

SHONA

Six videos, made in 1975 in Zimbabwe, introduce the viewer to the world of the *mbira* of the Shona people and its use in their religion by focusing on individual *mbira* player/singers. Three types of *mbira* can be seen: the *mbira dza vadzimu*, the *njari*, and the *matepe dza mhondoro*.

Mbira: the technique of the *mbira dza vadzimu* with Ephant Mujuru: 19 mins.

An introduction to some basic elements of the musical technique and sound of the *mbira dza vadzimu*, played by Ephant Mujuru, one of today's well-known players. Written and narrated by Andrew Tracey, and using animation and freeze-frame techniques, it includes a demonstration of some of the cross-rhythmic and harmonic elements, of improvisation, of different styles of playing a song and of the combination of two *mbiras* in duet.

Mbira: *mbira dza vadzimu*: religion at the family level with Gwanzura Gwenzi: 66 mins.

Voluble Gwanzura Gwenzi, *mbira* player, was at the time a Harare clerk and family head. The video shows his personality as it changes from his workplace at work in town, to his home in the 'high density suburb' outside the city, to hosting an all-night *bira* or spirit séance, the main expression of Shona religious ritual, at his home in the country. His sister is the family medium, his grandfather's the spirit who possesses her, his niece the future *mbira* diva Stella Chiweshe, and the guests members of his family, past and present, along with neighbours.

Mbira: *mbira dza vadzimu*: urban and rural ceremonies with Hakurotwi Mude: 45 mins.

Hakurotwi Mude is a singer and leader of a professional group of *mbira* players. An intense and religious man, the video watches him in the kinds of performances, at an informal urban Friday night *nhandaro*, and in the country at a sacrifice and at a funeral, which made him one of the best known Shona musicians of the time.

Mbira: *mbira dza vadzimu*: Dambatsoko, an old cult centre with Muchatera and Ephant Mujuru, 51 mins.

Muchatera Mujuru was the leader of one of the last remaining traditional cult centres in Shona country. It shows him as a spiritual man, concerned with his waning authority in a changing Rhodesia (as it was then). Several aspects of the life of his adherents at Dambatsoko are seen, including ceremonies with *mbira* players in the big *banya* ritual house, at the *mutoro* hut, the *rushanga* shrine and at a sacrifice, as well as iron forging and other daily activities.

Mbira: *Njari*: Karanga songs in Christian ceremonies with Simon Mashoko, 24 mins.

Magwenyambira Simon Mashoko, *njari* player and singer famous in Shona country, was then a rural Catholic catechist, now a priest. In addition to the traditional spiritual musical repertoire, he has adapted the *mbira* successfully for use in the Catholic Church. We see him playing his instrument both in the traditional sphere at a beer party and a dance, and also at a catechism class and a Sunday service held at his home.

Mbira: *Njari*: *Matepe dza mhondoro*: a healing party, 21 mins.

A vignette of the music and activities at a healing party held at Mukota, NE Zimbabwe at the home of a sick woman. A trio of *matepe dza mhondoro* plays under the leadership of Saini Murira, together with rattles, drum, singers and dancing by two mediums, who interrupt the

music to enact the treatment of the patient.

OTHER VIDEOS FROM CONSTANT SPRING PRODUCTIONS

CHOPÍ

Ndando ya wusiwana, 18 mins.

Master musician Venancio Mbande sings his composition, a personal lament in the form of a *mzeno* movement, accompanied by his *mbila* xylophone. The film demonstrates the wide variety of influences that went into the composition of his song.

A spirit here today, 44 mins.

A look at the many lesser-known musics of the Chopi, e.g. laments and dances involving women and children, and instrumental music on bows, gourd flutes, reedpipe ensemble and xylophone duo with drums. These so-called 'little' musics are seen by the Chopi as parts of their process of musical education leading up to the *timbila* dance, selections of which are also included.

SOTHO

Songs of the adventurers, 47 mins.

A collaborative work by filmmaker Gei Zantzinger and anthropologist David Coplan, this video looks at the eloquent *difela* autobiographical oral poetry and dance of migrant workers from Lesotho, placing it in its background of traditional oral poetry and the rigours of going to work on the South African gold mines. See Coplan's *In the time of cannibals*, Univ. of Chicago Press 1994, on the same subject.

CAPE VERDE

Songs of the Badius, 35 mins.

The attractive pre-electric traditional music and dances of the Badius of Santiago Island, Cape Verde, descendants of West African slaves and Portuguese colonists, demonstrating the importance of their African retentions.

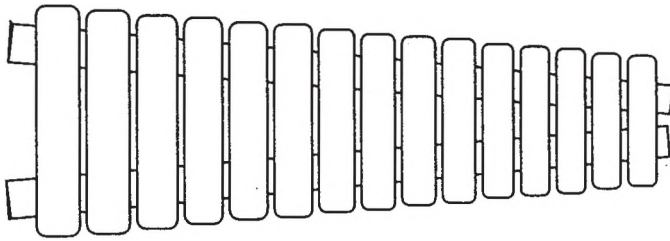
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Dances of Southern Africa (1977), 55 mins.

A panorama of dances from South Africa to Zimbabwe via Malawi, including those of the Xhosa, Zulu, Zingili, Ndau, Karanga, Kalanga, Valley Tonga, and Ngoni, in the days when mine dances were open to the public. Narrated by Hugh Tracey, who was one of the driving forces in developing mine dancing for recreation.

amadinda

log xylophones for everyone!



Authentic embairé log xylophones (15 keys) carved by skilled village craftsmen in Uganda (tuned to Ugandan 5-note scale)

Also our own hand-crafted alder wood log xylophones (15 keys tuned to standard pitch 5-note C-D-F-G-A- or 7-note C-D-E-F-G-A-B- scale)

Enkwanzi panpipes (embaire tuning), budongo thumbpianos, teaching packs, and recordings from Uganda

With sufficient advance notice:

Giant embairé xylophones from Nakibembe village, traditional drum sets from Buganda & Busoga, flutes and stringed instruments, including the ennanga harp

tel: +44 131 667 5618 h.micklem@ed.ac.uk
c/o 1 Dryden Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1RP, Scotland, UK

Deliveries worldwide!