



BURUNDIAN MESSENGER SACRED DRUMS' BIOGRAPHY

Short Biography

About us

We are proud of sharing the famous sacred drums tradition symbolising peace and harmony.

We are happy to present this traditional art performance over 600 years old to the World. We are pleased to transmit this incredible heritage to our children and perpetuate the legacy of the sacred drums.

Burundian Messenger Sacred Drums is a group of 13 members committed to sharing the traditional art of drumming from Burundi. The group is established in Ottawa Canada and thrives for bringing this art performance all over the world.

Burundi is a small landlocked country in east Africa bordered by Rwanda, Congo and Tanzania. Its history is known from around the fourteenth century when appeared the first king. The Burundian sacred drums are then known for over six hundred years, their history starts at that very time.



Pictured Above: BMSD performs at wedding ceremony

The Origin of Drums

The origin of this art of drumming is still not very well known, however the message carried out is clear. At the king's palace there were two major sacred drums; the Karyenda and the Rukinzo drums. The latter was beaten at dawn every morning by the king while the former was the symbol of the power and the secrecy of the king. By beating the Rukinzo drum, the message there was to tell to the whole kingdom that there is peace and harmony and that everyone should get up and start their daily activities. All the drummers then would start playing from hill to hill where they were based to carry along the king's message to the whole country. The drum, ingoma means at the same time the instrument and the power of the king. Ingoma was also played at the national feast of crops benediction by the king. Ingoma was present in every big ceremony including the enthronization of a new king.



Pictured to the left: A drummer balances a very heavy drum on his head during a performance at Ottawa Super-X festival. His balances the drum while moving and playing at the same time. The audience is usually amazed by our technique of caring the drums on our heads while moving, dancing and playing.

OUR PERFORMANCE

Our performance is a percussion type which includes a high rhythm, sound and intensity. Dancers jump, twist their bodies and perform gymnastic type moves all on the drums rhythm. Those moves range from gymnastic type to purely elegance. The drums are aligned in half circle and in middle of the circle seats the main drum called inkiranya. Drummers take turns and each drummer proceeds to the front to show his talent and ability, his gestures carry a deep message to both the drummers and audience. The moment he is at the front, he becomes the leader (the king) and the rest of the drummers follow his signals. He uses inkiranya to signal other drummers that his dance is about to start. Unlike any other music he leads the players. Talented and experienced drummers automatically know what kind of rhythm to play by watching the dancer. Songs and other folkloric poetries are included in this very art performance. This lasts anywhere from ten minutes to one hour non-stop. Our performance starts by a procession from the backstage to the stage all the artist balancing those huge drums upon their heads playing and dancing at the same time.

This introductory and end of performance is what attracts the most.

Our performance may be on stage or outdoors, sound intensity will be the same. We are able to perform three times a day any length of time from what stated above depending upon the organizer's wish. Our experience internationally have shown that the balancing of the drums on heads, especially outdoors bring more audience.



Pictured above: a dancer makes special moves while twisting his body and the rest of the drummers observe him in order to make corresponding beats.

Pictured below: Two drummers jump to the drumming beats during a BMSD performance at Ottawa African Festival



BURUNDIAN MESSENGER SACRED DRUMS (BMSD) IN IMAGES



Pictured to the left: A dancer makes a special jump move during a BMSD performance at the **Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, QC**. As you may see on picture, the drummers are looking at him up in the air so that they can make a landing beat.



