

Ohio Northern University African Drum and Dance Ensemble

Directed by Dr. Sarah Waters

Ohio Northern University

Ada, Ohio



About the Ensemble: The ONU African Drum and Dance was formed during 2015-2016 school year in conjunction with ONU music department, and Dr. Sarah Waters, hosting a Visiting Scholar from Ghana as a Fulbright Scholar. Benjamin Obido Ayettey, the Director of the Ghana Dance Ensemble at the University of Ghana, Legon, taught intensive African drumming and dance courses during the year, focusing on traditional dances of Ghana's many peoples. Waters and Ayettey are collaborating to write a practical instruction book on the drumming and dances, and Waters has been back for several more research trips. Ayettey also has been back to ONU's campus to continue his teaching. Currently the ONU African Drum and Dance Ensemble performs on campus in the community.

About the Director: Dr. Sarah Waters is an Associate Professor of Music at Ohio Northern University, and the Director of the ONU Annual Summer Music Camp. Waters holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Ohio Northern University, a Master of Music from Western Michigan University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from The Ohio State University. She has been teaching at ONU since 2005 and is a member of the Lima Symphony Orchestra. She is currently the President of the Ohio Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. An avid traveler and performer, Waters has done research in Africa, China, South America, Europe, and the Caribbean. She has

frequently published her research in Percussive Notes, Triad, and Music Educators Journal, and has percussion music published with Per-Mus and Sheet Music Plus. Her percussion duo “Duoma” was recently invited to perform at the Women in Music Festival held in Columbus, Mississippi in March of 2018. She hosted a Fulbright Scholar from Ghana at ONU and through an Ohio Arts Council grant brought three Chinese musicians to ONU. She has performed with “birdsong” steel band at Panorama in Trinidad and Tobago twice.