

**Curtis Terry David Andrews, PhD**

University of British Columbia (UBC)

2151 Kitchener Street

Vancouver, BC

V5L 2W9

**Telephone: 604-877-0700**

[curtisandrews@gmail.com](mailto:curtisandrews@gmail.com)

[www.curtisandrews.ca](http://www.curtisandrews.ca)

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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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**EDUCATION**

2013/09-09/2019	University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia; <b>Doctor of Philosophy (Music-Ethnomusicology)</b>
1998/09-2001/05	York University, Toronto, Ontario; <b>Bachelor of Fine Arts, Music (Honours Cum Laude)</b>
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

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**DISSERTATION**

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

This research frames the cultural resilience, political vitality, and economic growth of the Ghanaian village of Dagbamete 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.

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### **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

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### **ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2016/09-2016/12	University of British Columbia (Music) <b>Teaching Assistant: AFST 250 Introduction to African Studies</b> Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo
2016/01-2016/04	University of British Columbia (Music) <b>Teaching Assistant: AFST 352 Perspectives in African Studies: A Social Science Approach</b> Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo
2015/09-2016/04	University of British Columbia (Music) <b>Teaching Assistant: MUS 565 African Music &amp; Dance Ensemble</b> Professor: Dr. J.S. Kofi Gbolonyo
2006/09-2006/12	Memorial University of Newfoundland (Music) <b>Instructor: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble</b>
2005/09-2005/12	Memorial University of Newfoundland (Music) <b>Instructor: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble</b>
2003/09-2003/10	York University (Music) <b>Teaching Assistant: South Indian Rhythmic Principles and Drumming</b> Professor: Dr. Trichy Sankaran
2001/01-2001-04	York University (Music) <b>Teaching Assistant: West African Music Ensemble</b> Professor: Dr. Rob Simms

### **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Instructor at Delta Jazz Camp (Delta, BC), July 2013
- Lec-dem/workshop of my own compositions and Carnatic music at Capilano University, March 2012

- On-Call Instructor with Sarah McLachlan School of Music, October 2009-present
  - Workshops in African music/dance and South Indian rhythmic theory: Rytmikmusik Conservatory, Copenhagen, Denmark: May 2007, December 2007
  - Instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland on the *mbira dzavadzimu* of Zimbabwe: September-December 2005, September-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
  - Numerous lecture-demonstrations on South Indian rhythm at universities, 2004-present
  - Instructor in public classes/workshops in West African drumming/dancing: 2002-present
  - Teaching assistant to Prof. Trichy Sankaran in South Indian rhythmic principles and drumming, York University: Sep-Oct.2003
  - Panelist in a workshop on “rhythm” and “world music”, Nfld/Lab 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. 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.earthamaq.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. Dagbame, 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**

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 "Kannaku: 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 Dzogdze, featuring daily lessons in traditional music, dance, language, history, and culture
- 2007- Founder/Director of the **Dzogdze Education Development Foundation**, an international non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting and addressing the educational needs of the Ghanaian village of Dzogdze, via scholarships, material support, infrastructure development, and community health
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## **PERFORMING EXPERIENCE** (relevant highlights)

- 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)
- 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**

- Recipient of 5 Canada Council for the Arts grants for:
  - 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 10 British Columbia Arts Council grant for:
  - 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)
- SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship – 2020 (\$45,000/yr for 2 years)

- SSHRC Docotoral Fellowship – 2016 (\$20,000/yr for 3 years)
- 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)

## **RECORDINGS (\*as composer; + as producer)**

- **\*\**Speaking Hands (LP) - The Offering of Curtis Andrews***; drumset, percussion (2021)
- ***Wayfinder (LP) – Mohamed Assani***; mridangam, kanjira, mbira (2020)
- **+*Tambai (LP) – Zimbamoto***; 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**

2013- Society for Ethnomusicology  
 2006- Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)  
 2002- American Federation of Musicians, Local 820  
 2018- Board member of Nunya Music Academy

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## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Kofi Gbolonyo  
 Sessional Lecturer  
 Music/African Studies  
 University of British Columbia  
[Jskofi.gbolonyo@ubc.a](mailto:Jskofi.gbolonyo@ubc.a)  
 604-827-3529

Dr. Michael Tenzer  
 Professor  
 Music  
 University of British Columbia  
[mtenzer@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:mtenzer@mail.ubc.ca)  
 604-822-3405

Dr. Nathan Hesselink  
 Professor  
 Music  
 University of British Columbia  
[n.hesselink@ubc.ca](mailto:n.hesselink@ubc.ca)  
 604-827-3259

Dr. Patrick Boyle  
 Assistant Professor  
 Music  
 University of Victoria  
[pboyle@uvic.ca](mailto:pboyle@uvic.ca)  
 250-721-7928