



@mbirarenaissance



# THE MBIRA RENAISSANCE BAND

AFRO FUSION – MODERN FOLK – JAZZ – ROOTS

“High energy and engaging” – Mary Beth Waldram, Newfoundland & Labrador Folk Festival

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Image Credit: Jonathan Luckhurst





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# ABOUT US

Fusing the traditional mbira instrument of the Shona people with contemporary guitar, keyboard and brass instruments, the Mbira Renaissance Band offers a fresh, energetic yet delicately balanced sonic experience. Cyclical yet improvisational, the Mbira Renaissance Band serves a unique take on the contemporary mbira sound with splashes of reggae, afro jazz, chimurenga and pop.

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"Engaging Performance that had the whole audience on its feet," Sue Panning, Canmore Folk Festival



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Image Credit: Tyler Baker Photography

# WHERE WE HAVE PERFORMED

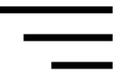
New Moon Folk Club, Edmonton Alberta  
Chautauqua Music Series, Edson, Alberta  
National Music Centre, Calgary, Alberta  
Newfoundland & Labrador Folk Festival, St. John's, Newfoundland  
Salmon Arm Roots & Blues Festival, Salmon Arm British Columbia  
Canmore Folk Festival, Canmore, Alberta  
Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta  
Festival Place, Sherwood Park, Alberta  
Summer Kicks, Golden, British Columbia  
Blind Bay, British Columbia  
Yardbird Suite, Edmonton, Alberta



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# WHO HAVE WE WORKED WITH

OKAN, X 2 JUNO award winners: studio recording (2024) ; workshop at Canmore Folk Festival (2023)

Jeremy Ledbetter, JUNO award winner: studio recording (2024)

Scott Franchuk, JUNO nominated producer: producer of our 2018 album, FAMBA

Brad Smith, JUNO award winning producer, producer of our upcoming 2025 album

Recki Lloyd, Drummer, music educator and leader of SANGEA academy

Brett Miles, X 2 Edmonton Music Award Winner: saxophone on the single, Famba

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**GEO**  
GUITAR



**CHIEDZA**  
VOCALS & PERCUSSION

# MEET THE BAND

- **Geo:** A prolific guitarist who brings 30 years experience into the band. With Garth Prince he won a JUNO award and his original work has been nominated for the Canadian Folk Music Awards and the Independent Music Awards.
- **Chiedza:** As the lead vocalist, she brings her beautiful voice honed over many years singing in various choirs in Zimbabwe and South Africa. She showcases her versatility, often playing hosho or congas during sets as well. With the band, she's twice nominated for the Edmonton Music Awards.

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Image Credit: Jonathan Luckhurst



**TONY**  
DRUMMER

Image Credit: Tyler Baker Photography



**MUNYA**  
KEYBOARD

# MEET THE BAND

- **Tony:** drummer, composer and one of Edmonton's top emerging talents. He's played at Edmonton's top festivals including the Edmonton International Jazz Festival and the Kaleido Festival.
- **Munya Viyali:** an established performer and producer who has performed across 15 countries playing with Zimbabwean greats such as Oliver Mtukudzi. He has produced hits for prominent Zimbabwean artists such as Jah Prayzah and Sulumani Chimbetu.

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Image Credit: Jonathan Luckhurst



**CHAKA**

MBIRA , VOCALS



**JAMES**

BASS GUITAR

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# MEET THE BAND

- **Chaka:** frontman , mbira player, vocalist and co-founder, Chaka has been a permanent fixture in the band since 2013. He is the recipient of a Cultural Diversity in the Arts Award from the Edmonton Arts Council, and a 2 time nominee for the Edmonton Music Awards with the Mbira Renaissance Band.
- **James:** bass player and co-founder, James has been with the band since 2013. He studied bass guitar under Enock Piroro (former Oliver Mtukudzi and Hugh Masekela bass player), and Adam Solomon of the Africa Guitar Summit. He fuses this experience with influences from North American bassists such as Mike Gordon and James Jamerson. James is twice nominated for the Edmonton Music Awards with the Mbira Renaissance Band

