



Associates

SPRING 2026 SPECIAL EVENT

04.21.26

Masanga Marimba

A Musical Journey from
Africa to Latin America



masanga
marimba

shakanaka



Masanga Marimba

A Musical Journey from Africa to Latin America

Masanga Marimba — led by SMC and CSU Northridge ethnomusicologist Dr. Ric Alviso — is the only marimba ensemble in Southern California that combines Latin and African traditions through music played on traditional instruments such as the marimba, mbira, and marimbol.

With seven giant marimbas, drums, percussion, trombone, trumpet, and other instruments,

Masanga Marimba will perform music from Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Cameroon, and Afro-Latin music from Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. The concert explores the journey of the marimba, from its use in the 1960s as an instrument for teaching music in schools in Zimbabwe, to becoming an essential part of dance music in Latin America and the national instrument of Guatemala. Masanga Marimba has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Grand

Performances, Getty Center, Skirball Cultural Center, Ford Amphitheatre, and many other high-profile music venues. The ensemble has also opened for Neil Young, Stephen Stills, John Mayer, Nora Jones, Father John Misty, Los Lobos, Ziggy Marley, Pink Martini, and many others.

Sponsored by the SMC Associates.

Tue, April 21 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | SMC Quad

♿ If you need an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at dsp@smc.edu or 310-434-4265, at least 5 business days in advance.

The Santa Monica College Associates is a community-based support group that brings outstanding speakers, performers, and special events to SMC to enhance student excellence. Associates members receive invitations to special receptions and advance notices of lectures. Annual Associates memberships are entirely tax-deductible.

Call 310-434-4100 or visit smc.edu/associates for more information.



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