

Djembe Drumming

8 week course! Ages 4 to 7 years old

Starts
 January
 15th, 2019



4 to 7 years old Mondays 4:00pm - 5:00pm

This course is an introduction to Djembe drumming and rhythmic understanding. It uses the well practiced 'drum circle', which is found across countless musical cultures. The course consists of eight, 50-minute lessons and is designed for children aged 4-7. The concepts and vocab in the course can be used at various levels, and at various paces of development. The foundations in the course can be subsequently applied in other instrumental lessons, and act as an excellent starting point for students who may go on to learn new instruments.

The course will culminate in a performance that uses the concept we've learnt over the past eight weeks, the level of which will be determined by the overall performance of the group. The course uses foundations established over many years like Takadimi (similar to Kodaly method), West-African phonics and Orff.

By the end of the course, students should have foundations in:

- Basic Takadimi skills and West-African Djembe equivalents
- Rhythmic listening skills, particularly mimicry
- Aural memory skills, including larger structures and cues
- Improvisation skills
- Basic Djembe Technique, including bass/tones (and slap/ping for extension players)
- Basic rhythmic awareness

Lesson	Topic	Overview
Lesson 1	Drum Circles	- Introduction and history of drum circles - Introduction to the Djembe and types - History and culture surrounding West African drumming - Bass notes ('gu'/'du') - Single-bar/four-beat patterns
Lesson 2	Looping patterns	- Tone notes ('go'/'do') - More on drum circles and the importance of listening - Basic peer-to-peer mimicry - Background vs foreground - Single-bar/four-beat patterns
Lesson 3	Mimicry techniques	- Advanced mimicry including multiple - looping circle patterns - Further listening skills including multi-tasking aural activities - Aural memory skills - Double-bar/eight-beat patterns
Lesson 4	The 'slap'	- Slap notes ('pa'/'ta') - More on drum circle cues (slaps) and the importance of listening - Standard 'structures' of drum circles - Start work on larger piece structure
Lesson 5	The 'beguine'	- Introduction to more complex rhythmic cycles - Use of solos in a group context - Continue work on larger piece structure
Lesson 6	Improvisation techniques	- Further work on improvisation - Integration of improvisation into larger piece - Basic Takadimi
Lesson 7	The 'ping'	- Ping notes ('pi'/'ti') - More work on Takadimi - More work on larger piece - Recapping any weaker areas
Lesson 8	Final touches	- Rehearsing larger piece - Recapping any weaker areas

BOOK TODAY!

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