I want to do it, but I don't want to do it. I realize if I put enough effort into something, I will accomplish it. I don't want people to keep telling me I cannot do it, but I have to believe in myself. Everything is hard work. If I put in hard work and determination, at the end, I will achieve what needs to be achieved. *Obo Abdy*

Oblayoko

I was sleeping when a friend came and invited me to Tema for a dance, food and drinks. She is beautiful and outgoing and she was in a hurry to go to Tema. I ask her why she was in a hurry. She says she is in a hurry because friends are waiting for her and she wants to go have fun. *Kojo Antwi*

PROGRAM NOTES

Join a World Music Ensemble

All CU World Music Ensembles are classes for credit offered by the College of Music, and are open to all students of CU Boulder regardless of major. No previous musical experience or audition is required to join.

PERSONNEL

Ensemble Director: Maputo Mensah

Teaching Assistant: Elizabeth Romero

Drumming assistant: Christopher Robert Clauss

Other Performers:

Skylar Armstrong

Dahni Austin

Zoe Carnot

Zach Ditta

Cormac Godfrey

Jamie Hellwig

Lynn Holmes

Gavin Hulse

Leo Millington

Noah Mowry

Lucy O'byrne

Kieran Osborn

William Pettigrew

Catherine Rieger

Lily Roosakos

Lucas Ruoss

Evan Schneider

Ian Schultz

Julia Treusein

Thank you for coming!

Since 1920, the College of Music

offers a wide range of programs for undergraduate and graduate study, integrating advanced musical and interdisciplinary training with professional-level experiences.

One of the top comprehensive music schools in the country, the College of Music is a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1941.

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*Photos: On this page, University Chorus, Fall 2024.
Photo credit: Erika O'Connor; On the cover, Cross-Genre Ensemble, 2025. Photo credit: Owen Zhou.*

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*The Drowsy Chaperone (2023).
Photo credit: Bennet Forsyth.*

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* *Deceased*

PERSONNEL

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Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Margaret Haefner Berg

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Enrollment Management

Matthew Roeder

Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives

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Eklund Opera Program Manager

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Assistant Technical Director

Ben Smith

Costume Coordinator/Designer and Shop Manager

Ann Piano

Communications Manager

MarieFaith Lane

Communications and Program Assistant

Kathryn Bistodeau

Director of Development

Kelli Hirsch

Senior Program Manager for Events

Mikaela Rich

Program Manager for Stewardship and Donor Relations

Shih-Han Chiu

Development Assistant

Christie Preston

Operations Director and Head Piano Technician

Ted Mulcahey

Scheduling Manager

Kayla Pierce

Head Recording Engineer and Technical Director

Kevin Harbison

Assistant Recording Engineer

Kristofer Twadell

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Aidan Biffinger

Box Office Assistants

Macy Crow

Remy DeParis

Joel Ferst

Johnette Martin

Sallu Young

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Director, Macky Auditorium and Artist Series

Rudy Betancourt

Assistant Director for Administration

Sara Krumwiede

Assistant Director for Production

Trevor Isetts

Assistant Director for Patron Services and Stakeholder Services

Amanda Wells

Assistant Director of Operations

Paige Wiedemann

Production Managers

Richard Barrett

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Senior House Manager

Devin Hegger

House Managers

Aleighya Dawkins

Pearl Enssle

Brosnan Szabo

*Personnel lists current as
of Oct. 1, 2025. [Visit the
most up to date staff directory
at this link.](#)*