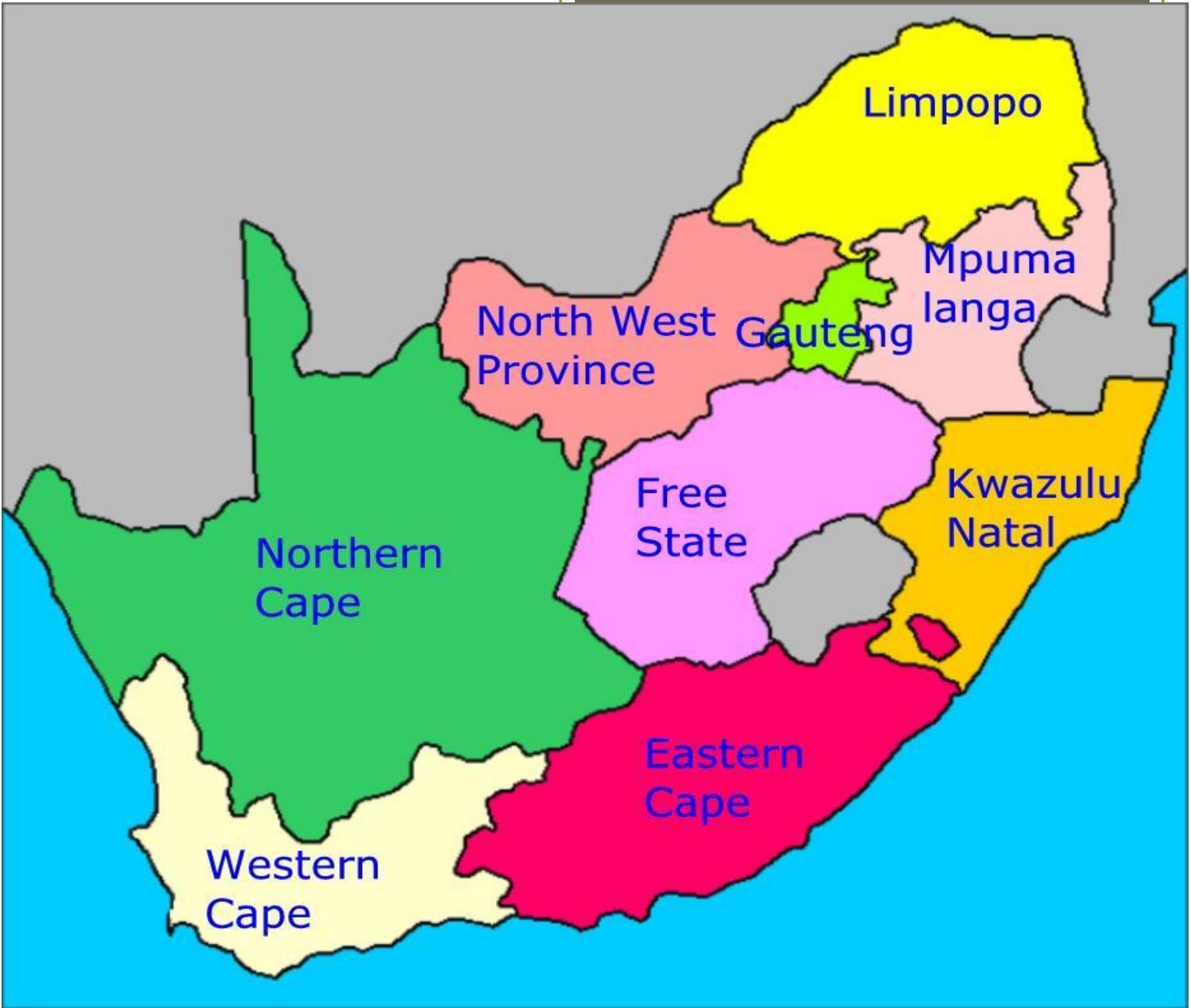


Cape Town's Ghoema Musical Complex

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SOUTH AFRICA





Limpopo

Mpumalanga

North West Province

Gauteng

Free State

Kwazulu Natal

Northern Cape

Eastern Cape

Western Cape

A Complex of Festivals

- Period around Christmas and New Year characterised by various activities:
 - street parades
 - wearing of uniforms
 - competitions
 - house visitations
 - feasting

Three Disciplines

- Christmas Bands: Christmas eve
- Malay Choirs: New Year's Eve
- Minstrel Carnival: 2nd New Year

CHRISTMAS BANDS



House Visitation
Woodstock Parade

MALAY CHOIRS

- *Nederlandsliedjie*: Little Dutch Song
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qDjSgM0r60>
- ROSA



Minstrel/Klopse Carnival

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t215ErypLkk>

Who are the coloured people of South Africa?

