



# MHARARANO

THE MBIRA ACADEMY OF LIFE  
THROUGH MUSIC AND THE ARTS



CONNECT, LEARN AND CHANGE



*Chartwell Dutiro photographed during recording of Dendre Ngoma ( Music Nest), March 2010*

## CHARTWELL DUTIRO'S VISION

The Mbira Academy ideology is built upon the values of connection, learning and change. 'Mhararano' which means 'the cross roads' in the Shona language of Zimbabwe, is an educational movement responding to and connecting with nature and the individual needs of people.

In developing the Mbira Academy we want to acknowledge and support the ancestors, the elders and the younger people, with wisdom and understanding of the life challenges that they face.

## OUR MISSION

To build and grow the Mbira Academy to explore community, identity and learning through the mbira.

## OUR VALUES

- **CONNECTING** people and their environment
- **SUPPORTING** our planet and all life on it
- **PRACTISING** honesty and ritual
- **RESPECTING** each other, our art and the ancestors
- **FINDING** non-traditional ways of measuring outcomes

## OUR AIMS

### COMMUNITY

- To establish a physical space for the Mbira Academy
- To establish a physical space for a sister Mbira Academy in Zimbabwe
- To bring people together at the Mbira Academy to share philosophical beliefs and experience ritual, through the languages of music, literature, poetry, storytelling, visual arts, dance, drama and film

### IDENTITY

- To create a spiritual environment and understand historical influences based on people across the world and in particular Zimbabwe, Africa and to encourage the making of space for change and healing in order for individuals to evolve
- To unite people and cultures by opening up geographical, religious and linguistic boundaries
- To be aware of the need to find and recognise self-identity and the identity of others
- To provide opportunities for Academy members to learn and understand the Shona language
- To celebrate the importance of Mbira music, ritual and communion

### LEARNING

- To teach innovative and interactive education programmes that enable conversation
- To find a common language through the arts as a catalyst to bring people together
- To be actively conscious of our immediate environment and that of our planet in a caring and sustainable way
- To establish the Mbira Academy as a recognised centre for professional learning

*Spirit Talk Mbira featuring Chartwell Dutiro in concert at Bath ICIA*



## OUR OBJECTIVES

### COMMUNITY

- For people to have the opportunity to become members of the Mbira Academy community
- To acknowledge and understand the necessity of the ritual preparation and communal sharing of nutritious foods
- To focus on all aspects of communal living and rituals
- To be able to fund and invite artists, artisans and performers from around the world to share and combine their skills with us at Mhararano
- To be connected with the roots and source of traditional mbira music and culture

### IDENTITY

- To teach, learn and share the music of the mbira, in community gatherings
- To develop multimedia performance, music technology, music business studies, drama and film making
- To reach out to, and develop, new international audiences through the creation and recording of music and dance
- To be aware of, and engage in, the complexities of international citizenship and politics
- To provide a non-discriminatory environment
- To challenge habitual and social practise
- To encourage personal growth and development
- To enable visitors to Zimbabwe to communicate more readily in the indigenous language
- To provide a greater understanding of traditional Shona music
- To teach the importance of ritual through communion, music, song and dance
- To give thanks to the Ancestral Spirits and continue the work of the Ancestors

### LEARNING

- To be aware of, and engage in, the complexities of international citizenship and politics
- To develop multimedia, performance, music technology, music business studies, drama and film making
- To reach out and develop new international audiences through the creation and recording of music and dance performance
- To encourage and support indigenous knowledge and practice in the skills and making of traditional musical instruments and other artefacts and to find funding for the commission of mbiras and other musical instruments for the Academy
- To teach, learn and share the music of the mbira, in community gatherings
- To develop ongoing and new connections and partnerships with educational establishments
- To live in a natural environment in a caring and sustainable way
- To explore different types of teaching, using a personal approach and adapting to the needs of individuals and groups
- To explore non-western methods of teaching, to find teachable moments which begin to encourage dialogue
- To explore emancipation through education





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