BMSD members and their artistic profiles

Drummer Name	Short artistic profile
1. Gasore Dieu-donné	Professor at the university of Ottawa, and international sports coach. Now working mostly as a business owner in sports physical conditioning, health and mental wellness, I'm a professional drum player for over twenty five years. I played in several groups, led several groups but stayed on my thirst because none of those had a vision of taking this art to the top and perpetuate it on an international stage. I was recently fortunate to meet a group of young artists sharing the same vision. We got together and started Burundian Messenger Sacred Drums (BMSD). I see BMSD performing on famous stages: Las Vegas and such with the same aura as any other fame.
2. Jamari Ngen-dangenzwa	I'm a student and a rap singer. I started drumming back in Africa performed on several stages in east Africa. I joined later loyal Kigabiro group for a year then decided to switch to BMSD. I decided to make that move because in this group we share the vision we dream big. In the future I see myself living on drumming with BMSD and teaching younger generation to make this art last forever.
3. Nestor Nduwayo	NDUWAYO Nestor professional drum artist. I have had a chance to belong to a group which performed in the 6th century carried along through generations. I started to play the drums when I was 12 years old and still I remained an important member. Besides the tournaments we had every year, I still had to work full time to support my family. I believe in BMSD because it does a good job in terms of teaching the art of Burundi drumming to younger Burundian children. This ensures that the drumming tradition gets carried on for generations to come. I believe in it's future on international stages and this is what we are thriving for
4. Egide Nimbona	I started playing Burundi Drums in the group called Loyal Kigabiro which was based in Ottawa. I have always loved Burundi drums and never had the opportunity to play them when I was in Burundi as there were no drumming groups in the mayor ship where I lived. I now play for BMSD (Burundian Messenger Sacred Drums), and my dream is to be a professional drummer, live off drumming for the rest of my life and carry on this tradition which dates 600 years back. The latter will be done through knowledge transfer that will be accomplished through the teaching of younger generation who will take a relief once my generation is old and no longer able to carry on the drumming tradition. As for my profession, I have a bachelor degree of Mathematics Statistics from Carleton University; and currently work for Stat can and among other things, my duties include verifying the accuracy of statistical data and producing frequencies used by analysts to carry out their analysis.
5. AMRAN Igiruk-wishaka	I'm a student a doubled with a drummer in BMSD and other arts performances. I started drumming in BMSD because it has a vision for future evolution more than the other groups. As of my drumming history I started when I was a young boy, always encouraged by my older brothers. I performed on several stages in east and West Africa and then in Canada. I decided to join BMSD because of its vision for the new generation. I see the brilliant future of BMSD on international stages challenging any other fames of all kinds
6. Hussein Manirambona	I'm a student a doubled with a drummer in BMSD .I started drumming in BMSD because it has vision for the future evolution more than the other groups. As of my drumming history I started when I was a young boy. I performed on several stages in east Africa and then in Canada. I decided to join BMSD because of its vision for the new generation. I see the a brilliant future of BMSD on international scene challenging any other fames of all kinds
7. Asman Ndayishimiye	I'm a person with plainly of talent my nick name is ASMANI a-K-A Billionz I perform I a variety of shows. Now I'm a student and ply drums in The Burundian Messenger sacred drums BMSD. I foresee a brilliant future and I love their professionalism. My dream is to be as professional as they are and portray the group.
8. Douglas Nzeyimana	I'm a student and I work part time. I started drumming when I was young in Burundi I used to admire before, that drumming is a rare art anywhere in the world as in my country. <i>I'll teach my children and younger generation who got talents to make this art last forever when I got here in Canada I met other talented drummers and I realized that they are excellent and I decided to be part of the Burundian Messenger Sacred Drums (BMSD)</i> <i>In my opinion I see the BMSD performing on famous stages in the world.</i>

Burundian Messenger Sacred drums' biography

BMSD members and their artistic profiles continued

9. Tony Nduwayezu	I'm a student at the University of Ottawa. When I was in my home country I used to admire others in the art of drumming which I love very much and it's not until now I integrated the BMSD (Burundian Messenger Sacred Drums) that I realized that I was talented enough to be part of this Burundian sacred art and above all, to expand among the young generation. In my view, the BMSD will even reach the spotlight because of its talented and ambitious members.
10. Dieudonné Siboniyo	I'm a student and work part time. I started drumming when I was very young in Burundi When I got here in Canada I came to know BMSD and realized they are excellent in drumming. I just loved it and joined the group. I see BMSD in the future on a high level of performance because the leaders there are competent and have a vision and they know a lot of that art.
11. Lionel Njenezza Curtis	My name is Lionel Njenezza a.k.a Curtis and I'm a Burundian student. I started drumming with BMSD simply because I love drumming and I didn't have a group where I could play the drums. For the future of BMSD I see a lot of things but specially love and fame.
12. Godefroid Munyaneza	I started drumming when I was very little and I continued drumming for the rest of my life. I was part of the school drumming team both in high school and university. I played for various drumming team during my drumming career and the latest I joined is BMSD.
13. Delalay N.	I am student and I also work at the same time. I started playing drums when I was very young and have played in various drumming groups. The latest group I joined is BMSD and so far I am enjoying being part of the group. BMSD has good artists and great potential.