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## African, choral groups join forces

By *Quentin Young*  
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LONGMONT — The word “kutandara” in Shona refers to getting together.

It’s also the name of a music center in Boulder that offers performances — and that is getting together with the Longmont Chorale.

On Saturday at Calvary Church, the two ensembles will perform a joint concert that will include elements from the genres in which they respectively specialize.



From left: Amy Stewart McIntosh, Jesse Larson, 15, Randall McIntosh and Joe Goodhew, 14, are musicians with Kutandara, a group that is teaming up with the Longmont Chorale. **Joshua Buck/Times-Call**

The program includes the first two movements of “Misa Tariro: Mass of Hope,” an original composition by R. Seaton McIntosh, founder and director of Kutandara.

The group’s focus is marimba — a type of wooden xylophone — and other music with African roots, but McIntosh’s composition branches into Western traditions by using the framework of the Latin Mass for a work that brings together Shona, English and Latin texts, as well as African musical styles.

“It’s pretty spectacular,” said Amy Stewart McIntosh, Kutandara’s program director and wife of R. Seaton McIntosh.

The Boulder Chorale commissioned the piece and premiered it last November. Other chorales in the region and even in other states have expressed interest in performing it, Amy Stewart McIntosh said.

Sherrill Carter, who has sung soprano with the Longmont Chorale since 2000, said the group has evolved over the years, especially since Scott Hamlin assumed the role of artistic director and took an adventurous approach to developing programs.

Carter said Kutandara’s recent visit to the chorale in advance of the upcoming show was her first exposure to marimba music.

“They just had this wonderful enthusiasm and spirit. Everyone was just so engaged,” she said. “I think the audience will equally love hearing them.”

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### If You Go

**What:** “Out of Africa with Voices and Marimbas,” a performance by Longmont Chorale and Kutandara; program includes two movements from “Misa Tariro: Mass of Hope”

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Calvary Church, 2101 Gay St., Longmont

**Cost:** \$10 to \$15

**Info:** 303-651-7664 or the “Season Events” page at [www.longmontchorale.siteblast.com](http://www.longmontchorale.siteblast.com)