

# Maputo Ayuba Mensah

*Master of the African Performing Arts*

Teaching Associate Professor  
Creative Minds Residential Academic Program  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Boulder, CO 80309  
maputo.mensah@colorado.edu | [maputomensah@gmail.com](mailto:maputomensah@gmail.com)

[www.logoligi.com](http://www.logoligi.com), [akpeculturalcenter.com](http://akpeculturalcenter.com)

---

## African Culture, Drumming, and Dance Instructor

Maputo is dedicated to spreading the joy and beauty of Ghanaian culture through dance, drumming, and culture classes at all levels: university, K-12 schools, and community classes. Maputo is a master drummer and dancer who uses these and storytelling to teach about how to live and enjoy life.

## Teaching Experience

### The University of Colorado at Boulder

- Center for African and African American Studies, Affiliate (2023)
- African Dance, History & Culture, Lecturer, Libby Hall, Baker Hall, and Sewall Hall Residential Academic Program (2006-present). Promoted to Teaching Associate Professor (2022)
- CU West African Highlife Ensemble, College of Music, Executive Director (2010-present)
- CU West African Highlife Ensemble, College of Music, Assistant Director (2006-2010)
- Department of Theatre & Dance, Accompanist for African Drumming (2000)

### University of Northern Colorado

- Workshop presenter and performance (2022)

### University of Denver

- African Dance, Lecturer, History & Culture (2015-2020)

### Colorado State University

- Workshop presenter and performance (2017)

## **Naropa University, Boulder**

- African Dance, History & Culture semester course, Adjunct Lecturer (2000-2015)

## **University of Alaska, Fairbanks AK**

- African dance workshop and performance (2006 and 2007)

## **University of Kansas**

- African drumming and dance workshop (2007)

## **University of Oregon**

- Teaching Artist in residence, African drumming and dance workshop (2006)

## **Dartmouth College, New Hampshire**

- African drumming and dance workshops (1997)

## **K-12 Schools**

- Eisenhower Elementary, Boulder, CO: African dance workshops (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Ryan Elementary, Lafayette, CO: African dance workshops (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Boulder Country Day School, Boulder, CO: African dance workshop (2012, 2017, 2018)
- Harris Park Elementary, Westminster, CO: African dance workshop (2012)
- Waldorf School, Denver, CO: teacher for African Dance, 7th-grade course (2007)
- Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, Thornton, CO: African dance workshop (2007)
- New Vista High School, Boulder, CO: African dance workshop (2005)
- Creekside Elementary, Boulder, CO: workshop (2005)
- Boulder High School, Boulder, CO: African dance workshop (2005)
- Grand Rapids Schools, Michigan: African dance workshop (1999)

## **Community**

- Community Dance Collective, Boulder: African drumming and dance classes (2006-present)
- Kakes Studios, Boulder: African drumming and dance classes (2006-present)
- Various African drumming and dance workshops: Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Taos, and Albuquerque, with additional performance in Albuquerque (2007-2023)
- The Spark Performing & Creative Arts, Boulder: African drumming and dance classes (2019)
- Camp Mabina, with Djian Tie, Moussa Traore, Alhassane Camara, Mabiba Baegne, Titos Sompá, and Ruejko Sarah Dumbutshena, Santa Fe, NM: African drumming and dance classes (2000-2012)
- African drumming and dance workshops: Philadelphia; Womenty, North Carolina (2009)

- Bantaba World Dance and Music Studio, Boulder: African drumming and dance classes (2001-2006)
- Bantu Drumming & Dance Camp, Santa Fe, NM: African drumming and dance workshops (2001, 2003, 2005)
- Academy of African Music and Arts, Kokrobite, Ghana: dance leader (1987-2000)

## Western Slope of Colorado

### Tour of Schools and Libraries

**LOGO LIGI** sponsored by the **Aspen Dance Connection** (1 theatre performance, 10 libraries, 28 schools, 8 local master classes, 1 university master class)

