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Learning Oliver Mtukudzi's “*Tuku* Music” Through Modular Loops

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For nearly forty years, singer, composer and bandleader Oliver “Tuku” Mtukudzi (b. Harare, 1952) has cultivated a unique style blending diverse traditional and popular musical influences from inside and outside his native Zimbabwe. This study describes a pedagogical method designed to teach “*Tuku* Music” through active participation using “modular loops,” complete and flexible sets of notated instrumental and vocal parts corresponding to a looped recording of a portion of a larger work. Evidence of this method’s success in teaching Mtukudzi’s music to undergraduate musicianship students, including recorded video of modular loop performances by student groups, will also be presented.