

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION Local Arrangements Committee

2nd International Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on African Musics
August 9 – 13, University of Ghana, Legon

<http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com>; <https://ictmusic.org/group/african-musics>

PREP, ARRIVAL, SURVIVAL

Registration fees include the cost of symposium materials, coffee breaks and lunch

NB: This information supplements and expands on the current one on logistics at”
http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com/sgam_logs_jan5.pdf , which will be updated.

NB: Visit also the following October 2018 IASA (Intern. Assoc of Sound and Audiovisual Archives)
conference at Legon for additional TRAVEL tips: <http://2018.iasa-web.org/advice#Money-matters>

- **Currency / Exchange Rates, as June 20, 2018***

1 Euro = GHc 5.42

1 USD = GHc 4.7

*The exchange rate may change so kindly be updated before making any transaction (<http://xe.com>)

- **Symposium registration fees** Cash Only and payment on arrival. Payment in US dollar currency preferred; otherwise local currency is acceptable. We regret we cannot process online payments--we are not equipped to accept or process debit/credit/paypal or bank transfers.**

International delegates \$100

Local delegates GHc 80

**Students will be offered a discounted registration fee of 50% across board.

[1] HEALTH, REQUIRED YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION: You will be asked at the arrival hall to wave your yellow fever card. I have not seen anyone denied “entry” or turned away but it is wise and safe to following the regulations. I understand the vaccine is scarce in the USA and can cost up to \$250—search far and wide and quickly.

[2] VISA: The depth and scope of requirements on the forms seem to vary from one embassy to another. The basics are:

a. Invitation letter (which I write for everyone and please request one asap if you need it)

b. Host contacts: They require home address so I have these ready, including mine and that of the Local Arrangements Chair:

TWO REFERENCES

Home/Residential Address:

Professor Daniel K. Avorgbedor (Program Chair)

103 Guava Lane, Community 8

Lakeside Estates, Ashaley Botwe, Accra, GHANA

Cell.: +233 (0)207060435 Email: avogbedor1@yahoo.com; davorgbedor@ug.edu.gh

Dr. Joshua Alfred Amuah (Chair, Local Arrangements Committee)
House No. 1/1 Peace Town
Kasoa, Central Region, GHANA
Tel: Office: +233(0)20 859 0221 Cell :+233(0)24 020 7400
Email: jamuah@ug.edu.gh, joshuaamuah@yahoo.com

c. Government-issued photo ID of host: A few individuals have reported this and I, therefore, provide mine—relevant pages of my Ghana passport in PDF. Please let me know if you need this and I will send it to you asap, per attachment. I will provide a link where you can also download it, as convenient.

e. EXTRAS: I personally prefer **Expedited/Express** services

f. VISA ON ARRIVAL: [2 persons were not allowed on the plane for a conference held here in Ghana in November, 2017)

--NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES Where Ghana has no consular office, you may find a nearby country which handles visa issues. Please try as much as possible to obtain a visa because VISA ON ARRIVAL is a very expensive and time-consuming proposition, apart from writing a special letter. I remember one case in which at least \$300 was paid on the spot, even if unofficially and after some negotiations. Application letter must be first be submitted to Immigration for a stamp (in lieu of regular visa), which will then be forwarded to you before you board a plane.

“If special requirements are satisfied, the citizens of countries without diplomatic or consular mission of Ghana travelling on short notice may obtain a visa on arrival.

Visa is granted on arrival for holders of a copy of a pre-arranged approval from immigration.”

(about 20 African countries and territories can visit Ghana for 90 days, unless otherwise stated)

Entry requirements and Visa information for Immigration requirement

Persons entering Ghana must possess a valid passport or Travel document that establishes their identity. Delegates who require visa to enter Ghana should contact the respective Ghanaian Consulate in their countries with the exception of **ECOWAS, Kenya, Tanzania and Singaporean nationals who can obtain visa on arrival**. Kindly note that delegates may be refused entry on a passport that is due to expire within six months of departure date. Also ensure you have all the documentation you require to travel when applying for a Ghanaian visa:

- A valid passport with expiry date of at least six (6) months from date of travel
- Application forms (in quadruplicate) fully completed in BLOCK CAPITALS
- Four (4) recent passport size photographs
- An international certificate of vaccination for yellow fever
- A return ticket or flight confirmation from a travel agency
- An invitation letter with a copy of a photo ID

Kindly note that delegates may be refused entry on a passport that is due to expire within six months of departure date.