- **June 13-14, 2011** (1 Public event, 2 Libraries, 2 Master Classes)  
Public Performance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Center, Carbondale, CO.  
(Co-Sponsored by Colorado Mountain College Art Space)  
Pitkin County Library, Aspen, and Basalt Library  
Master Classes: Drumming and Dancing, Carbondale Community School
- **November 5-7, 2014** (7 schools, 1 university, 1 library)  
New Castle: Elk Creek Elementary, Katheryn Senior Elementary  
Rifle: Highlands Elementary  
Paonia Elementary  
Grand Junction: Pamona Elementary, Grand Mesa Middle, Orchard Mesa Middle, Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Music Department, Drum Master Class, Mesa County Library CULTURE-FEST
- **November 4-7, 2015** (7 Schools, 1 Library, 2 Master Classes)  
Aspen: Aspen Country Day, Aspen Community School  
Carbondale: Carbondale Community School, Marble Charter, Drum class, Dance Class  
Rifle: Highlands Elementary  
Paonia Elementary  
Crawford Montessori  
Grand Junction: Mesa County Library CULTURE-FEST
- **February 25-26, 2016** (4 Schools, 1 Master Class)  
Silt: Cactus Valley Elementary  
Carbondale: Ross Montessori, Carbondale Middle, Crystal River Elementary  
Aspen: Master Class at Dance Progressions Studio
- **October 16-18, 2017** (10 Schools, 3 Master Classes)  
Aspen: Aspen Country Day, Aspen Community, Dance Progressions Master Class  
Basalt: Middle and Elementary  
Carbondale: Carbondale Community, Marble Charter, Drum & Dance Master Classes

Glenwood Springs: Riverview Elementary  
New Castle: Elk Creek  
Rifle: Highlands Elementary

- **February 24-25, 2024**, (6 Libraries)  
Garfield County Libraries: Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, CO.
- **April 14-17, 2024** (2 schools and community classes)  
Gunnison: Gunnison Elementary  
Crested Butte: Crested Butte Elementary  
Crested Butte: Crested Butte Performing Center  
Gunnison: Gallery Center

## **Service**

### **CU — Boulder**

#### **Creative Minds Residential Academic Program**

- Help Dr. Donna Lowie coordinate the RAP Chinese New Year celebration
- Help coordinate and perform at each Celebration of the Arts
- Perform at Family Weekend and Welcome events such as the Libby Family Day weekend (04/06/24)
- Perform each year at the Black History Month event at Libby
- Attended the Bobby Lefebvre presentation at Libby (04/02/24)
- Attend all all-RAP meetings, such as those on promotion, reappointment, and FRPA service (01/10/24) and Canvas training and early-alert procedures (05/03/24 and 05/11/24)
- Attended the Libby meeting on 01/11/24 and the all-Rap meeting on 01/24/24
- Meet with Karen Auvinen weekly to ensure my contributions to the RAP program are the best they can be

#### **Wider University Community**

- Participate annually in CU Holiday Festival
- Speak to and perform for non-RAP classes, such as Mike Barnett's Music Buffs LLC class, Dr. Austin Okigbo's World Seminar class, and Ubochi Igbokwe's seminar class
- Speak to and perform for the African Student Association
- Attend the Muslim Student Association event each year
- Perform with my own ensemble, Logo Ligi, at the Kwanza CAAAS event with Dr. Rabaka (12/25/2023)
- Attend the CAAAS Black History Month event at the Glenn Miller Ballroom

- Drum for Nii Armah Sowah's African Dance class in the Department of Theater and Dance

## **Greater Boulder and Colorado Communities**

- Teach classes in African dance and African drumming each weekend at community venues in Boulder such as:
  - The Spark Performing and Creative Arts (2019-present)
  - The Boulder Community Dance Collective (2006-present)
  - Kakes Studios (2006-present)
- Have conducted African arts workshops in K-12 schools:
  - Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, Thornton, CO (2022)
  - Eisenhower Elementary, Boulder, CO (2017-2019)
  - Ryan Elementary in Lafayette, CO (2017-2019)
  - Boulder Country Day School, Boulder, CO (2012, 2017, 2018)
  - Harris Park Elementary, Westminster, CO (2012)
  - The Waldorf School, Boulder, CO (2007)
  - Creekside Elementary, Boulder, CO (2005)
  - New Vista High School, Boulder, CO (2005)
  - Boulder High School, Boulder, CO (2005)

