

Markus Coester 3/24

PR text

Beyond the Digital Return – Workshop Event

Sounding African Music Heritage 2

Place: University of Bayreuth/Germany

Iwalewahaus and University Campus, Online

Date: 23rd and 24th April 2024

Sounding African Music Heritage is part of the outreach of the research project Beyond the Digital Return: New Heritage/s, Sustainability, and the Decolonisation of Music Archives in South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth. It is the second event in the Sounding African Music Heritage series, started in 2023, and aims at sharing our academic interest and research with the public and the wider academic community. Sounding African Music Heritage highlights the re-creation of Intangible Cultural Heritage as a creative process and collaborative research practice.

The 2-days event consists of a seminar on the topic, two paper notes, by the South African ethnomusicologist Prof. Angela Impey, SOAS, London, and by Prof. Daniel Avorgbedor from the University of Ghana; a public panel discussion on music archives, repatriation, and popular music heritage, moderated by Dr. Lee Watkins, Director of the International Library of African Music, Rhodes University, South Africa, and Dr. habil. Markus Coester, University of Bayreuth, both project directors of Beyond the Digital Return. Moreover, there will be an evening film screening and discussion of the Highlife Heritage Concert 2023, filmed in Ghana in July 2023, as well as a live music performance by the trio Rhythmers featuring Frank Karikari.

The Highlife Heritage Concert is part of Dr Markus Coester's collaborative research project on revitalization and sustenance of Highlife-Jazz and "Highlife Heritage". The concert featured first class bands resident in Ghana, Kwesi Dankwa & His Dzidudu Band, Akablay's Abiza Band, Henry Taylor & the Saltpond City Band, and the Ghana Police Dance Band. The 2023 edition was a major concert put on during the World Conference of the International Council of Traditional Music – ICTM. Karikari, on the other hand, is from an influential family of musicians in Ghana and currently lives in Berlin. He is an outstanding representative of the rich heritage of West African guitar styles which he masters like few musicians around these days.

On 24th April, at 20h, the Ghanaian combo **RHYTHMERS featuring Frank Karikari** will be performing live at Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth [band photo attached]. Frank Karikari is from a well-known family of musicians, the son of legendary bass-player and guitarist, Ralph Karikari. Having learned much from his father, Frank is one of those guitarists with an intimate knowledge of the guitar styles and songs that made Highlife-music the most important popular music genre in Ghana. Kwame Sometimer is known for his complex, melodic-rhythmic bass playing, and the drummer of this newly formed trio is none less than the outstanding rhythmist, composer, vocalist Eko Alabi. He has played and toured world-wide with all-time greats of African Highlife- und Afrobeat music, Ebo Taylor und Pat Thomas. The concert promises to be a highlight for those who know and like music from Africa but also for all live-music interested audiences.

Programme (flyer for 24th April attached)

23.4. University of Bayreuth - CAMPUS

10-13h Seminar– Campus and online

Seminar Topic

Ethnomusicology/Music Anthropology, Archival/AV Preservation, and Living Heritage in Africa

Participants: Prof. Barbara Alge, Prof. Daniel Avorgbedor, Dr. Lee Watkins, Dr. habil. Markus Coester, invited guests, research team, BT Academy fellows, Bigsas fellows

13-14h Lunch break

14-15.30h Paper notes

“Song Walking” – Prof. Angela Impey, SOAS, London

Song Walking. Intangible Heritage and the Gendered Politics of Environment and Remembering in Maputuland

Response: Nicole Pooley, Rhodes University, and Tabitha Osoro, Moi University

“Akpalu Heritage” - Prof. Daniel Avorgbedor - University of Ghana

The Anyako/Akpalu Community Archive: a joint project with El Anatsui. Art Activism and Ethnomusicology endeavours in Ghana (topic tbc)

Response: Fidelia Ameteewe, University of Ghana, and Markus Coester, UBT

24.4.2024 IWALEWAHAUS

14-16h Public Panel Discussion - Roundtable

(open to the public)

Ethnomusicology and African Studies & their Potential Role for Intangible Cultural Heritage Recognition and Safeguarding

moderated by Dr Lee Watkins, Director of ILAM, and Dr Markus Coester, UBT, participants:

Prof. Barbara Alge, Prof. Cassandra Mark-Thiesen, N.N., invited guests and Beyond the Digital Return research team;

18h Concert Film Screening – Discussion - Live Performance

Concert Film Screening & Discussion

Concert Film Screening - The Highlife Heritage Concert 2023

Discussion:

What is “Heritage” about Popular Music? - The “magical” transformation of a mass-produced commodity

20h Live Performance: RHYTHMERS featuring Frank Karikari (Ghana/Germany)

Highlife Guitar Vibes

Frank Karikari, gtr/vocals; Eko Alabi, dr/vocals, Kwame Sometimer, bass/vocals

Introduction by Dr Markus Coester: The legacy of the guitar idiom in Ghanaian Highlife Music

21.30h Afro Lounge – Classic African Sounds played back on Vinyl



RHYTHMERS featuring Frank Karikari

<https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Research/Research-Projects/Arts-and-Aesthetics/Beyond-the-digital/index.html>