

## Diverse music of Africa to be showcased Feb. 26 at UCSD

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DIVERSE MUSIC OF AFRICA TO BE SHOWCASED FEB. 26 AT UCSD

An evening of music reflecting the colorful cultural diversity of Africa will be showcased when the African Troubadours take the stage at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The presentation will include individual performances by the three troubadours, an ad lib and occasional loosely structured collaboration throughout and a grand finale combining their styles and talents.

The musicians are Hassan Hakmoun, a Moroccan Gnawa singer, musician and dancer; Ugandan James Makubuya, a master of traditional instruments including the ndongo (lyre), adungu (harp), and madinda (xylophone), and Yaja Diallo of Mali, a master drummer and healer.

Originally from Marrakech, Hakmoun currently lives in New York. He will perform acrobatic dances and music from Gnawa trance ceremonies a blend of North African and Arab melodies with West African rhythms. The Gnawa brotherhood is a mystical black Islamic sect whose members trace their spiritual ancestry to an Ethiopian who was Mohammed's first prayer leader. The Gnawa musicians' most important function is to perform as intermediaries with the spirit world at purification rituals and trance ceremonies.

Hakmoun made his U.S. debut in 1987 at the Lincoln Center. Since then he has appeared as a soloist or in a group in varying venues, on NBC's Tonight Show and records for WML, Knitting Factory, Realworld and Mina Records labels.

Makubuya is both musician and teacher. He holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from UCLA and is an assistant professor of music at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The eight-string bowl lyre is his main musical instrument and he is proficient on many others.

Makubuya and his music were featured in the movie Mississippi Masala. He has recorded and performed in television productions including Simba: The King of the Jungle, Sherlock Holmes, The African Skies, The African Thunderstorm and The Jungle Choir. His CD Taata Wange features traditional and contemporary music from Uganda.

Diallo lives in Montreal where he studied chemistry at the University of Montreal before deciding to devote his life to teaching and performing the music of his heritage, the Minianka tradition of Mali. The Minianka music serves a sacred healing function and musicians are expected to maintain high standards because of the power of music to influence people.

Diallo is a master of the balafon, sometimes called the African xylophone, a melodious instrument indigenous to West Africa, and also of the bafoko, djembe, and tama, varying types of drums. Diallo's recordings include Nangape and The Healing Drum.

The African Troubadours Feb. 26 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office.

Tickets for the Troubadours are \$17 general admission, \$15 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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