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MAJOR FIELDS OF SCHOLARLY OR PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

- Ethnomusicology (African music, South Indian music, ritual music, jazz)
 - African history, society, culture, religion
 - Oral transmission of culture
 - Colonialism and its aftereffects
 - Community building through the arts
 - Music theory and analysis (composition; rhythmic studies)
 - Music education (world music pedagogy; curriculum development)
 - Arts administration and arts production
 - Recording arts and technology (audio and visual)
 - Public scholarship and Applied Ethnomusicology
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POSITIONS HELD

EDUCATION

2013/09-09/2019	University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia; Doctor of Philosophy (Music-Ethnomusicology)
1998/09-2001/05	York University, Toronto, Ontario; Bachelor of Fine Arts, Music (Honours Cum Laude)
2000/09-	Private study of South Indian percussion with Dr. Trichy Sankaran - Canada/India
1998/07-	Private study with various masters of Ghanaian (Ewe) music and dance - Ghana

DISSERTATION

“Vodu is a human to me”: Society, Song, and Drums in the Torgbui Apetorku Shrine in Dagbame, Ghana

This research frames the cultural resilience, political vitality, and economic growth of the Ghanaian village of Dagbame against the backdrop of its status as a stronghold of traditional spiritual and cultural practices. With music as a central part of ritual, social life, and the creation of shared identity and history, the research proposes that the progress of this community is intertwined with the growth

of the shrine of Torgbui Apetorku, a powerful and popular vodu/deity in the region, with national and international reach. In addition to economic progress, resistance to globalizing forces that threaten to erode traditional cosmologies and institutions is galvanized by the community's conscious adherence to indigenous arts, epistemologies, and social structures.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

MUSC 530 Rhythm and Time in African Music
MUSC 565 African Music and Dance
MUSC 529 Introduction to Ethnomusicology
MUSC 530 Ethnography
MUSC 532 Human Musicality
MUSC 520 Periodicity
MUSC 512 Independent Study: Modern Trends in Zimbabwean Mbira
ANTH 540 Advanced Studies in Anthropology: Sacred Geographies

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2025/01-2025/04	Vancouver Community College (Music) Instructor: MUSC 3206 - World Music 2
2024/01-2024/04	Douglas College (Performing Arts) Instructor: PEFA 3236 - World Music
2023/01-2023/04	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Music) Instructor: MUSI 1114 - Introduction to World Music
2021/11-present	Memorial University of Newfoundland (Music) Adjunct Professor
2020/09-2022/09	University of Alberta (Music) SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow
2016/09-2016/12	University of British Columbia (African Studies) Teaching Assistant: AFST 250 Introduction to African Studies (Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo)
2016/01-2016/04	University of British Columbia (Music) Teaching Assistant: AFST 352 Perspectives in African Studies: A Social Science Approach (Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo)
2015/09-2016/04	University of British Columbia (Music) Teaching Assistant: MUS 565 African Music & Dance Ensemble (Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo)
2006/09-2006/12	Memorial University of Newfoundland (Music)

Instructor: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble

2005/09-2005/12

Memorial University of Newfoundland (Music)

Instructor: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble

2003/09-2003/10

York University (Music)

Teaching Assistant: South Indian Rhythmic Principles and Drumming (Professor: Dr. Trichy Sankaran)

2001/01-2001-04

York University (Music)

Teaching Assistant: West African Music Ensemble (Professor: Dr. Rob Simms)

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Guest lecturer for various university classes at UBC, VCC, Capilano University, University of Western Washington, 2009-present
 - Instructor at Delta Jazz Camp (Delta, BC), July 2013
 - Numerous lecture-demonstrations on South Indian rhythm at universities, 2004-present
 - Instructor in public classes/workshops in West African drumming/dancing: 2002-present
 - Lec-dem/workshop of my own compositions and Carnatic music at Capilano University, March 2012
 - Workshops in African music/dance and South Indian rhythmic theory: Rytmikmusik Conservatory, Copenhagen, Denmark: May 2007, December 2007
 - Taught K-7 students West African drum, dance and song via ArtSmarts at various schools throughout Newfoundland: Fall 2004, Fall/Winter 2005, Fall 2008
 - Lecture/Demonstration of Shona mbira music, MUN School of Music: Jan.2005, Sep.2008
 - Panelist in a workshop on "rhythm" and "world music", NL Folk Festival: 2002
 - Teaching assistant to Frederick Kwasi Dunyo in public classes on Ghanaian drumming: (Toronto)1999-2001
 - Private lessons in percussion: 2000-present
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PUBLICATIONS-PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Andrews, Curtis. 2024 (forthcoming). "The Compositions of Sangita Kalanidhi Sri Trichy Sankaran". *The Journal of the Music Academy Madras*. Chennai.

Andrews, Curtis and Kuwor, Sylvanus Kwashie. 2023. (Eds) *The Role and Transmission of Performing Arts in Rural Ghana*. Accra: Woeli Publishing Services.

Andrews, Curtis and Torgboh, Julius. 2023. ""The Dance We Form Is Not For Pleasure"" - Atsyiabekor in Dzogdaze: A Case Study of a Tradition in Transition". In *The Role and Transmission of Performing Arts in Rural Ghana*, edited by Curtis Andrews and Sylvanus Kwashie Kuwor, 199-211. Accra: Woeli Publishing Services.
199-211

Various Artists. 2023. Dzogadze Gadzo Haborbor. Audio CD. Dagbamete, Ghana: Independent release.
Producer, Recording Engineer, Project Lead

Various Artists. 2021. Songs of Torgbui Apetorku Gbodzi: Volume 2. Audio CD. Dagbamete, Ghana: Independent release. Producer, Recording Engineer, Project Lead

Andrews, Curtis. 2019a. "Asia, South: Indian Subcontinent (Overview, Including Karnatak Sangit, Hindusthani Sangit, Performing Arts Organizations)." Edited by Janet L. Sturman. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Music and Culture. London: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Andrews, Curtis. 2019b. "Benin: Contemporary Performance Practice." Edited by Janet L. Sturman. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Music and Culture. London: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Andrews, Curtis. 2017. "Offbeat: The World's First Ethical and Eco-Friendly Mridangam Uses No Animal Skins or Wood." *Eartha*, March 6, 2017. <http://www.earthamag.org/stories/2017/3/6/eco-friendly-mridangam>.

Andrews, Curtis and Gbolonyo, Kofi. 2016. *West African Vodun: An Exhibit of Sight, Sound, and Spirit*. Exhibition program book. Surrey: Surrey Museum.

Various Artists. 2015. Songs of Torgbui Apetorku Gbodzi: Volume 1. Audio CD. Dagbamete, Ghana: Independent release. Producer, Recording Engineer, Project Lead

Andrews, Curtis. 2009a. "It's Amazing Where Dance Can Take You." *The Telegram*, May 26, 2009, sec. Living. <https://www.thetelegram.com/Living/2009-05-26/article-1452668/Its-amazing-where-dance-can-take-you/1>.

Andrews, Curtis. 2009b. "Big On Japan." *The Telegram*, December 12, 2009, sec. Business. <https://www.thetelegram.com/Business/2009-12-12/article-1445737/Big-on-Japan/1>.

Presentations

2023/06 "The Dance We Form Is Not For Pleasure" - Atsyiagbekor in Dzogdaze: A Case Study of a Tradition in Transition". Examining the Role and Transmission of Performing Arts in Rural Ghana, University of Ghana, Legon

2022/05 "Healing, Song, and Community Development at the Shrine of Torgbui Apetorku". Yale Institute of Sacred Music's 1st Annual Black Sacred Arts Conference: Africana Sacred Healing Arts, Yale University

2017/10 "Agbodzivu: an Example of Macro-level Improvisation in Southern Ewe Drumming at the Shrine of Torgbui Apetorku". 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Denver, CO

2016/11 "West African Vodun: An Exhibit of Sight, Sound, and Spirit". Multimedia Exhibition. Surrey Museum

2015/11 "Sound, Spirit, and Blood: Vodun in West Africa". Museum of Anthropology (MOA) Visual and Material Culture Research Seminar Series, MOA

2015/11 "The Music That Made The Man: Youssou N'Dour, Mbalax and Beyond". Chan Centre

Connects Pre-Show Talk Series for Youssou N'Dour concert, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, University of British Columbia

