

Makerere to host music symposium

Education

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Today, the Department of Music, Dance and Drama (MDD), Makerere University, will host the first international symposium on Ethnomusicology. The symposium has been organised in collaboration with the Grieg Academy of the University of Bergen, Norway.

The two-day symposium under the theme 'Ethnomusicology in Uganda' will take place at the MDD Department. Dr. Sylvia Nannyonga Tamusuza, the coordinator of the programme, said this theme is aimed at preserving, promoting and developing the cultural heritage of Uganda. The symposium is sponsored by the Norwegian government through NORAD Arts and Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education (NUFU).

Nannyonga defined Ethnomusicology as the study of music to understand people and study of people to understand music. Activities during the symposium will include the launch of a music archive named in honour of Prof. Klaus Wachsmann, the first curator of the Uganda Museum, and celebration of the mid-term achievements of Makerere-Bergen collaboration.

Some of these achievements are competitive research among students that has now led to the symposium, and networking that has resulted in restoration of the glory of music. The event will also highlight performances of traditional music from 28 ethnic groups in Uganda. This music was recorded in the 1940s and 1950s by Prof. Wachsmann and has been stored in the British Library Sound Archive.

Presentations and workshops by various researchers are part of the event. Among the presenters is Prof. Klaus Wachsmann's son, Phillip Wachsmann, Silvester Kyagulanyi, Dr. Patrick Mangeni (Head of MDD), one PhD student, and five Master's students on music scholarships given by this Norwegian project.

Dr. Patrick Mangeni said the event is set to showcase future plans of MDD, which will include networking and partnerships with different stakeholders on short training courses such as song training and music criticism.

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