



Building Interdisciplinary Bridges Across Cultures

## Professor Amanda Bayley & Chartwell Dutiro

### Abstract

There has recently been a rapid growth of literature surrounding issues of globalization for many different genres, including how music and other performing arts cross cultural divides. It is also recognised that more needs to be understood about the interactional processes of creative collaboration due to their significance for both established and aspiring musicians. An ethnography of intercultural practice therefore helps us understand the nature of collaborative activity in terms of communication and dialogue. Combining Chartwell Dutiro's mbira music from the Shona tradition of Zimbabwe with a classically trained string quartet reveals the creative processes involved in devising new music that merges oral and notated traditions, and participatory and presentational performance practices. This study questions standard conventions surrounding notation and performance, established roles of composer, performer, and 'master musician', and musical parameters such as tuning, technique and tempo. Recorded evidence from participant observation will reveal how the musicians and dancer work together to find a structure that they can all understand in order to bring meaning and permanence to their creative developments. Observational analysis examines issues surrounding authority and authorship. Examples will demonstrate how the string players learn to listen to dance movements with dance playing a pivotal role in creating new music across cultures. By bringing the conditions of making and listening, history and culture, to the forefront of research, in preference to the dominant musicological interest in works as self-contained entities, the unfolding of events at a practical level sheds new light on intercultural music-making.

### Bio

Amanda Bayley is Professor of Music at Bath Spa University. She is editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Bartók* (2001) and *Recorded Music: Performance, Culture, and Technology* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), for which she received the Ruth A. Solie Award from the American Musicological Society in 2011. She is Humanities Editor for the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Studies*. Her research areas include composer-performer collaborations, rehearsal analysis and creative processes relating to various styles and genres of music.

Chartwell Dutiro is a world-class mbira player, singer-songwriter, composer, teacher and founding Artistic Director of Mhararano Mbira Academy, Dartington. He holds a Masters in Ethnomusicology from SOAS, University of London and is Visiting Research Fellow at Bath Spa University. He toured the world and recorded multiple albums with legendary Thomas

Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited and is a WOMAD Foundation recommended artist. Drawing on his experience of growing up in rural, segregated Zimbabwe he uses the mbira as an educational tool to challenge stereotypes, encourage creative engagement and build bridges between cultures.