- 2015/04 "Pancham: Pentamorous Symmetry in Carnatic Rhythmic Practice". 25th Annual Pacific Northwest Graduate Student Conference, University of British Columbia
- 2014/04 "Portrait of an Innovator: Garikai Tirikoti and His Mbira Orchestra". 2014 Northwest Chapter Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, University of British Columbia
- 2014/03 "Kannakku: Combination and Calculation in Carnatic Rhythm". 24th Annual Pacific Northwest Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington
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FIELDWORK/SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Ghana

20+ years of extensive fieldwork and cultural immersion in southern and northern Ghana, focused on traditional forms of music, dance, and ritual in various communities, developing extensive contacts with various individuals and communities

- June-August 1999, January-June 2002, January-May 2007, March-May 2009, March-May 2010, March-May 2011, March-May 2013, March-May 2014, March-May 2015, April-May 2017, April 2018, October-November 2019, November 2020

India

18+ years of visiting Southern India (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) with a focus on classical arts, under the direction of master musician Trichy Sankaran

- January-May 2003, January-May 2006, December-April 2007-2008, December-January 2011-2012, December 2014, December 2016, December 2018

South Africa/Zimbabwe

3 different trips to learn Zimbabwean mbira music (in Harare) and dance and also experience Xhosa traditional music, dance, and culture in Cape Town with local musicians

- January-April 2004, February-April 2005, September 2013
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2013- Founder and Artistic Director of **Time Will Tell Arts Society**, a British Columbia based non-profit arts society with a mandate of promoting the arts and culture of rhythmically dynamic societies via teaching, performing, and collaboration
- 2012- Co-Founder/Co-Director (with Dr. Kofi Gbolonyo) of **Adanu Habobo**, a community-based drumming and dance society that performs the music of various ethnic groups from Ghana, Togo and Benin
- 2010- Founder/Director and facilitator of **Live and Learn in Ghana**, a 3-week immersion in the Ghanaian village of Dzogadze, featuring daily lessons in traditional music, dance, language, history, and culture

2007- Founder/Director of the **Dzogadze Education Development Foundation**, an international non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting and addressing the educational needs of the Ghanaian village of Dzogadze, via scholarships, material support, infrastructure development, and community health

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE (relevant highlights)

- Producer/Artistic Director/Arranger/Performer with *African Chamber Music*, combining traditional music from Ghana, South Africa & Zimbabwe with a string quartet, 2024
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *Trichy Sankaran: Live in Concert*, a collaborative concert featuring mridangam master Trichy Sankaran, 2024
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *Transcendent Talas*, a collaborative concert featuring mridangam master Trichy Sankaran, 2023
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *Anubhava*, a collaborative concert featuring Carnatic flautist [Raman Kalyan](#), 2023
- Producer/Artistic Director/Arranger/Performer with *African Chamber Music*, combining traditional music from Ghana & Zimbabwe with a string quartet, 2022
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *A Life in Rhythm*, a collaborative concert with [Trichy Sankaran](#) and The Offering of Curtis Andrews, 2021
- Co-founder/Co-Director/Composer/Performer with [Naadaleela Ensemble](#), an intercultural chamber ensemble, 2021
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *A World of Rhythm*, a collaborative concert with [Trichy Sankaran](#) and The Offering of Curtis Andrews, 2018
- Producer/Artistic Director/Performer of *VanAfrica*, a collaborative performance of Vancouver's foremost African musicians and dancers, 2017
- Mridangist for bharatnatyam dancer [Sujit Vaidya](#)'s concerts: *Swapnamaya* 2015, *The Longing Courtesan* 2016, *Samarpan* 2017, *Off-Centre* 2018, 2022, *Sadhana*, 2024
- Performance with Lapis at the opening of the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto), 2015
- Member of Language of Rhythm (L.O.R.), an ensemble of 8 musicians of diverse backgrounds assembled by Public Dreams Society over a 2 month period to present workshops and concerts with an inter-cultural element, Jan-March 2013
- *Pan-Global Imprint* with [NOW Orchestra](#) @ Western Front, 2012
- Guest performer/composer with [Uzume Taiko](#) for international concert tours/recordings: 2011-2012; Canada/Belgium/Holland/Germany
- CBC national live concert recordings with Kurai Mubaiwa (July 2010) and [Zimbamoto](#) (March 2012)
- Regular performer at Vancouver TD International Jazz Festival: 2010-present
- Special guest performer with [VICO](#) (Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra) for concerts and workshops: 2009-present
- Regular mridangist for Vancouver's [SaPaSa](#) (South Indian performing arts association): 2009-present
- Arranger/composer for the African Jazz Project at Wreckhouse Jazz & Blues Festival which featured traditional Ghanaian music arranged for percussionists, saxophone quartet, trumpet and electric bass: July 2005
- Regular performer at Wreckhouse Jazz & Blues Festival (NL): 2003-present