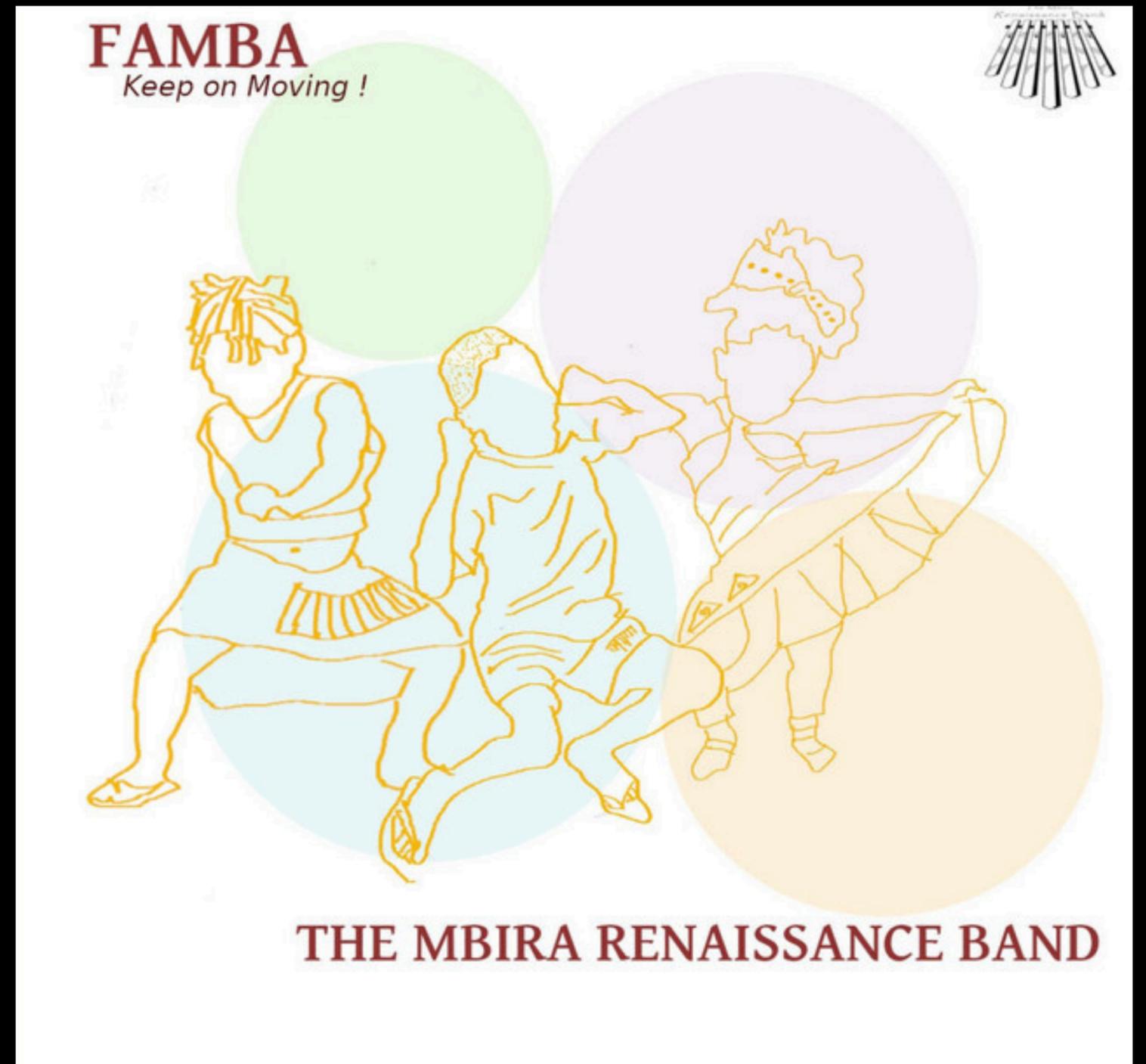
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# ALBUM RELEASES

In 2018 the Mbira Renaissance Band released it's album Famba, available on all major streaming platforms. Singles released include: Guramatunhu and Daira.



"...you can hear touches of soukous guitar from Central Africa, or a South African jazz feel as they explore beats from around the continent to create some irresistible dance grooves." Roger Levesque, Edmonton Journal





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Image Credit: Tyler Baker Photography

## NEW ALBUM ALERT!!

The band is actively working on it's third studio album which it plans to release in June 2025. A release concert is planned to take place in June 2025.

Check back here for an update!

# WHAT'S NEXT ?

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# BOOKINGS AND CONTACT

For bookings and contact, e-mail:  
[mbirarenaissance@gmail.com](mailto:mbirarenaissance@gmail.com) or reach us via our contact  
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