PLEASE VISIT http://www.ghanaimmigration.org/visa_info.html AND <https://ghana.travisa.com/> FOR DETAILS

NB: Please contact me asap your country does not have a Ghana consular representation or one nearby.

--There are 3 **Forex Bureaux** near the University of Ghana campus (there is none on campus): **Accra Mall**, which you may end up visiting anyway and which is about 2 miles from the campus. Taxi is recommended and

there taxis on campus. One way may cost around GHS 20. A second one is located almost opposite /across from UPSA (University of Professional Studies), and also near Trinity Theological Seminary. It is a little over a mile from campus. **Please google these institutions, the Mall and the Legon campus for approximate distances.**

[5] ARRIVAL (AND PICKUP?): We hope to have reps at the arrival terminal to greet you with placards, and we are aware you may arrive at different times and days. You may already have a pickup arrangement, depending on your hotel protocol.

--Else, you take a taxi from the Kotoka Airport to, say, Legon campus (about 4.5 miles) should be around **GHS 50**.

--Other onsite travel: **Legon to Accra**, main city hub: Taxi should be around **GHS 40**, one way, about 8 miles.

--**UBER:** Great if you have one and if you have adjusted your phone number and account details to reflect the new location.

Local transportation – the Department of Music is housed in the School of Performing Arts, which is located next to the old main entrance of the university. (Direct drivers/taxis to find this entrance by mentioning “opposite the Legon Police Station”) The venue of the symposium is within walking distance (10-15 minutes) from accommodation on campus. However there are campus taxi services (GHc 5-8 per trip). Taxi service from hotels around campus cost approximately GHc 10-20 per trip depending on the distance.

- **[6] Accommodation**

There are two options. Delegates can either stay on or around the university campus. On campus, there are two guesthouses as well as affordable student hostels either to share or single occupancy. Delegates who opt to stay off campus may choose from an array of hotels and guesthouses around Legon. Delegates are responsible for securing their own accommodation for the symposium.

We suggest accommodations with a range of prices:

On campus

- **University of Ghana Guest Center**

- Approximately 7 minutes drive and about 25 minutes walk from the main symposium venue – School of Performing Arts. It has WIFI.
 - Flats (two beds in a room with a sitting room area)
 - New Flats
 - Single occupancy – GHc 320 per night
 - Double occupancy – GHc 360 per night
 - Bed Sitters (two beds in a room)
 - Single occupancy – GHc 240 per night
 - Double occupancy – GHc 280 per night
 - Mode of payment is cash on arrival. Kindly note that the university of Ghana Guest Center does not accept foreign currency for payment. It accepts only Ghana Cedis. Please check rate of exchange of your currency to Ghana Cedis at an exchange service at the time of reservation. Tel. +233 577850291, Email: guestcentre@gmail.com

- **Yiri Lodge**

- Approximately 7 minutes drive and about 25 minutes walk from the main symposium venue – School of Performing Arts. It has cable Internet access in rooms.

- Old site
 - Single occupancy - \$50 per night
 - Double occupancy (twin beds) - \$80 per night
 - New site
 - Single occupancy - \$70 per night
 - Double occupancy - \$100 per night
 - Executive suite - \$120 per night
 - Mode of payment is by cash, bank transfer or company cheque (personal cheques and credit card payments are not accepted). Tel. +233 302513386, +233 204335530 Email: yirilodge@gmail.com
 - **Volta Hall (requires advance letter of request)**
 - On campus Guest Rooms – 5 rooms in all with double bed and opened to sharing.
 - GHC 100 – per night
 - Mode of payment is by cash on arrival. Contact Salomey +233 24 3585334
- Off campus
- **Erata hotel**
 - Located at Okponglo, East Legon and approximately 12 minutes drive from the main symposium venue – the School of Performing Arts (SPA). It is a 3 star hotel and has Internet wireless access.
 - Single occupancy - \$110/120 per night
 - Double occupancy - \$130/140 per night
 - Mode of payment is either by cash or Visa, Master & American Express credit cards. Tel. +233 544336761, +233 302505119, Email: info@eratahotel.com, www.eratahotel.com
 - **Mensvic Grand hotel**
 - Located at East Legon and approximately 15 minutes drive from the main symposium venue – the School of Performing Arts (SPA). It is a 3-star hotel and has Internet wireless access.
 - Single occupancy - \$140
 - Double occupancy - \$180
 - Twin (two separate beds) - \$220
 - Mode of payment is either by cash or Visa, Master & American Express credit cards (all cards attract 6% bank charge). Tel. +233 302521634, +233 201617807, Email: info@mensvichotels.com, www.mensvichotels.com
 - **Ghana Registered Nurses Association (GRNA) Hostel**
 - Located about 2 miles south of Legon Campus, near Ghana Standards Board – Gulf house and adjacent to G.S. Plaza Hotel.
 - Single – GHC 141
 - Double – GHC 177
 - It is possible for two to share a single room. Contact front desk - +233 302 500068