## **Colorado's Western Slope**

- Perform and teach at public events, libraries, schools, and universities, offering instruction from grade school level to university master classes (2011-present). Have taught in Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Gunnison, and Crested Butte.
- Taught at six libraries in Garfield County (Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs) and at schools and community centers in Gunnison and Crested Butte (Gunnison Elementary and Gunnison Gallery Center and Crested Butte Elementary and Crested Butte Performing Arts Center) 02/24-25/24 and 04/17-24/24

## **Other Universities**

- Workshops and lectures:
  - The University of Northern Colorado (2022)
  - Colorado State University (2017)
  - The University of Denver (2015-2020)
  - The University of Kansas (2007)
  - The University of Alaska, Fairbanks (2006-2007)
  - The University of Oregon (2006)
  - Dartmouth College (1997)

## **Community Performance**

- Regularly perform with my own ensemble, Logo Ligi, at such local community venues as:
  - The Laughing Goat, Boulder, CO (2002-present)
  - Sanchez Elementary School, Lafayette, CO (2024)
  - The Hope and Global Village Academy, Douglas County, CO (2023)
  - The Sister Carmen Community Center, Lafayette, CO (2023)
  - Community events such as:
    - The Boulder Creek Festival (2002-2019)
    - The Intercambio Fiesta, Boulder Elks Lodge, Boulder, CO (2011-present)
    - The Solstice Festival at Rainbow Ranch, Niwot, CO (2014-present)
    - The Far Away Friends Gala, Denver, CO (2018, 2019)
    - Dance and drumming events in Taos and Santa Fe, NM (2001, 2002, 2003, 2005)

## **International**

- Take U.S. students to Ghana for a six-week full cultural immersion in the arts, society, history, and language of Africa (2002-present).
- Akpe Cultural Center — built, own, and operate this center in Kokrobite, Ghana, which provides a venue for the study and preservation of the traditional performing arts of Africa. Since 2023, serving 150 children at no charge.

## **Awards**

- Nominated for Lifelong Achievement Award by Aspen Dance Connection (2024)
- CAAAS and University of Colorado College of Music grant for study of African music and dance in Ghana (2024)

## **International Performer/Teacher**

Maputo has been performing traditional Ghanaian dance and drumming for more than 30 years, with his first professional performance at the age of 10. Maputo studied with the renowned Mustapha Tettey Addy for 14 years and has performed solo, in his own Logo Ligi troupe, and as a guest drummer and dancer internationally.

## **Performance Highlights**

- Logo Ligi Dance Troupe, Boulder, CO: Executive and artistic director, choreographer, performer (2000-present). Logo Ligi is a troupe of skilled Ghanaian

and American dancers and drummers who perform, teach, and celebrate Ghanaian performance art.

- Hope & Global Village Academy, Douglas County, CO: performance (2023)
- Far Away Friends Gala, Denver, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2018, 2019)
- Crestone Music Festival, Crestone, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2015, 2013)
- Solstice Festival Performance, Rainbow Ranch, Niwot, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2014-present)
- Adventure Film Festival, Children's Show Boulder Theater, Boulder, CO (2012)
- Intercambio Fiesta at the Elks Lodge, Boulder, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2011-present)
- University of Colorado's Taste of Africa, Boulder, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2007)
- City of Longmont Summer Series, Longmont, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2007)
- Naropa University, Student World Concert, Boulder, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2002-2006)
- University of Denver, Denver, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2003)
- Boulder Creek Festival, Boulder, CO: African drumming and dance performance (2002)
- Taos African Dance and Drum Festival, Taos, NM: African drumming and dance performance (2002)
- Bantu Drumming & Dance Camp, Santa Fe, NM: African drumming and dance performance (2005, 2003, 2001)
- Akatanwia Ghanaian Music and Dance Ensemble, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.: guest performer (1999)

