

# Arts and Africa

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ARTS AND AFRICA

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ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

And this week, it's music all the way in "Arts and Africa".

MUSIC

BAGAMOYO COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

Hello, this is Alex Tetteh-Lartey. And a song of greeting seems an appropriate way to begin today's programme of music from Tanzania - from Bagamoyo to be precise, the home of a college of art with an exceptionally strong reputation for music.

MUSIC

BAGAMOYO COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

The music the college orchestra plays comes from all over Tanzania. The tunes and rhythms are gathered together from all corners of the country, and so are the instruments, - those that the students don't make themselves. The music we've just heard is the introduction to a song from the Mbeya region. It's to let people know that the musicians and dancers have arrived so they can all start enjoying themselves.

MUSIC

BAGAMOYO COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

Bagamoyo College has been given a major role to play in the preservation and development of cultural life in the country. And it's an instrument (you must forgive the pun) in the government's programme for political awareness. Here's an example: using a traditional melody from Iringa region, here's a contemporary call for African unity through the OAU.

MUSIC

BAGAMOYO COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

The music we've heard so far was recorded on a visit to Bagamoyo three years ago. Last year the orchestra came to Britain to take part in the three weeks, non-stop event, The African Music Village, that took place here in London. And with the orchestra came a soloist so outstanding that we invited him to the "Arts and Africa" studio to record especially for us.

MUSIC

By Hukwe Zawose.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

If you've heard him before you won't mistake the spine-tingling sound of Hukwe Zawose. But anyway, he'll be introducing himself in a moment before he bewails the loneliness of the singer.

MUSIC

By Hukwe Zawose.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

Hukwe Zawose is celebrated for his marimba playing but there he was playing the zeze, traditionally a one-stringed instrument. Zawose has developed the potential of the zeze by varying the number of strings: here there are four. And with his bow the zeze can sing like a flute, and with his fingers it can imitate the percussive marimba. And in this song there are even more strings - because one of the mandolin-players from the orchestra has added his accompaniment to this plea for members of the Commonwealth to go to the help of black South Africans.

MUSIC

By Hukwe Zawose.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

Hukwe Zawose. And it's good news that he and the whole orchestra are now on a commercially available disc. I'd like to play one of the songs from the record to end today's programme. Basil Mbatia leads the entire ensemble in the praises of the beautiful Zaina.

MUSIC

"Ulele Mwana Lelo Zaina" - by Basil Mbatia.

ALEX TETTEH-LARTEY

And now, on behalf of the members of the Bagamoyo College orchestra and "Arts and Africa" this is Alex Tetteh-Lartey saying goodbye and hoping to meet you again next week.