Internationally celebrated female quintet from Zimbabwe, Nobuntu offers music that ranges from traditional Zimbabwean songs to Afro Jazz to Gospel. The ensemble performs with pure voices, augmented by minimal percussion, traditional instruments such as the Mbira (thumb piano) and organic, authentic dance movements. The word Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, unity and family from a woman’s perspective. The ensemble represents a new generation of young African women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty, and heritage through art.

Ideas for Curriculum Connections:
The Group
Nobuntu is a female a cappella quintet from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The word Nobuntu is an African concept that values humbleness, love, unity and family from a woman’s perspective. They formed after realizing the absence of an all-female professional a cappella group in Bulawayo. The ensemble represents a new generation of young African women singers who celebrate and preserve their culture, beauty and heritage through their art. They believe that music can be an important vehicle for change that transcends racial, tribal, religious, gender and economic boundaries.

Their repertoire is a fusion of traditional Zimbabwean rooted music, gospel, Afro-Jazz and crossover in pure voices with minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments and some dance movements.

The Members

Zanele Manhenga
Singer, songwriter and poet who has been singing since the age of 10. Uzah believes music is a tool that can bring about social change; her music compositions depict that whenever she writes.

Thandeka Moyo
Singer and songwriter who is also a fashion designer and makeup artist. She discovered her talents while at St. Columbus High School where she was part of the school choir.

Duduzile Sibanda
Musician, songwriter, writer and session musician. Duduzile started singing at church gatherings and in school at an early age. Music is her first love and passion and she says “through it, I live.”

Joyline Sibanda
Started dancing and singing at the age of 12.

Heather Dube
Musician, songwriter, dancer and percussionist.

The Country
Zimbabwe, officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa. The capital and largest city is Harare and the second largest being Bulawayo. It is a country of roughly 16 million people with English, Shona and Ndebele being the most commonly spoken languages.

In the 1880s, British colonists arrived with the British South Africa Company. They obtained a concession for mining rights and in less than ten years, had established British rule over the area. It was named Southern Rhodesia and became a self-governing British colony in 1923. During this rule, land was organized with a disproportionate bias favoring Europeans and many indigenous peoples were displaced. Growing African nationalism led to a rebellion against Rhodesia's predominantly white, European government in the 1960s. After twenty years of unrest, the country was renamed Zimbabwe and Britain formally granted independence to the new nation in 1980.
Write a Review of the Show

Practice critical thinking and evaluation skills.

Ask students to write a review of the performance. In preparation, ask students about their favorite films and TV shows. Based on their answers, show students examples of professional reviews written about their favorite media.

Then, discuss what students remember from the performance. This discussion is meant to help students generate ideas about what they might write about. As such, you can use the Reflect and Assess questions on the last page to guide the conversation.

When writing their reviews, ask students to consider the elements of music and performance. Make sure that they include:

- A brief description of the ensemble and theater space to convey the mood of the show.
- What they learned about a cappella
- What they liked/disliked about the show
- How many stars (up to five) they would rate the show
- If they would recommend it to other schools, friends and family
Reflect and Assess
Ask the following questions. Record the group’s answers on the board and discuss.
- What did you notice about the show?
- How does Nobuntu’s musical style compare to your favorite music?
- How many of their songs had you heard before?
- What was your favorite song they performed? Why?
- What did you like most about the performance?
- What emotions did you feel as you listened to the various songs?
- How did the performance make you feel, overall?
- What moment in the performance do you remember most?
- Could you distinguish between the voices? How did they sound different yet blend together to make a song?

Learn More Online
Official website of Nobuntu
www.nobuntu-music.com

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