

Performer Information and Schedule: Spurlock Museum WorldFest, April 2, 2016

Auditorium: 1:00-1:40, 2:15-2:55, and 3:30-3:55 PM



Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi is a professional musical ensemble featuring Congolese rumba with flavors of gospel, jazz, and African rhythms. *Bomoyi* means “life” in the native language of Lingala. In addition to Lingala they sing in English, French, Kikongo, Swahili, and Tshiluba. Well known in Congo, Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi have recently gained enthusiastic audiences in the United States. Jean René plays acoustic guitar and is joined by vocalists Laetitia Kyungu and Joyce Nkama and Victor Matondo on bass guitar.

Ancient Egypt Exhibit: 12:30-12:55, 1:45-2:10, and 3:00-3:25

Dan Keding is an award-winning storyteller, author, event organizer, and instructor of international acclaim. He is well known for his telling of traditional world folktales, personal narratives of his boyhood in Chicago, ghost stories and dark tales, and superbly crafted original pieces. As a child he learned the traditional stories that his grandmother brought to this country from Croatia. A well-respected ballad singer, he accompanies himself on guitar, banjo and spoons.

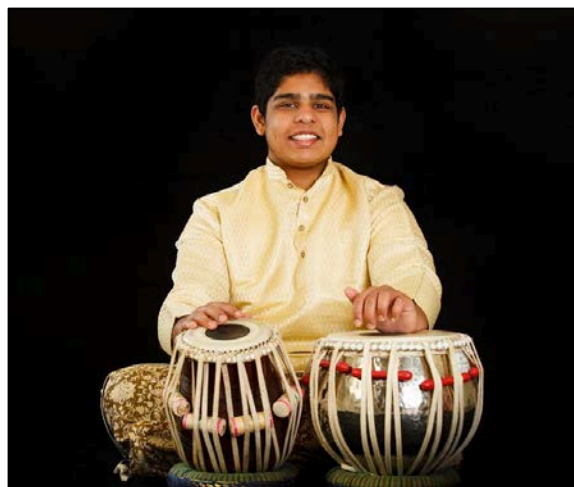
Dan is a popular workshop and seminar leader for teachers, librarians, and professional and amateur storytellers and has been a featured presenter at dozens of conferences both here and abroad. He is also an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois in the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences.

Dan’s performance work, books, and recordings have won him numerous awards. These include the Anne Izard Storyteller’s Choice award for his first book, *Stories of Hope & Spirit: Folktales from Eastern Europe* and the Storytelling World Winner Award for *English Folktales*, a book co-authored with teller Amy Douglas. In the summer of 2000, in recognition of his artistic achievements and his contributions to the art of storytelling, Dan was presented the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network.

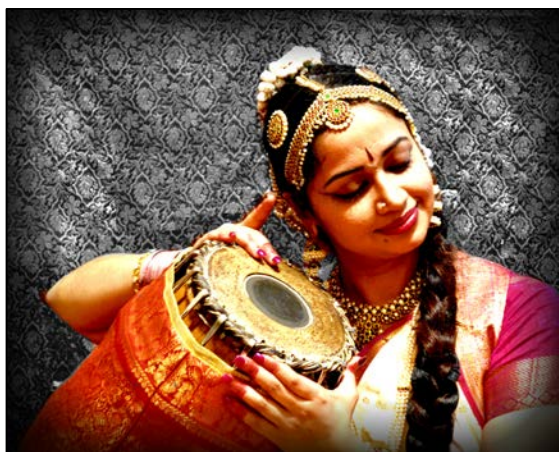


Ancient Mediterranean Gallery: 1:45-2:10 PM

Pranav Ghatraju began his training in Tabla at the Learnquest Academy of Music under Dr. Nishikant Sonwalker when he was 5 years old. For the past 8 years, he has been under the tutelage of Ustad Shabbir Nisar son of Tabla Nawaaz Ustad Shaik Dawood Khan of Hyderabad, India. Pranav has been actively accompanying artists and giving solo performances across both the USA and India for quite some time now. His talents have been well appreciated by many of today's greatest maestros. Pranav was awarded a scholarship by the New England Conservatory in 2007 to attend the World Rhythm boot camp. In 2010, Pranav was the youngest recipient of the 20 Under 20 award by the *INDIA New England* magazine for academic, extra-curricular, and community related activities. Pranav won the mega finals for the under-15 category at Crescendo 2011, a North Indian classical music competition conducted by Swarganga in Atlanta, GA. Currently he is a freshman in Chemical Engineering at the University of Illinois.



Ancient Mediterranean Gallery: 3:00-3:25 PM



Dr. Subhalakshmi Kumar has been a student of Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dance) since the age of four. Last year she turned instructor in the Champaign-Urbana community. She takes advance lessons from Guru Sudha Srinivasan in Downers Grove, IL following the pedagogy of the legendary Nattuvanar & Guru, Padmashree (late) Adyar K. Lakshman. Subha has received the honorable CCRT scholarship from the Government of India, a Senior diploma from Allahabad University, a Vid pratham degree from Khairagarh University, a 2016 IndianRaga State Ambassadorship, and several other distinctions including the Presidential "Balashree" title for creative innovation in science. Her noted performance venues include cities in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, and Texas.

Honored collaborations in the US include the Spurlock Museum's WorldFest 2012, the Amasong 2012 winter concert, TriKone Chicago (2013), and the dance dramas *Nandanar Charithram* and *Meenakshi Kalyanam*. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering department at Illinois and remains an active choreographer/artist on Youtube.com with over 200,000 total views.