Highbridge Guest House

Approximately 15 minutes drive and about symposium venue – School of Performing Arts. It has cable Internet access in rooms. <http://www.highbridgelodge.com/>
 Email: highbridge.guestlodge@gmail.com +233 561 111 170 / +233 30 254 0516

ELKIN HOTEL **Address:** 7 Nii Quaye Street, East Legon, Accra

<http://ellking-hotel.accra-hotels-gh.com/en/> **Phone:** +233030 291 8436 18-21 mins \$120

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[7] Attractions

- AKWAABA, an expression you will hear several times as you experience Accra and other parts of the country. Welcome to the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Accra, the nation's capital and an interesting city of contrasts where the old blends with the new and where tradition blends with foreign cultures. Situated on the shores of the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic ocean) and almost on the Greenwich meridian, Accra is haven that combines the charms of a tropical beach idyll with a fascinating historical heritage, rich cultural variety, and some interesting wildlife. The city provides visitor a unique taste of experiences from every aspects of the Ghanaian culture as a result of its cosmopolitan nature. Several leisure and entertainment actives will capture your heart forever whether you are here for business or for leisure. Places of interest you might want to visit include Centre for National Culture (Arts Centre), National Museum, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, WEB Du Bois Centre for Pan-African Culture, Osu Castle etc. The University of Ghana Legon campus itself houses interesting historical, architectural, botanical, and unique research sites such as the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research [<http://www.noguchimedres.org/>] For others, visit <http://www.ghana.travel>

[8] PHONE/WIFI/COMMUNICATION: There is one spot on campus where you can buy local sim card, as needed. (Located adjacent the Central Cafeteria where they also have student clinic.) The two mobile phone services providers are MTN and VODAFONE. There are other small companies.

Local phone numbers are prefixed by a "0" ONLY when calling in Ghana; to call Ghana from abroad, you would need the country code, +233 and the number without is "0" prefix. E.g., my local number is 0207060435. To call me from abroad, you dial +233 207060435

[9] EMERGENCIES:

Call any of us:

Daniel (myself): +233 (0)207060435

Dr. Joshua Amuah: +233(0)20 859 0221; +233(0)24 020 7400

Eyram Fiagbedzi: +233 (0) 205523828

Dr. Ben Amakye Boateng +233 (0) 249270872

[10] PRE-/POST-SYMPOSIUM EXCURSION, fun, etc.: At the moment we don't have the resources to organize such programs, especially when they come with costs which we cannot afford. It is highly possible to arrange individual and small-group tours but through independent providers such as these two I have located online and spoken with their reps (*We are not in any way endorsing these companies; please use your discretion and search far and wide and make prudent decisions.*):

--<https://www.easytrackghana.com/tours.php> (+233 (0)27 665 7036);

-- <http://www.noworriesghana.com/sections/health/item/1471-land-tours-ghana-ltd> (+233 (0)30 276 1751, (0)30 276 1752)

[11] Program Updates: A full preliminary program updates will be available in the next few days:
<http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com>

NB: Try the following October 2018 IASA (Intern. Assoc of Sound and Audiovisual Archives) conference at Legon for additional TRAVEL tips: <http://2018.iasa-web.org/advice#Money-matters>