

Title:

A Rockwell-Vercelli Collaboration

2022 WVU CCA Faculty/Student Mentored Research Award

Faculty Statement

Michael B. Vercelli

Our collaboration focuses on the creation of a pedagogical method book for the Ghanaian gyil (xylophone) based on the teachings of the late Ghanaian master drummer, Bernard Woma. Before his untimely death in 2018, Mr. Woma and I started this project to create a written resource for his compositions and methods of teaching the music of his Dagara community. During the summer of 2021, Liz and I met on a weekly basis as part of the WVU Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program to provide her with the Dagara musical background necessary to learn Mr. Woma's gyil pieces. Prior to his passing, Mr. Woma's recorded all of the repertoire that will be included in the text as a listening aid. Liz was responsible for editing the musical recordings so that they align with my written transcriptions. Liz then learned each piece using the audio files and text to ensure accuracy of the transcriptions and test the book's pedagogical value. Liz's culminating SURE project included a virtual performance of one selection from the text.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PO BOX 6111 / Creative Arts Center

Morgantown WV 26506-6111

[www.wvu.edu/~music](http://www.wvu.edu/~music)

304.293.5511 304.293.7491

Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Equal