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ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA -- Winthrop University's Department of Music kicks off its first event of the academic year with a performance by famed mbira player Chartwell Dutiro.

The "master musician from Zimbabwe" will perform Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Frances May Barnes Recital Hall. Tickets are $5 for students, $10 for faculty and staff and $15 for general admission.

Dutiro, who currently lives in England, is internationally known for his innovative style of teaching mbira. He crafts musical arrangements of ancient traditional songs for the ancestors and blends cultural stories and history into his narratives.

Mbira is an ancient instrument consisting of at least 22 metal keys mounted on a wooden soundboard. Dutiro has played the instrument since he was four years old, teaming up with his brother to play the mbira all night and call on the spirits for guidance.

While he was a teenager he played with The Salvation Army band and, later on, a military marching band. He toured the world for nearly a decade with Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited.

Now, he works in Britain as a lecturer, mbira instructor and artist.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 803/323-2255.