

# Educational Offerings

## Community drum circles

Everyone is welcome and extra drums will be available. "If you have a heart beat, you have rhythm." Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the power of rhythm. Since 1990, **Drum Brothers** have been leading drum circles for all ages, celebrating the rhythms of life and the joy of community music-making. Over the years, they have brought World rhythm and drumming into schools and educational centers for children and adults, they have drummed with trouble youth, disabled people, bereaved children, and cancer survivors, and they have sparked many ongoing community rhythm circles in cities around the Northwest and in Canada.



## Hand drumming classes and workshops

These classes will explore body rhythms and rhythm awareness, call and response rhythm communication and drum language, technique, and traditional and contemporary rhythms in the Mande style of Mali and Guinea, West Africa. Extra Drums will be available. Come experience the joy and power of polyrhythm!



## Drum Brothers Assemblies

Usually lasting 50 to 60 minutes, an assembly with the Drum Brothers follows a lecture-demonstration-participation format. Assemblies include:

- Performances of traditional West African rhythms and original music from their repertoire.
- An introduction to the instruments the Drum Brothers play and the countries and traditions they come from (for ex. the Australian didgeridoo and West African djembe and doun-doun drums).
- A discussion of the different sounds of the instruments, drum languages, the communication between instruments, and traditional and contemporary uses.
- Teaching some simple clapping rhythms to illustrate the concept of polyrhythm.
- If opportunity and space allow, there may be times during an assembly when we'll encourage the audience to dance. This usually depends upon the behavior and attitude of the group, its size and age, and whether the space is conducive.

## In-school hand drumming and rhythm awareness classes

Drum Brothers will supply a limited number of drums and percussion instruments for the students. With most classes, because of the number of instruments we have available, the size of each class is limited to 25 students of a similar age group\*.

- Students will explore the elements of rhythm by walking, clapping, and speaking simple rhythmic patterns.
- They will learn basic technique for the primary sounds of a hand-drum and some beginning rhythms.
- To explore the concepts of polyrhythm and ensemble playing, the group will divide into 3 or more parts, each playing a separate rhythm.
- If time allows, the class will be introduced to some of the other accompanying instruments within the Drum Brothers ensemble, these include: didgeridoo, hand bells, frame drums, flutes and other hand percussion.



\*Sometimes because of the age or size of the group, we have the class time become more of a lecture/demonstration. We discuss the background and techniques of the instruments and music, and give musical examples.

## World voice and guitar classes

Matthew Marsolek, an experienced voice educator and guitarist, is available to teach voice classes in opening and strengthening the voice, improvisation, harmonic singing, East Indian singing, and other ethnic vocal techniques. Matthew also teaches classes in guitar improvisation and technique. All levels of ability are welcome.

## Workshops

To present a **drum making workshop** we'll need a minimum of 15 participants. The fee will cover materials to build an ashiko drum (a West African laced hand-drum), instruction, and leaders fees. Many of our workshops follow a weekend format, beginning on Friday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon. We are flexible to adapt to the particulars of most situations; we have presented day long and week long drum making events as well. Our workshops include complete instruction for assembling the drums, rhythm classes, and evening circles with music making and group sharing. It's wonderful for participants to enter deeply into rhythm and community for a time together. We have found that the rhythm connects people together through their differences. It also offers an easy entry into the world of expressive arts.