## **Guest Performances**

- National Gallery of the Arts, Washington, D.C.: music and dance with Nii Okaidja Afroso (2022)
- Penn State University, music and dance with Nii Okaidja Afroso (2022)
- University of Rochester Eastman School of Music: music and dance with Nii Okaidja Afroso (2022)
- CU Holiday Festival (2006-present)
- Opened for Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Boulder Theater (2017)
- With Djeneba Soko at Boulder Arts Outdoors (2010)
- Performed and taught African dance and drumming at Northern Arizona University (2009)
- Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, England: solo performance (2010)
- Camp Merveilles, Boulder, CO: Worked with Mamady Sano, Carmen Nelson,

DeAndre Carroll, Nii Armah Sowah. Taught African drumming and dance and performed with Fara Tolno and Abdoul Doumbia (2007-2012)

- Colorado Shakespeare Festival African Macbeth (2005)
- Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ: solo performance (1999)
- Art International African Music Institute, New York, NY: African drumming dance performance (1999)
- With Laryae Addy's ensemble, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. (1999)
- Homowo Festival with Obo Addy and Nii Okaidja Afroso, Oregon (1999)

### **African Day in New Zealand**

- Guest performer/workshop leader (2018)
- Taught and performed African dance, drumming, singing, and storytelling in schools, camps, and community venues in the Wellington area (2018)

### **Akrowa Dance Ensemble, Accra, Ghana**

- Lead Dancer and Choreographer (1990-1999)
- Toured internationally with Royal Obonu Drummers (1999)
- Peter Gabriel's WOMAD Festival and collaborated with Pharaoh Sanders (2008)
- Toured with Mustapha Tettey Addy, Burkina Faso (1997)
- Panafest African Music Festival, Accra, Ghana (1994, 1996)
- Toured with Royal Obonu Drummers, Boston and Seattle (1993)



## **African American Dance Ensemble** Guest Performer

- Choreographed dance and performed with the ensemble and Chuck Davis in North Carolina and the Gambia, West Africa (1997)

## **West African Folkloric Troupe, Accra, Ghana** Lead drummer and dancer (1980-1990)

- Choreographer/assistant leader in a troupe of drummers and dancers that performed around Ghana at festivals and other events.

## **Tour Organizer and Leader**

### **Spicy Juicy Workshops: West African Arts & Cultural Adventure (2006-present)**

Maputo leads month-long trips to Ghana every summer. In addition to field trips and cultural outings, these immersion experiences include daily drumming, dance, singing, and storytelling lessons by Ghanaian master artists and a weekly lesson by Maputo.

Students are also offered classes in the Ga language.

## **Akpe Cultural Center**

Maputo has built and recently opened a cultural center in Kokrobite, Ghana, to promote and foster the performing arts of Africa, for its children and the international arts community. For more information, go to [www.akpeculturalcenter.com](http://www.akpeculturalcenter.com).

## **Recordings: AKPE**

Maputo Mensah, Mawuenyega Mensah, Fara Tolono 2006

## **About Maputo**

Born in Accra, Ghana, Maputo Mensah grew up in a family of drummers and dancers. He began performing in a family group at the age of five. His first professional performance was at the age of 10 with the West African Folkloric Troupe. Maputo learned the traditional songs, dances, and drumming by watching the Ghana Dance Ensemble as well as participating and watching drumming and dancing in Ghana at events and festivals. Maputo combines a love of Ghanaian culture with a passion for sharing joy with people around the world.

Maputo has dedicated his life since the age of five to mastering West African dance's art,

skill, and tradition. Since 1990, he has used this mastery to bring joy to people of all backgrounds, teaching enjoyment of life and respect for others through West African tradition.

