

# The music library goes global:

collaborating, **collecting**, and communicating **traditional music**

in Vanderbilt University's **Digital Collection of East African**

**Recordings**, the first component of its **Global Music Archive**

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The Global Music Archive ([www.globalmusicarchive.org](http://www.globalmusicarchive.org)) is a multi-media reference archive and resource center for traditional and popular song, music, and dance of Africa and the Americas. It is a public facility that promotes education in African and American traditional and popular music through its own activities and by supporting the activities of others. Founded in 2003 by Gregory Barz, Associate Professor of Musicology (Ethnomusicology) at Vanderbilt University, and by Dennis Clark, former director of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library, the GMA recently launched its first database in a series of databases, the Digital Collection of East African Recordings (DCEAR), which currently consists of over 1,100 discrete musical performances recorded by East African ethnomusicologist Centurio Balikoowa.

The poster session highlights the process of collection, description and organization, and digital delivery of ethnographic materials through the GMA thus far. The collaboration between Vanderbilt University and Balikoowa has been particularly interesting in regard to developing a working model for managing an organized effort of collecting music recordings, images, and metadata from half a world away. Part of the poster session also showcases the preservation and digital delivery of the materials through the collection's online database.

## Collaborating

- The original players:
  - o **Gregory Barz:** American ethnomusicologist, Grammy-nominated producer of *Singing for Life: Songs of Hope, Healing, and HIV/AIDS in Uganda*
    - Saw how AIDS was decimating cultural memory
    - Saw Western music encroaching on traditional music in Uganda
    - Envisioned a non-invasive way of preserving, documenting, and disseminating traditional music of Uganda to scholars and the Ugandan people

- **Centurio Balikoowa:** Ugandan musicologist, teacher, musician
- **Dennis Clark:** former director of the Music Library
  - Devised the development of a mechanism for collecting, organizing, and maintaining digitized field recordings
  - Negotiated licensing and arranged for funding from the School of Music
- Support and funding:
  - **Summer 2002:** Gregory Barz on Fulbright to Africa, comes up with idea for GMA and lays groundwork
  - **Summer 2004:** Barz and Dennis Clark, former director of music library, travel to Uganda to:
    - Deliver audio recording equipment
    - Train Balikoowa on recording equipment
    - Purchase materials for Ugandan popular music cassette collection
  - **2004-Present:** Library funds collection of musical materials by Balikoowa
  - **2006-2007:** Library designs database and website for the DCEAR, launches website in Nov. 2007
  - **Spring 2008:** Holling Smith-Borne, director of the music library, will go to Uganda to gather images and audio samples of Ugandan musical instruments to enrich the DCEAR with further reference information

## Collecting

- Equipment:
  - Marantz CDR300 Direct-to-CD Field Recorder
  - Røde NT4 Stereo Microphone
  - Dell laptop computer
  - Digital camera
- License agreements:
  - Gives Vanderbilt a non-exclusive right to use the recordings for academic purposes:
    - Online streaming, possible commercial publication
  - 51% of gross sales (if any, none yet) will go back to the communities that created the music
  - Fits on one side of a sheet of A4 paper
- Metadata:
  - Handwritten data sheets, organized by type of information
    - **Title, genre, and description**
    - **Artist** information
    - **Location** and **event** information
    - **Cultural** information (language, ethnic group, musical instruments)
  - Use of **controlled vocabulary** lists
  - Created by Catherine Gick; revised by Steve Nordstrom
  - Fits on one side of a sheet of A4 paper

- In-field workflow:
  - o Obtain license agreements with musicians
  - o Record the music in the field
  - o Fill out metadata sheet for each musical work
  - o Send quarterly shipments of CDs, license agreements, and metadata sheets to Vanderbilt
- Supporting materials:
  - o Ugandan popular music cassette collection
    - *Kandas*: audio cassettes sold at kiosks and on street corners
  - o Miscellaneous print, audio, and video resources on East African music
- Future collecting plans:
  - o **Images** associated with performances from audio files linked and viewable on the Web
  - o **Instrument thesaurus** with instrument images, descriptions, and audio examples

## Communicating

- Digitization:
  - o .wav files ripped from CDs
  - o Derivative Real Media files (.rm) created for streaming
  - o Digital files (.wav & .rm) stored on server
  - o Original CDs, license agreements, and metadata sheets retained for future reference
- Database:
  - o Originally used DB/TextWorks, moved to MySQL database in 2007
  - o Information input by students through web interface designed by Marshall Breeding
- Global Music Archive Website:
  - o **About the Global Music Archive**
    - Overview, staff, copyright information, papers & presentations, press
  - o **Digital Collection of East African Recordings**
    - **Browse** using multiple categories
      - Artist/group
      - Geographic region & district
      - Language
      - Ethnic group
      - Musical instrument
    - **Basic** and **advanced search** functionality
    - **Links** in item record display allow user to browse
    - **Streaming audio** using Real Media (.rm) files
    - *East African Music Bibliography*
    - *Ugandan Popular Music Cassette Collection* finding aid

- Access:
  - Field recordings available free online (streaming only) to a worldwide audience
    - To be used for research, scholarship and other non-commercial educational purposes only
  - Commercially produced Ugandan popular music collection and supplementary printed resources available in Music Library only

## Future plans for the GMA

- **Dulcimer Archive** (forthcoming in 2008)
  - Features research of world-renowned dulcimer virtuoso and instructor, Professor David Schnauffer
    - Will include music performances, interviews with dulcimer players, images of instruments, instrument documentation
- **Indigenous Mexican music** (forthcoming in 2009)
  - Part of a project by Vanderbilt ethnomusicologist Helena Simonett on ceremonial music-making and dancing among indigenous people (Mayo-Yoreme) of northwestern Mexico, a farming region heavily affected by modern agricultural technologies
    - Will include field recordings and liner notes
- **Collier Tango Archive** (forthcoming in 2010)
  - Research materials of Professor of History Simon Collier, one of the world's leading authorities on Latin American popular music, especially the tango
    - Will include digitized cassette tape recordings, correspondence, research notes and images

[www.globalmusicarchive.org](http://www.globalmusicarchive.org)

We invite your comments and suggestions using the feedback form on the GMA website.