



Sadza, based in Santa Cruz County, California was formed in 2000 and has been bringing audiences to their feet ever since with the danceable, joyful rhythms of Zimbabwe. Our band consists of a blend of soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass marimbas, drums, gourd shakers and vocals. This African-style upbeat music elicits strong emotions in our fans and appeals to listeners of all ages.

We were recognized in 2002 by the city of Santa Cruz as "an example of the creative, enthusiastic, caring and compassionate music Santa Cruz is known for". We have opened for Thomas Mapfumo and Blacks Unlimited, as well as Maya Soleil and the Chinyakare Ensemble and perform as often as possible with Zimbabwean guests.

Our band name "Sadza" comes from the Shona word for the staple food in Zimbabwe, a type of thick porridge often made from cornmeal or millet, eaten at most meals. Consider Sadza's offerings as "musical sustenance" for our fans!





Cathy Crystal fell in love with Zimbabwean music the first time she heard Dandaro playing on the streets of Santa Cruz. Joyfully she joined Sadza in 2004 hoping to continue to learn and grow with marimba, mbira, dance and hosho. Other passions include family, friends, gardening, traveling, the outdoors and, of course, Zimbabwe!

Kim Dowling, longtime member of Sadza, first fell in love with Zimbabwean music dancing to it 25 years ago and she is still dancing, with deepest gratitude to the ancestors, the people and musicians of Zimbabwe, her teachers, and fellow band members. For her there is nothing like looking out while playing and seeing the expression on people's faces as they dance to the rhythm of this joyful, profoundly moving music. She also loves being outdoors in nature, hiking, connecting with people, and having spontaneous adventures.



Jill joined Sadza in 2007, when she found to her delight, that her love of percussion and foot-tapping had paid off. Other things she loves in life are her family, traveling, making art, writing, exploring, and celebrating life.

Leslye Lawrence became infatuated with Zimbabwean music long ago. That opened for her the doorway to eventually becoming a member of Sadza.



Becca Moeller grew up singing in choirs, playing piano and going to sleep to the sounds of her mother's choir rehearsing in the living room. One of the founding members of Sadza, Becca came to play marimbas through hand drumming - percussion and melodies together - bliss! Hearing the beauty of the origins of many marimba songs that were played on the mbira led to learning that instrument as well. Becca's day job is doing accounting for several non-profits in Santa Cruz. Becca enjoys gardening, hiking, camping, knitting, yoga, puzzles, spending time with family and playing music with friends.

Steve Spitalny started playing guitar in 4th grade, beginning his lifelong love affair with various kinds of music. Marimbas and mbiras came into his life six years ago and he's been hooked on Zimbabwean music ever since, joining Sadza in 2005.



Nurtured on the rich soundscape of California in the 50s and 60s, Cliff Warner now loves playing Zimbabwean marimba and sharing the spirit of the music. He is inspired by his teachers and most grateful to his musical friends for making every day another joyful day in paradise. Cliff also enjoys playing guitar and percussion, hiking, photography, and music of many kinds.

One of Sadza's founding members, Betty Weiss began playing percussion at age 9. She enjoys teaching math, being an aunt, eating well, and caring for her furry friends. *Ndatenda chaizvo* (many thanks) to all of her wonderful marimba and mbira teachers!