- Local racialised designation for people of mixed descent (referred to as 'mixed race')
- Descendants of:
 - 1) Slaves brought to the Cape soon after Dutch settle in 1652 from Indonesia, India, Madagascar, Mozambique, also captured West Africans after British ban on slave trade
 - 2) Indigenous Khoisan peoples
 - 3) Europeans

Influences of the Minstrel Carnival

- European: Christian celebrations around Christmas (carolling) and Easter (carnival), Salvation Army, Dutch songs, military parades and reviews, instruments (strings and winds)
- Eastern: instruments (barrel and hand drums), melodic inflections
- US blackface minstrelsy
- Carnival practices of African-Americans from the Caribbean and New Orleans who arrived in SA after the mineral revolution of the late 1800s (diamonds 1867; gold 1886)

SALVATION ARMY PARADE



Street Celebrations: the making of a carnival

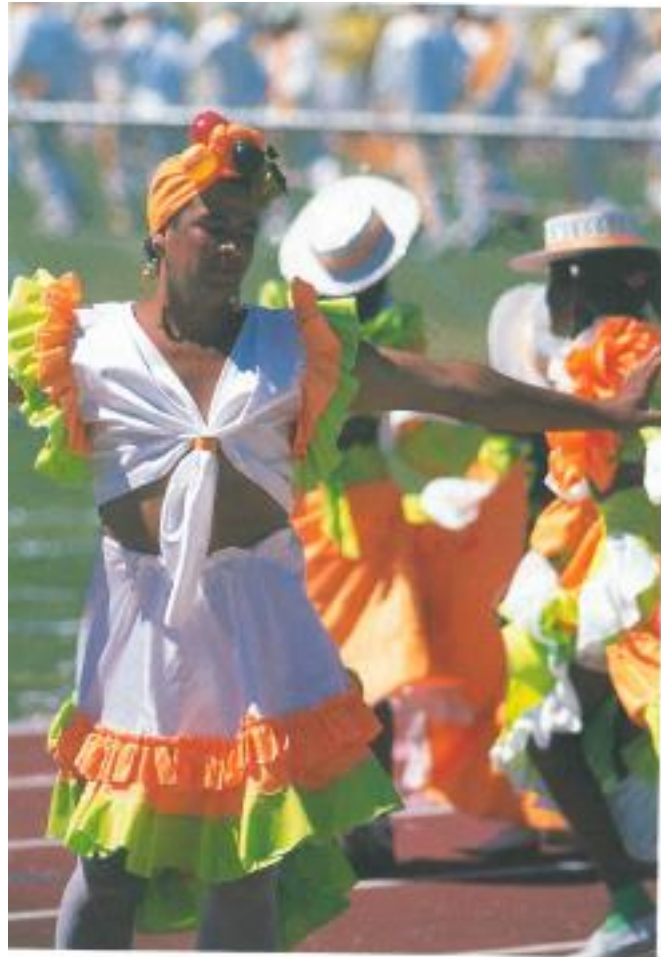
- Street parades around New Year occurred early on in the life of the colony
- Slaves paraded in the centre of town on 2nd New Year (*Tweede Nuwejaar*) celebrating their only holiday in the year
- They dressed up in fancy clothing, making music and noise, celebrating their one day of freedom
- Slaves eventually freed on 1 December 1838 and this day of freedom was also celebrated











Two Characteristics of Carnival

- **Mask:** includes all body coverings e.g. facial paint/make-up, uniforms, hats, umbrellas
- Mask allows participants to be someone else, take on another (multiple) personas or go to another place (*tariék/* trance)
- **Laughter:** social criticism, often serious matters are dealt with facetiously (making fun of serious things) often warning authorities about people's dissatisfactions

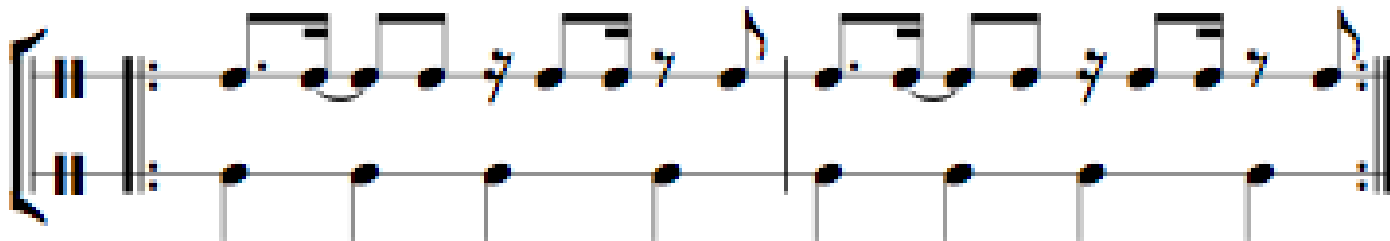
GHOEMA

Ghoema can refer to three entities:

- ◆ Single-headed barrel drum
- ◆ Rhythm played by the drum
- ◆ Type of music



Ghoema Rhythm



GHOEMA SONGS

- Moppie: Topical comic song: “*Ons Hoor*”



- Ghoemaliedjie: Little drum song
“*Daar kom die Alibama*”



- Modern rendition: Cape Jazz: “*Leeukop
Se Draai*”