- Adanu Habobo (co-founder and co-artistic director) performing traditional African music at various venues in Vancouver: August 2012-present
- Traditional ceremonies in Ghana: 1999-present
- Percussionist in John Wyre's Journey with John Wyre, Trichy Sankaran, Scruncheons Percussion Ensemble: Sound Symposium 2002
- Invited guest to perform at Trichy's Tribute, a gala concert in honor of Prof. Trichy S. Sankaran's 30 years music in Canada; Toronto: October 2001
- Performing, recording, composing and touring with The Offering of Curtis Andrews, Zimbamoto, Zhambai Trio, Paul Plimely, Jared Burrows, Uzume Taiko, Bocephus King, Patrick Boyle, Russell Wallace, Alcvin Ryuzen Ramos
- Regular performer at International Sound Symposium (NL): 1998-present

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

- SSHRC Connection Grant – 2022 (\$25,000 for 1 year)
- SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship – 2020 (\$45,000/yr for 2 years)
- SSHRC Docotoral Fellowship – 2016 (\$20,000/yr for 3 years)
- Recipient of 7 Canada Council for the Arts grants for:
 - tour to India - 2025 (\$12300)
 - tour to Chile - 2024 (\$6500)
 - tour to India - 2023 (\$9600)
 - concert production and commission - 2023 (\$41600)
 - exploration of new performance technologies – 2021 (\$12000)
 - concert production and commission – 2021 (\$38000)
 - Digital Innovation – 2020 (\$5000)
 - concert production and commission – 2018 (\$22000)
 - independent study in Ghana/Benin – 2010 (\$6000)
 - travel to attend Banff Centre for the Arts – 2006 (\$1250)
- Banff Winter Music Residency – 2020
- Recipient of Creative BC Career Development Program to record a new album – 2019 (\$10000)
- Recipient of 11 British Columbia Arts Council grant for:
 - multicultural spatial sound recording project - 2024 (\$25000)
 - concert production and colaboration of original and Carnatic music – 2022 (\$21650)
 - microgrant – 2020 (\$1500)
 - composition – 2020 (\$6000)
 - concert production or original and Carnatic music – 2018 (\$10600)
 - professional development and study in Ghana – 2016 (\$3000)
 - concert production of West African music, dance – 2016 (\$7800)
 - concert production of West African music, dance, choir – 2015 (\$4000)
 - concert production of West African music, dance, brass ensemble – 2014 (\$3500)
 - study with Trichy Sankaran in Toronto – 2013 (\$2000)
 - concert production of original music – 2012 (\$2500)
 - study with Trichy Sankaran in India – 2011 (\$3000)
- Artist-in-Residence at Vancouver Community College via fellowship from the City of Vancouver Residency involved teaching, composing and performing – Aug-Sep 2011 (\$7000)
- Winner of MusicNL Male Artist of the Year and Instrumental Artist of the Year 2009
- Winner of Atlantis Prize 2009 (Best Album of Newfoundland/Labrador)
- Nominated for Jazz Recording of the Year, East Coast Music Association Awards 2009