Following his early childhood experiences, Maputo studied classical African dance and drumming for 14 years at the Academy of African Music and Arts in Kokrobite, Ghana, under master drummer and dancer Mustapha Tettey Addy, who spent his life gathering traditional rhythms and dances from all over West Africa to preserve them for posterity, and who has sent traditional African musicians all over the world to spread the ancient wisdom within these art forms. Besides traveling the U.S. teaching African traditions, Maputo has toured with Peter Gabriel's WOMAD Festival, the Royal Obonu Drummers, Chuck Davis, collaborated with Pharaoh Sanders, and given workshops and performances in Germany and London. Maputo's apprenticeship under Mustapha Tettey Addy and the other master dancers and drummers at AAMA gave him an undergraduate degree and a very rich educational foundation from which to develop his curriculum in traditional West African dance and culture.

Since moving to the U.S. in 1999, Maputo has led workshops at the University of Alaska, the University of Oregon, Washington State University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, and Northern Arizona State University. Besides the community dance and drumming classes he offers weekly in Boulder and Lafayette, Colorado, Maputo has taught his curriculums at Naropa University from 2000 to 2015, at the Libby Residential Academic Program, University of Colorado, Boulder, from 2005 to the present, and at the University of Denver starting in 2015. He was Assistant Director of the CU West African Highlife Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Kwasi Ampene from 2006-2010 and became Executive Director starting in 2010. CUWAHE performs Highlife and traditional music from Ghana, Togo, Congo, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria, Africa. In addition, Maputo is currently Executive Director of the Logo Ligi dance ensemble, a professional dance company in Boulder, Colorado.

In 2023, Maputo opened the Akpe Cultural Center in Kokrobite, Ghana, dedicated to the teaching and preservation of the traditional performing arts of Africa. The center serves local children at no cost and welcomes visitors, students, artists, and art lovers from around the world.

## References

Dr. Reiland Rabaka

Center for African and African American Studies

UCBoulder, Colorado 80309

303-735-9805

[reiland.rabaka@colorado.edu](mailto:reiland.rabaka@colorado.edu)

Dr. Kwasi Ampene

Dept. of Afro-American and African Studies

University of Michigan

505 S. State Street, Room 5504, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734-764-7094

[ampene@umich.edu](mailto:ampene@umich.edu)

Dr. Chad Hamill

Northern Arizona University

SBS West Building 70, Room 9B, Flagstaff, AZ 86011

928-523-3849

[Chad.Hamill@nau.edu](mailto:Chad.Hamill@nau.edu)

Dr. Austin Okigbo

University of Colorado School of Music

301 UCB Boulder, CO 80309

303-492-6439

[austin.okigbo@colorado.edu](mailto:austin.okigbo@colorado.edu)

Dr. Cecilia J Pang

University of Colorado

Department of Theater & Dance at Boulder

261 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0261

303-735-4211

[cecilia.pang@colorado.edu](mailto:cecilia.pang@colorado.edu)

Elizabeth Swanson

Director of Choral Studies University Of Colorado Boulder College of Music

301 UCB Boulder 80309

[elizabeth.swanson@colorado.edu](mailto:elizabeth.swanson@colorado.edu)

Onye P Ozuzu

Dean of the University of Florida College of the Arts

1389 Stadium Road, Rm 101

P.O. Box 115800 Gainesville, FL 32611-5800

352-392-0207 or 352-392-3802

[oozuzu@hfl.edu](mailto:oozuzu@hfl.edu)

Eric Stade, Director

Sewall Residential Academic Program

353 UCB University of Colorado Boulder CO 80309

303-492-3378

[eric.stade@colorado.edu](mailto:eric.stade@colorado.edu)

**Additional Information: Mustapha Tettey Addy**

- <http://www.ghanabase.com/mustaphatetteyaddy/biography.asp>

## Maputo Mensah YouTube Links

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGUP1FnO8v8>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OqBaGldxkg>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdNrCg8GU64>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ6BbUV6DL A>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-d2g7iYTN0>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9VEAvumwx4>