

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 12:00 PM  
255 OLD HORTICULTURE BUILDING



## WOMEN'S MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN APARTHEID PRISONS

A talk by Janie Cole, Visiting Professor, University of Cape Town, and Founder of Music Beyond Borders



Dr. Cole's presentation focuses on South African prison music and resistance during the anti-apartheid struggle. Drawing on a rich collection of former prisoners' oral history interviews and original songs, the talk explores how women detainees challenged racial discrimination, coped with gender violence, and fought for equality and their human rights. By signaling the compelling nature of oral sources, women prisoners' experiences also begin to address male-dominated narratives of resistance to apartheid and raise greater awareness about the role of musical performance in the quest for human rights in South Africa and around the world.

A musicologist and cultural historian, Dr. Cole is the author of two books, *A Muse of Music in Early Baroque Florence: the Poetry of Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane* and *Music, Spectacle and Cultural Brokerage in Early Modern Italy*. She has received fellowships from the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies and from the Newberry Library in Chicago. Dr. Cole is the founder/executive director of Music Beyond Borders, an organization dedicated to research, cultural-heritage preservation, publishing, and documentary film production on the role of music as a form of resistance in fighting for human rights (<http://www.musicbeyondborders.net>).

*This event in the History Department Spring Speaker Series is co-sponsored by the African Studies Center.*