

## **SONIC SAFARI: A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHERS**

### **WELCOME**

We look forward to welcoming you and your students for the presentation of “Sonic Safari” at the Sheldon Concert Hall. We hope that the perfect acoustics and intimacy of the hall will make this an important and memorable experience.

### **ARRIVAL AND PARKING**

We urge you to arrive at the Sheldon Concert Hall half an hour before the start of “Sonic Safari.” This will allow you to be seated in time for the performance and will allow a little extra time in case you encounter traffic on the way. Seating will be on a first come-first served basis as schools arrive. To accommodate school schedules, we will start promptly at show time.

The Sheldon is located at 3648 Washington Boulevard, just around the corner from the Fox Theatre. A map is enclosed. Parking for school buses will be available on Washington Blvd. near The Sheldon. Please enter via the steps leading up to the concert hall front doors. If you have a student with special needs, please call The Sheldon (314-533-9900) to make arrangements to use our street level entrance and elevator to the concert hall.

### **CONCERT MANNERS**

Please coach your students on good concert manners before coming to the Sheldon Concert Hall. Good audiences love to listen to music and they love to show their appreciation with applause, usually at the end of an entire piece and occasionally after a good solo by one of the musicians. Urge your students to take in and enjoy the great music being performed.

Food and drink are prohibited in the Sheldon Concert Hall.

Any device (cell phone, alarm watch or toy) that makes noise is a distraction for both the musicians on stage and your fellow audience members and should not be brought into the hall.

## About the "Songs of Africa Ensemble"

The Songs of Africa Ensemble is a local multi-cultural ensemble of singers and musicians that performs songs from over 20 African countries from the new choral collection, *Songs of Africa*, published by Oxford University Press. Be ready to move and groove because the Songs of Africa Ensemble's performances encourage audiences to dance, clap and sing-along to recreate scenes from traditional African life. You will learn about African music traditions, African instruments and African languages. The SOAE's programs are excellent opportunities to experience the wealth and magic of African music and share in different cultures.

The SOAE has been featured at the MUNY pre-show, First Night St. Louis, St. Louis Holiday Magic, the St. Louis Art Fair in Clayton and the Dixon, Illinois Concert Series. Our members are professional singers and instrumentalists with a wide range of performing experiences.

# Sonic Safaris Song Facts

## **Abanjie**

Meaning: The Bully

Country/People: West Africa

Language: Yoruba

Story: Describes a mischievous character and the community's appeal for him to mend his ways and work for the common good.

## **Aluwa sio**

Meaning: Alleluia

Country/People: Benin Republic/Mina

Language: Mina

Story: An adaptation of a traditional melody song during the harvest, giving thanks.

## **Anaigye aba**

Meaning: The High Life

Country/People: Ghana/Akan

Language: Akan

Story: Let the good times roll, or the good times are here; text demands that listeners get up and join the fun.

## **Domenshigbe**

Meaning: At the market

Country/People: Benin, Mina

Language: Mina

Story: Two messengers come to the village market with news that an important elder has died. People are urged to show their gratitude for their elders in their lives.

## **Jambo**

Meaning: Hello

Country/People: Kenya

Language: Kiswahili

Story: A song that teaches how to greet in Kiswahili. "Hello, How are you?," "I am fine, In Kenya life is good, we welcome visitors here."

## **Kayra Sillo**

Meaning: The way of peace

Country /People: Senegal, Guinea, Mali/Mandingo

Language: Mandingo

Story: A wedding song; the families of the newlyweds solemnly pray that the union will bring peace to the community.

## **Malaika**

Meaning: My angel

Country/People: East Africa

Language: Kiswahili

Story: A song of longing for an unreachable love; also a song for couples trying to make up.

**Tuli tuli**

Meaning: Be Good

Country/People: Namibia>Nama

Language: Nama

Story: Using scat syllables or play-words as a play or work song, it inspires children to be good.

**Out b' oma**

Meaning: Unity is strength

Country/People: Nigeria/Igbo

Language: Igbo

Story: A celebration song. Members of the community should come together and build and nurture one another. The words say - no excuses like "my head hurts" or "my feet hurt."

## *Geographical Facts*

Africa is the second-largest continent on Earth, with an area of 11.7 million square miles. Not surprisingly for such a huge land mass, it is home to an incredible variety of climates, cultures, animals and plants. There are 53 countries in Africa and approximately 1 billion people. Africa is widely considered to be where human beings first evolved.

The highest mountain in Africa is Mt. Kilimanjaro, which is 19,340 ft high. Even though it sits almost on the equator, Kilimanjaro is so tall that glaciers form at its summit. The Sahara is the world's largest desert, at 3.5 million square miles, nearly the size of the United States. The largest city in Africa is Cairo, the capital of Egypt. The total urban area around Cairo has a population of 17 million. The Nile is the longest river in the world, at 4,132 miles.

## *Wildlife*

The deserts, jungles and plains of Africa are home to some of Earth's most extraordinary animals. The African elephant is the world's largest land animal. The giraffe is the world's tallest animal. The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal. The gorilla is the world's largest primate.

## *Human History*

Most evolutionary scientists believe modern human beings evolved in Africa around 200,000 years ago and migrated to the rest of the world around 60,000 years ago. The first great civilization of Africa was Egypt, records of which go back to 3,300 B.C. Much of North Africa was later conquered by, and integrated into, the Roman Empire.

In the 7th Century, the Islamic Caliphate also conquered much of North Africa, and Islam subsequently spread farther through the continent. In the 18th century, much of Africa was conquered by European powers; most of the continent did not regain independence until after World War II.

## *Population*

The population of Africa has grown quickly, from 220 million in 1950 to one billion in 2009. In many African countries, particularly those below the Sahara, more than 40 percent of the population are below 15 years of age. In the United States, this figure is 20 percent.

## *Sports*

Soccer is the most popular sport in Africa. Many African players are superstars in the European soccer leagues. Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal and Ghana have all performed well in recent FIFA World Cups. Cricket is popular in some African countries, notably those with former colonial ties to Great Britain. South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya are the most notable cricket-playing African nations. South Africa is also one of the world's leading rugby union nations.

Read more: [Interesting Facts About Africa for Kids | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/about_6105794_interesting-africa-kids.html#ixzz1ABjTCNjE)  
[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6105794\\_interesting-africa-kids.html#ixzz1ABjTCNjE](http://www.ehow.com/about_6105794_interesting-africa-kids.html#ixzz1ABjTCNjE)

**MATCH THE SONG TO ITS MEANING** (from the list below)

Malaika \_\_\_\_\_

Tuli tuli \_\_\_\_\_

Jambo \_\_\_\_\_

Kayra Sillo \_\_\_\_\_

Out b' oma \_\_\_\_\_

Domenshigbe \_\_\_\_\_

Abanije \_\_\_\_\_

The Bully

Unity is Strength

My Angel

Be Good

The Way of Peace

Hello

At the Market

**TRUE OR FALSE** (circle the correct answer)

T or F Africa is the largest continent.

T or F There are 53 countries in Africa.

T or F Baseball is the most popular sport in Africa.

T or F Many musical instruments originated in Africa.

T or F Africa has the longest river in the world.

Find a map of Africa on a globe or on the internet, and find the following countries:

Senegal

Ghana

Kenya

Namibia

Mali

Benin

Nigeria

