Winter 2012

Vusi Mahlasela
Singer-songwriter, South Africa
Residency Description: Vusi Mahlasela is a singer-songwriter and poet-activist. While at the University of Michigan he visited many classes including a combined class: “Performing Arts and Power in Africa” by Professor Kwasi Ampene & “Arts in Cultural Contexts” by Professor Naomi Andre, “Introduction to African Studies” by Professor Omolade Adunbi, a Social Science Seminar on South Africa by Professor Adam Ashforth, and “Introduction to World Music” by Professor Meilu Ho. Additional events included film Screening of the “Amandla” documentary with DAAS in the Lemuel Johnson Center.
Sponsor: CWPS, DAAS
Date: 1/10/12 – 1/14/12

Rony Barrak and The Fontomfrom Drum & Dance Ensemble
Percussion and dance, Lebanon and Ghana
Residency Description: Rony Barrak is a Lebanese percussionist best known for his mastery of the darbuka, a goblet-shaped hand drum. He is also a composer and producer who has a leading presence in collaborations in jazz, funk, percussion and classical, as well as Arabic and Latin musical styles. The Fontomfrom Drum & Dance Ensemble are master drummers and dancers and former members of the National Dance Company based at the Center for National Culture in Kumasi, Ghana. While at the University of Michigan, they participated in classes including “Performing Arts and Power in Africa” by Professor Kwasi Ampene, “Africanist Dance History” class by Professor Robin Wilson, “Introduction to African Studies” Class by Professor Adunbi Omolade, “Introduction to World Music” class by Professor Meilu Ho, a Percussion Studies Master class, and a Dance Class by Professor Biza Sompa. Additionally, they performed a concert at U of M hospital and Carpenter Middle School. Their culminating signature event was a public performance in collaboration with the Creative Arts Orchestra and Percussion Studies Master Class in Palmer Commons.
Sponsor: CWPS, Africanist Dance Traditions (Department of Dance) and Percussion Studies (School of Music, Theater and Dance)
Date: Residency 3/25/12 – 3/31/12; Concert on March 31, 2012; CWPS Signature Event