



Zimbeat is:

Piwai Magaya: (Lead vocals, backing vocals, hosho)

Piwai's reverberating soulful voice & dynamic stage presence has left audiences pumped up for more mystifying and exotic sounds. In her own right she is a bona fide singer/songwriter, mbira (thumb piano) player and percussionist, whose ethnic background is heavily rooted in Zimbabwe. Piwai plays original music on the mbira and performs and records in various genres, styles and languages including but not limited to: English, Shona, French, Spanish, Lingala, Zulu, Xhosa, Swahili, and & Ladino (Turkish-Judeo Spanish). In 2007 Piwai executively produced & released a single, "Plus de S.I.D.A", an upbeat fusion of reggae and West African Coupe de cale (popular African style), alongside Ivory Coast's 90's boy wonder, ManoBlack. Piwai has opened for the Ugandan Children's Choir, Chinyakare Dance Ensemble, Azar Lawrence and featured as a guest performer of Fishtank Ensemble. She currently performs alongside Zimbeat, a marimba and mbira ensemble. She has been featured on Channel 4's Shades of San Diego, Live on Channel 6 The CW, Live on Channel 9 KUSI as well as being a featured artist in the Union Tribune representing the WorldBeat Center in San Diego.

Randy Griswold: (Lead vocals, backing vocals, mbira, marimba, trumpet, hosho)

Randy Griswold is a member of the music faculty in the Visual and Performing Arts Department at California State University San Marcos since 1999. He has also taught music courses at San Diego State University and at the University of California Riverside. His compositions have been performed on the Faculty New Music Recitals at San Diego State University. In addition, he has lectured at several institutions and universities throughout Southern California. He has conducted ethnomusicological research in Europe, Oceania, Southeast Asia, Polynesia, and in the Pacific Northwestern United States. He has researched and taught traditional music from Indonesia, China, India, Ghana, and Zimbabwe. He studies musical acoustics and tuning systems and has built a set of seven Zimbabwean-style marimbas. He directs and performs in many world-music ensembles, including Javanese and Balinese gamelan and traditional music of Zimbabwe.

Max Berry: (guitar, marimba, backing vocals)

Max Berry is a product of the corn and soybean fields of rural Delaware, Ohio. As a youngster Max was surrounded by the folk music traditions of Middle America. In 2001, at the age of 20 Max moved to San Diego to pursue his life dream. In 2007, he completed his degree at Cal State San Marcos in Music and Performing Arts. Max's considers himself to have a wide range of musical tastes and appreciation. It is at Cal State that Max became interested in the music of Zimbabwe. Still unsure what his life dream may be, Max loves living in San Diego and playing with his good friends in Zimbeat.

Becky Fleming: (alto and baritone saxophone, backing vocals)

A native of Wisconsin, Becky Fleming earned a Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in Jazz Studies from UW-Green Bay in 2001. In 2003, she decided to seek out the sunshine and moved to beautiful San Diego! She currently works as the Events Coordinator for the SDSU School of Music and Dance and holds a studio of approximately 20 private woodwind students. She has been teaching private music students since 1999 and teaches at various music camps and group classes in both Wisconsin and California. Becky performs professionally around San Diego in various jazz and world music ensembles.



Garit Imhoff: (lead vocals, backing vocals, mbira, marimba, hosho)

Garit Imhoff is a graduate of The California Institute of the Arts and has played in world music ensembles for the last forty years. He is a professional Clown and an all around entertainer. A teacher of special theatre arts and music programs supported by California Arts Council, National Endowment and local community grants. He also works with special needs students in his local school system. He provides entertainment programs for seniors in Skilled Nursing and Alzheimer facilities and is part of a program that raises funds for arts education in developing countries. He has played with Zimbeat since its inception and appreciates the energy and healing properties of this music.

Harley Magsino: (bass, backing vocals)

Harley Magsino is a graduate of San Diego State University with a Masters in Jazz Studies with emphasis on acoustic bass performance. With a very eclectic musical influences and styles, in addition to being open-minded to a wide-ranging genres of music, he has performed with various musical act in San Diego. This palette of musical styles includes, various world music, hip-hop, rock, euro-techno, electro-brazilian, industrial rock, fusion and many more.

Aaron Irwin: (drum set, percussion, backing vocals)

Aaron Irwin has been a music educator and performer for over a decade in Southern California. As Adjunct Professor of Music at Cuyamaca College and Miramar College, he has taught Introduction to World Music, History of Jazz, West African Music Ensemble and the Rock, Pop and Soul Ensemble. He is the Director of Music at La Presa Middle School, and serves on the Visual and Performing Arts Committee for the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. In August of 2006, he earned a Master's of Arts Degree in Ethnomusicology from San Diego State University (SDSU). In May of 2004, he was awarded a Secondary Instrumental Music Teaching Credential from SDSU, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance in May of 2003. Throughout his academic life, he has always embraced the opportunity to study, teach, and perform internationally: he studied traditional West African music and dance at the University of Ghana at Legon, West Africa, and he taught and performed traditional West African music and dance for the Center for World Music in Bali, Indonesia.

As a native San Diegan, he has performed with numerous local outfits including his current project, Zimbeat. He has also performed with the all-original soul and funk sensation, The Bankhead Press, and toured internationally with San Diego Music Awards Best Hip Hop Group 2003-2005, Alfred Howard & The K-23 Orchestra. Throughout his performance career, Aaron has shared the stage with notable acts such as Cesaria Evora, Los Amigos Invisibles, Fishbone, Digital Underground, Zap Mama, Lyrics Born, The B-Side Players and Sound Tribe Sector 9.

Robert Acle: (Trumpet, lead vocals, backing vocals, mbira, marimba, hosho)

Robert started playing music at a young age. Beginning with brass instruments mainly the trumpet. He has had experience playing many different styles and has been on tour with multiple bands. When attending SDSU he found a love for music from around the world and began studying the music of other cultures along side "western" music theory. Robert is also a musical instrument designer and enjoys crafting his own instruments.