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### African-American performs free UM concert

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# The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Feb. 12, 1996

## AFRICAN MUSICIAN PERFORMS FREE UM CONCERT

### MISSOULA --

An African musician, composer and recording artist whose credits include performances with Paul Simon and Ladysmith Black Mambazo will give a free concert Thursday, Feb. 15, at The University of Montana.

The performance by Samite, who plays a variety of flutes and African instruments, will be in the University Center Ballroom starting at 8 p.m. The event is part of UM's celebration of Black History Month and Martin Luther King Day.

Samite's performances are adapted for age groups from kindergarten up. He engages in musical dialogue with the audience, explaining the mechanics of his traditional instruments and encouraging the audience to join in singing and rhythmic expression.

"The most important role my music can play," he said, "is to lift people's spirits, to comfort those who need comforting and to soften those who feel angry or violent, helping them to feel good about themselves and others around them."

A Uganda native, Samite emigrated to the United States in 1987, his reputation as a flutist and vocalist already well-established. Before that he had lived as a political refugee in Kenya, where he joined bands that played popular African music and jazz.

During his career he's been increasingly drawn to instruments, rhythms and themes of traditional Ugandan music. The songs on his most recent recording, "Pearl of Africa Reborn," are

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Samite.rl -- 2

sung in Ugandan languages and relate folktales about growing up, motherhood and other stages in the human life span.

Samite's recent performances include Woodstock '94, the Philadelphia International Theatre Festival for Children, the New Orleans Jazz Festival and a tour of five Japanese cities, including schools.

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**Note:** Samite is pronounced SAH-me-tay.

**Contact:** Ray Carlisle, 243-5032.

TB  
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