AFRICAN INSTRUMENTS B1/2 (MUZ1201F/2201F/S) SSA

1. WHAT THE COURSE IS ALL ABOUT:

**African Instruments 1/2** is a practical introductory semester course in which students with no or minimal exposure to African Music and the playing of African instruments can experience what it is like to participate in an African music ensemble. This is a hands-on course in which you will learn by doing. The techniques and principles underlying music making in Africa are studied through practical work on a variety of African Instruments from the whole African continent. This will give participants a direct inroad into the heart of the African aesthetic experience.

There are two components to the course - a two hour studio class and a two-hour ensemble class:

1. In the studio class you will be working in small groups (i.e. 6 to 10 participants). These classes will focus on the development of technique by means of three-week modules in which you will be introduced to three representative musical instruments of the African continent. Each instrument will serve as an introduction to a generally different musico-stylistic region of Africa:
2. West Africa – Djembe Drum.
3. East Africa – Amadinda Xylophone.
4. Central Africa – Kalimba Lamellophone
5. In ensemble classes you will be working in larger groups. During these sessions you will experience some of the ‘big’ ensemble sounds of the continent. This will include:
   1. Songs and Dance-songs from South Africa.
   2. Reed- and Panpipe music of South- and Central East Africa.
   3. Drum styles from different African regions.

All the music and performance practices introduced during these sessions will be placed in social and cultural context.

1. STUDIO CLASS COURSE OUTLINE:

|  |
| --- |
| Week 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION |
| * Demonstration |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 2,3,4,5 : DJEMBE DRUM – WEST AFRICA |
| * Introduction to Djembe playing techniques * Call and Response * 2 pieces for Djembe ensemble |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 6,7,8,9 - AMADINDA XYLOPHONE – EAST AFRICA |
| * Introduction to Amadinda playing techniques * Interlocking * 2 pieces for Amadinda |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 10,11,12 - KALIMBA LAMELLOPHONE – CENTRAL AFRICA |
| * Introduction to Kalimba playing techniques * Coordination and patterning * 2 pieces for Kalimba |

1. ENSEMBLE CLASS COURSE OUTLINE:

|  |
| --- |
| Week 1: INTRODUCTION |
| * Admin Details |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 2,3,4,5 : SONGS & DANCE-SONGS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA |
| * Mpondo Songs |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 6,7,8,9 : REED- PIPE DANCES |
| * Venda Tshikona * Pedi Dinaka * Tswana – Dithlaka |

|  |
| --- |
| Weeks 10,11,12 - DRUM-STYLES |
| * West-African * Central African * Southern African |

1. ASSESSMENT
2. Attendance Requirement: 80% at all Studio and Ensemble classes.
3. At the completion of each studio-class module there will be a practical examination.
4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

What makes a good performance? Here are some evaluation criteria you can keep in mind as you prepare your work and practise:

1. Do you know your stuff? (Memory)
2. Does your performance flow or do you hesitate? (Sense of Rhythm)
3. Is the execution accurate, precise and, where applicable, varied? (Technique)
4. Is your heart in it? (Projection)
5. Are you in harmony with your fellow-players? (Cohesion & Connection)
6. MARK ALLOCATION SUMMARY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ASSESSMENT** | **%** |
| PRACTICAL TEST 1 | 25 |
| PRACTICAL TEST 2 | 25 |
| PRACTICAL TEST 3 | 25 |
| PRACTICAL TEST 4 | 25 |
|  |  |

1. COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

All students registered for this course will have to buy a standard Kalimba from Dizu Plaatjies for R600. This is a non-negotiable requirement.