

Mokoomba

featuring

Mathias Muzaza - lead vocals

Trustworth Samende - lead guitar, back up vocals

Miti Mugande - percussion, back up vocals

Phathisani Moyo - keys, back up vocals

Ndaba Coster Moyo - drums, back up vocals

Tinotenda Zingapeta - bass, back up vocals

Selections will be announced from the stage.

This event is part of the Ernest Brown Music Series.

Mokoomba is presented by the

Williams College Department of Music

with the generous support of the

W. Ford Schumann '50 Performing Arts Endowment

Friday, April 5, 2024

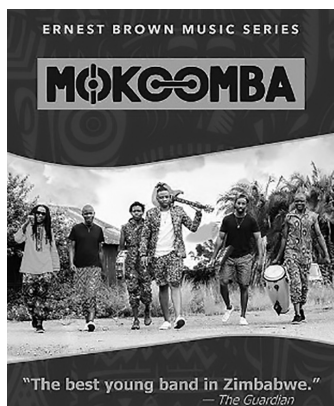
7:30 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Williamstown, Massachusetts

Please turn off cell phones.

No photography or recording is permitted.



“The Zimbabwean sextet dazzle with their infectious high-energy blend of rock, funk and Afrobeat” Tom Spargo/Jazz Cafe London

“It is a long time since Zimbabwe gave us some of the giants of African music but, in the mighty Mokoomba, there is finally a convincing successor ... Lead singer Mathias Muzaza naturally grabs the attention with his stunning, piercing vocals [...] the band’s magic quality is the perfect gelling of guitar, bass, keyboard and African drums ... [and] impressive arrangements. - The Independent

Five years after the release of ‘Luyando’, Zimbabwe’s most celebrated music export returns with their long-awaited follow-up album ‘Tusana: Tracings in the Sand’. The six musicians from Victoria Falls are refining their unique sound: infectious Afro grooves deeply connected to Zimbabwe’s cultural DNA. ‘Tusana’ is their most danceable album to date, a DIY production recorded in Zimbabwe. It features horns by Ghanaian highlife outfit Santrofi. Every Sunday, there is a gathering in the sweltering heat on grounds of an old local beer hall in the Chinotimba township in Mosi-o-Tunya (Victoria Falls). Entertainment is provided by various traditional groups including the Luvale Makisi masquerade. It is a day full of singing, drumming, dancing and storytelling. Mokoomba’s lead vocalist Mathias Muzaza can often be found here singing with a voice both soaring and vulnerable. In the course of the afternoon the other band members - guitarist Trustworth Samende, bass player Abundance Mutori, keyboard player Phathisani Moyo, percussionist Miti Mugande and drummer Ndaba Coster Moyo - often join in with singing. The drum driven song “Bakalubale” featured on their new album invites you to this gathering.

Mokoomba recorded ‘Tusana: Tracings in the Sand’, the follow-up album to ‘Luyando’ (2017, Outhere), in Zimbabwe during the pandemic. Instead of working with outside producers like Manou Gallo or Steve Dyer as they have in the past, this album was entirely recorded in a DIY fashion by Mokoomba. The collective from Zimbabwe put in all the experiences made over the previous years and have forged their music into a unique Zimbabwean sound. On popular demand from their fans in Zimbabwe they have even re-recorded three songs from their last more acoustic album ‘Luyando’ turning them into dancehall bangers (featured on the CD and digital versions of the album). In short, this album is more Mokoomba than any of the ones before.

On the album Mokoomba are singing about love, loss, courage in a changing society. The first single “Nzara Hapana” means “no money” in Shona. The song talks about a man who wants to ensure the future of his wife and family and is trying to protect them against the greed of his relatives. The danceable up-tempo song “Nyansola” praises the goddess of harvest and asks her for rain. “Makisi” is sung in Luvale. It celebrates the beauty of the initiation ceremony for which the whole community comes together. “Manina” is a song about losing a loved one. It was written during the pandemic and features the young singer Ulethu from Harare.

Mokoomba sings in many different local languages. Their songs are in Tonga, Luvale, Shona, Nyanja and even Lingala used in “Makolo” when they team up with Congolese singer Desolo B. (The album also features horns by Nobert Wonkyi Arthur (trumpet), Bernard Gyamfi (trombone) and Emmanuel Arthur (sax) from Ghanaian highlife outfit Santrofi.)

Mokoomba is one of Zimbabwe’s most popular bands, playing with such icons as Hugh Masekela, Baba Maal and the Talking Head’s Tina Weymouth and Chris Franz. They’ve rocked legendary rooms and stages worldwide, from NYC’s Apollo Theater, and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., to London’s 100 Club and Amsterdam’s Melkweg, to WOMAD, WOMEX and SXSW, sealing their reputation as one of Africa’s best young live bands.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Chamber Music Master Class - Duo Ingolfsson/Stoupel - Visiting Artist Series

Tue Apr 9 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:15 PM

MIDWEEKMUSIC

Wed Apr 10 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

Piano Master Class - Vladimir Stoupel - Visiting Artist Series

Wed Apr 10 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:15 PM

Violin Master Class - Judith Ingolfsson - Visiting Artist Series

Wed Apr 10 | Chapin Hall | 4:15 PM

Duo Ingolfsson-Stoupel - Visiting Artist Series

Wed Apr 10 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:30 PM

Adithya Vaidhyan '24, saxophone - Senior Thesis Recital

Thu Apr 11 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 5:00 PM