- Recipient of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Fellowship for 4 months study of Indian music in Chennai, India (4 months all expenses paid) – 2007-2008
 - Recipient of 11 Newfoundland/Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) grants for
 - recording debut album – 2008 (\$6000)
 - marketing of debut album – 2008 (\$1750)
 - production of concert of original works – 2007 (\$1500)
 - studying Ghanaian music – 1999 (\$700), 2001 (\$1200), 2006 (\$1935)
 - grant to attend Banff International Workshop in Jazz/Creative Music - 2006 (\$2000)
 - studying Indian music – 2002 (\$1200), 2004 (\$1000), 2005 (\$1820)
 - production of “African Jazz Project” – 2005 (\$1900)
 - invitation of Kwasi Dunyo to train/perform with Dzolali Dance Ensemble - 2003 (\$800)
 - travel grant - 2001 (\$500)
 - Recipient of 5 MusicNL Professional Development Grants for:
 - sound recording grant-2008 (\$7500)
 - study in India – 2006 (\$2500), 2007 (\$489.95)
 - study in Ghana – 2006 (\$2500)
 - attending the Banff Centre program in Jazz/Creative Music – 2006 (\$1500)
 - attending Percussive Arts Society’s International Convention – 2007 (\$1752)
 - Recipient of the Nirvan Bhavan Foundation Scholarship for studies in Indian Classical music - 2001 (\$3000)
 - Recipient of the Karabekos Fine Arts Award for studies in World Music - 1999 (\$250) (awarded for a composition reflecting Indian influences)
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RECORDINGS (*as composer; + as producer)

- Listen, Listen Music (LP) – Listen, Listen Ensembles; percussion (2022)
- Speaking Hands (LP) * + - The Offering of Curtis Andrews; drumset, percussion (2021)
- Wayfinder (LP) – Mohamed Assani; mridangam, kanjira, mbira (2020)
- Tambai (LP)+ – Zimbabwe; drums, percussion, vocals (2017)
- Domains of Belief (LP) – Drone of Arc; mridangam (2016)
- Skin Tones (DVD)* – Uzume Taiko; mbira, percussion (2013)
- Skin Tones (LP)* – Uzume Taiko; mbira, percussion (2012)
- Tambanavo (LP) – Zhambai Trio; mbira, marimba, backing vocals (2012)
- Cottonwood Moon (LP) – The Rakish Angles; percussion (2011)
- Rock Music (LP) * + – Patrick Boyle/Curtis Andrews; drums, percussion (2010)
- Keep Out (LP) – Idlers; drums, percussion (2009)
- Vampire Hotel (LP) – Chris Kirby; percussion (2009)
- Self-Titled (LP) * + - The Offering of Curtis Andrews; drums, percussion, (2008)
- Leap Before You Look (LP) – Bill Rose; drums (2008)
- Anthology (LP) – Rawlin’s Cross; percussion (2008)
- Part One (LP) – The Discounts; drums, percussion (2008)
- The Sunny Long Ago (LP) – Gulliver’s Spree; kalimba, udu, cajon, congas (2007)
- Idlers Corner (LP) - Idlers; drums, percussion, kalimba (2007)
- Self Titled (LP) - The Trade Off; drums (2006)
- Terre Neuviennne (LP) - Colleen Power; drums, percussion (2006)
- Self Titled (LP) - Duane Morgan; drums, percussion (2006)
- Do You Hear What I Hear? (LP) – Rasa; percussion, kalimba (2005)
- 42 (LP) – Dr. Zoo; mbira, percussion (2005)
- Hold Out (LP) - Patrick Boyle; drumset, mbira, percussion (2005)
- Self-Titled (LP) - The Novaks; percussion (2005)
- Self-Titled (LP) - Jenny Gear & The Whisky Kittens; drumset, percussion (2004)
- Sango Yango (LP)+ - Mopaya; drumset, percussion, mbira, vocals (2004)

- Face and Eyes (LP) - Colleen Power; drumset, percussion (2004)
 - Traces (LP) - The Danette Eddy Band; drumset, percussion (2001)
 - A Sneak EP (EP)* - The Discounts; drumset, percussion, piano (2001)
 - Self-Titled (LP) - In Blue River; percussion (2001)
 - Motion Potion (LP) - The Danette Eddy Band; drumset, percussion (1999)
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN), Percussive Arts Society (PAS), Board member of [Nunya Music Academy](#)

REFERENCES

Dr. Kofi Gbolonyo
Full-time Lecturer
Music/African Studies
University of British Columbia
Jskofi.gbolonyo@ubc.a
604-827-3529

Dr. Michael Tenzer
Professor
Music
University of British Columbia
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604-822-3405

Dr. Patrick Boyle
Assistant Professor
Music
University of Victoria
pboyle@uvic.ca
250-721-7928

Dr. Jared Burrows
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Jazz Studies
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