

# The Low Flying Knobs



The Low Flying Knobs are an all women's Afro-pop marimba ensemble. The "Knobs" play traditional and contemporary music from Zimbabwe, South Africa and other areas of the African diaspora. Our music is upbeat, engaging, danceable and will make you rock!

## What is a marimba?

A marimba is a keyboard percussion instrument similar to a xylophone. Our particular style of marimba was developed in Zimbabwe, based on the ancient marimba and balafon instruments found in other parts of Africa.

## Our Ensemble

The traditional instrument of Zimbabwe, the *mbira dza vadzimu*, or thumb piano largely influences the Knobs' music. In addition to the *mbira*, our instrumentation includes seven marimbas, drums, vocals, hosho (traditional gourd shakers) and percussion. The size of our performing ensemble varies depending on the nature of the event and the constraints of the venue. A small ensemble of marimbas and/or mbiras will provide unique background music perfect for a reception or other limited space event, whereas the sound of our full, eight-member band will fill a concert hall, festival stage, larger fundraising venue, or a celebratory party.

## History

Formed in 1994, the Low Flying Knobs have performed throughout Colorado at festivals, concert series, art galleries, private parties, schools, libraries, weddings, benefits and corporate events. Some past venues include:

- Denver Center for Performing Arts
- Taste of Colorado
- Crestone Music Festival
- Rock Bottom Brewery
- Longmont Art Walk
- Longmont Museum Series
- Crested Butte summer concert series
- Mike the Headless Chicken Festival
- University of Colorado
- Zimbabwean Music Festival (Victoria, British Columbia)
- Boulder Creek Festival
- Brighton Culture Fest
- Lincoln Center for the Arts (Ft. Collins)
- World Music Festival (Ft. Collins)
- Adams County Fair
- EDGE Gallery (Denver)
- Denver Art Museum
- Regis University
- Colorado Academy - Africaid
- Colorado Xplosion
- Keystone summer concert series
- Colorado Suzuki Institute (Beaver Creek)
- Million Mom March (Denver)

As an all-women's band, the Low Flying Knobs are committed to supporting women and girls in Zimbabwe, and a portion of our proceeds are donated annually to charities working in Zimbabwe and other parts of Africa to improve daily living conditions and access to education.

Our newest CD, *Vana Sisi*, Sisters in Spirit, was released in 2013 and is available at performances, by contacting us directly and digitally through iTunes, Amazon, and CD Baby.

For more information, please contact:

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