

Popular Music

English translation:

I: What kind of music is found in Zimbabwe?

M: Most of the music listened to in Zimbabwe is music from abroad—from countries such as the US and UK. As you know music has no boundaries, so singers such as Akon, who originated from Africa, Beenie Man from Jamaica, Eminem, John Legend and others are popular in Zimbabwe. Young kids around the age of 12 go around saying things like, 'I like Lady Gaga'

I: Are there any local musicians in the country?

M: Yes there are, but most of them just take the music [beat and style] from here in the U.S and sing in Shona. For example, they can take hip-hop music or reggae music from here and just sing it in Shona. However we have our own original Zimbabwean genre of music called '*museve*'. The songs in this genre are performed using drums and guitars, and the singers sing and dance a popular step called 'borrowdale'.

I: Can you show us how this borrowdale dance is done?

M: (laughs) If I had time I would show you. In addition it requires a lot of space and energy and I'd end up sweating. It's best done on a day like Friday when the party mood is on.

I: (laughs) I can see you used to enjoy yourself in Zimbabwe!

M: Oh yes, I enjoyed socializing back home.

I: What kind of music do you like?

M: I like any music as long as [it is] pleasant to listen to. I like anything from country music to reggae, to R & B, to hip-hop, classical and soul. I listen to anything as long as it is pleasant to listen to and as long as I can dance to it.

I: Very well. Who do you think is the most popular musician in Zimbabwe?

M: There are a lot of popular musicians in Zimbabwe... do you want just one?

I: Yes, just one whom you think is popular?

M: *Gandanga* [warrior] Thomas Mapfumo. *Gandanga* is very popular. Now, he is here in America but his music is listened to extensively at home. However there is a musician who is loved by all who is currently in the country: Oliver Mtukudzi.

I: So what genre of music do the two musicians Mapfumo and Mtukudzi play?

M: Mapfumo sings *Chimurenga* music.

I: What is *Chimurenga* music?

M: This is the music that originated during the days of the struggle against colonialism the country went through. So he sung these songs to give the soldiers motivation to fight hard for the country that had been taken from them. Mtukudzi has his own genre called '*Tuku* music'. It sounds like jazz.

I: Oh so he actually named his own style of music?

M: Yes he did, he calls it '*Tuku*' music.

I: Okay, thank you.

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