

ANABlog

The unofficial blog of Analog Arts Ensemble,
ANABlog is an audio excursion into the manifold
streams of musical thought which inspire the artists
at the heart of this cutting-edge collective.



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arts

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Kinshasa Symphony

While our American orchestras continue their shell-shocked muddle through the Great Recession, with morale crashing **alongside their pay**, it might be heartening to recall why anyone would want one of those gigs in the first place.

Prescription: Watch [*Kinshasha Symphony*](#) and hunker down until corporate profits resurfaces.

This is the type of film that's virtually engineered to be around a year from now contending for an Oscar: a documentary about a Western orchestra in war-torn sub-Saharan Africa. Kinshasa is the capital of DR Congo, and for the last fifteen years, a group of amateur musicians have improbably nurtured an orchestra there. They started with just five violins, and the sections had to play in shifts to share the instruments.

Most of the reviews emerging from its various European festival screenings point to a basic level of contrivance on the part of the filmmakers, but those manipulations have been unanimously dismissed as mere distractions from the film's more fundamental affirmation of why we make music, regardless of our circumstances.

Trailer:



Clip: