Press Release
For immediate release
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Note to Editors: High-resolution photos available at http://uniontheater.wisc.edu/press/index.html

TUKU MUSIC: OLIVER MTUKUDZI BRINGS A BIT OF ZIMBABWE TO MADISON

On Friday, April 12th, 8PM in The Sett at Union South, the Wisconsin Union Theater is pleased to present Zimbabwean guitarist and singer Oliver Mtukudzi. Call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787) for more information. Tickets are: $22 General Public, $18 Union Members, UW-Madison Faculty & Staff, and non UW-Madison Students, $10 UW-Madison Students, $14 youths age 6-18 (up to two youth tickets with purchase of an adult ticket). Buy online, call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787), or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

Oliver “Tuku” Mtukudzi is one of Zimbabwe’s most recognized voices. Singing in his native Shona language, as well as Ndebele and English, Mtukudzi has developed his own style, dubbed “Tuku Music.” This music brings together numerous musical and linguistic traditions, and is accentuated by his husky, resonant voice. Mtukudzi’s musical career began in 1977 when he joined the band Wagon Wheels, whose single, “Dzandimomotera,” went gold. He also contributes to South Africa’s supergroup Mahube.
Mtukudzi’s Wagon Wheels’ band mate, Thomas Mapfumo, also a noted artist who now lives in exile in the US, frequently used his music to protest the Zimbabwean government. While largely avoiding explicit political involvement, Mtukudzi has used his music more subtly to agitate for political change. His song “Wasakara,” which translates into “You Are Getting Old,” was believed to be directed at the aging Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe. Mugabe’s political violence was also the focus of the song “Ndakuvara.”

This performance is sponsored by the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Performing Arts Committee and supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, Wisconsin Union Theater Endowment Fund, and the Anonymous Fund. Media sponsors are WORT, 89.9 FM and Capital City Hues.