

MICHAEL J. TAYLOR, PERCUSSIONIST

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Personal Synopsis :

- A teacher, entrepreneur, video/recording artist, performer, Tam Tam Mandingue Certified Professor* and Director of the Tam Tam Mandingue-Chicago School of Percussion, I have studied, performed and/or recorded with a wide range of artists and organizations from West Africa, North America, and Europe, including members of Les Ballets Africains, Ballets Djoliba, Les Merveilles d'Afrique and Les Ballets Africains de Silimbo

Education

- **RECIPIENT OF TAM TAM MANDINGUE TEACHING CERTIFICATE AS WELL AS TAM TAM MANDINGUE DIPLOMA (FIRST IN THE WORLD TO RECEIVE THIS HIGHEST DEGREE) FROM MASTER DRUMMER, MAMADY KEITA - JAN, 2005 (CERTIFICATE); JUNE, 2006 (DIPLOMA)**
- **PERFORMANCE TOUR OF UPPER GUINEA, WEST AFRICA WITH MASTER DRUMMER MAMADY KEITA AND TAM TAM MANDINGUE, INTL, DEC. 2007**
- **STUDIED DRUMMING, DANCE, WEST AFRICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY AT MASTER DRUMMER MAMADY KEITA'S AND M'BEMBA BANGOURA'S WORKSHOPS IN GUINEA, WEST AFRICA 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005 AND 2007**
- **Drum Teachers include: MAMADY KEITA, Famoudou Konaté, Michael Markus, M'Bemba Bangoura, Yaya Kabo, Madou Dembele, Gbanworo Keita, Laurent Camara, Minto Camara, Arthur Hull, Yaya Diallo, and Jahamen Mobley**
- ∞ Bachelor of Science degree in Communications with a major in Public Relations and a minor in Philosophy, Illinois State University
- ∞ Advanced Youth Development (AYD) training levels 1-3, sponsored by After School Matters
- ∞ Arthur Hull's "Facilitator's Playshop", facilitators intensive study program

Main instrumentation:

Djembe, dunun, bugaraboo, congas, frame drum, bongos, doumbek

Type of instruction:

West African (djembe/dunun) rhythms, djembe technique, dunun technique, improvisational drumming techniques

Current On-Going Employment:

- 12/95 to current: Business, Sole Proprietor - **HOLY GOAT PERCUSSION**, specializing in sales of authentic, hand crafted West African instruments, djembe/dunun repairs and maintenance, and performances
- 1/05 to current: Business, Sole Proprietor - **TAM TAM MANDINGUE-CHICAGO**, specializing in teaching traditional djembe music and rhythms of the Mande, West Africa
- 5/97 to current: Djembe/dunun instructor, **Old Town School of Folk Music**, Chicago
Contact: Robert Tenges @ 773/751/3434
- 6/00 to current: Djembe/dunun instructor, **Steckman Studio of Music**, Oak Park & Chicago
Contact: Dr. Steckman @ 708/524/1954
- 6/04 to current: Djembe/dunun instructor, **Merit School of Music**, youth various ages
Contact: Elizabeth Ko @ (312) 786-9428, ext. 246
- 9/00-4/03 & 9/05 to current: Lead Teaching Artist (teaching djembe and dunun), **After School Matters/Gallery37**
Contact - Steve Weaver @ 312-742-4182
- 8/08 to current: AIM (Adventures In Music) Teaching artist resident with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**
Contact - Tania Van Bree - vanBreeT@cso.org or 312-294-3803
- c. 1/00 to current: Performer and Teaching Artist with **Urban Gateways**
Contact - Martina Mosquera @ 312-922-0440 x229



Residencies With Adults:

- **IOWA DAYS OF PERCUSSION FESTIVAL'09 AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**, 3/27-3/28/09, contact prof. Randy Hogencamp 319-273-2228
- **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC, EVANSTON, IL** May, 2007/2009, contact Carlos Abril, Ph.D. 847-467-1606
- **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEATRE, CHICAGO, IL** Jan, 2007, contact Claudia Anderson 773-325-4661
- **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**, 4/20-4/23/03, contact prof. Randy Hogencamp 319-273-2228
- **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**, 5/20-5/21/03, 5/17-5/18/05, 5/5-5/6/06, 5/14-5/15/09 contact prof. Rebecca Gearhart 309-556-3921

Residencies With Youth – current:

- Artist in Residence (Adventures in Music Teaching Artist, teaching djembe and dunun) with **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, with youth aged 5-18.
 - ∞ Contact – Tania Van Bree - vanBreeT@cso.org or 312-294-3803
- Artist in Residence (teaching djembe and dunun) with Urban Gateways with youth aged 5-18.
 - ∞ Contact - Martina Mosquera @ 312-922-0440 x229
- **Lead Teaching Artist** (teaching djembe and dunun), After School Matters, at Prosser Career Academy, Wells High School, James Jordan Boys & Girls Club, Clemente High School, Chicago 9/05-4/09, for students age 14-18
 - ∞ Contact – Luis Meza @ 312-217-6658
- **Lead Teaching Artist** (teaching djembe and dunun), Gallery37, schools include Wendell Phillips, Gage Park, Orr High Schools, Chicago 9/00-4/03 for students age 14-18 (residency lengths are either school year or summer)
 - ∞ Contact - Steve Weaver @ 312-742-4182
- Conduct djembe class for Salazar School, Chicago, IL via Merit School of Music 12/04-6/07 for youth age 10-13yrs
 - ∞ Contact – Elizabeth Ko @ (312) 786-9428, ext. 246
- Conduct djembe class via Steckman Studio of Music for Oak Park Dist 97 schools, Brooks and Julian Middle schools beginning Oct, 2006-current school year, for youth age 11-13yrs
 - ∞ Contact – Vicky Scaman at the Steckman Studio of Music – 708-524-1954
- Conduct djembe class **independently** for First Circle Education for Young Children (pre-school), 56 Lake St in Oak Park, for youth age 3-5yrs
 - ∞ Contact – Haegyung K. Weisbrod - 708-848-9422

Residencies With Youth – past:

- Conducted djembe class for Chase Elementary, Chicago, IL via Old Town School of Folk Music 5/04-6/04, 5/05-6/05, 5/06-6/06, 2/07-5/07, 2/08-5/08 for youth age 10-13yrs
 - ∞ Contact – Melissa Mallinson @ 773-728-6000
- Conducted djembe class for Nettelhorst School, Chicago, IL via Old Town School of Folk Music 2/1-3/31/05, 2/1-6/01/06 for youth age 7-10yrs
 - ∞ Contact – Melissa Mallinson @ 773-728-6000
- Conducted djembe class for Chicago West Community Music Center, Garfield Park Fieldhouse, Chicago 7/02-8/02 and 7/03-8/03 for students age 8-12 and 14-16 respectively
 - ∞ Contact - Howard Sandifir @ 708-386-5315
- Conducted djembe class for CHICAGO WALDORF SCHOOL, Chicago 5/00-6/00 for students age 13-18
 - ∞ Contact - Joe Bailey @ 773-465-2662
- Music Director for CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT Kids Summer Camp program 6/96 - 8/96 at Loyola Park location for youth age 5-12
 - ∞ Contact - Linda Kelso @ 312/742-7921
- Volunteer Drum Education Program for Youth at EVANSTON YMCA 11/95 - 12/95 for students age 4-11
 - ∞ Contact - David Blood @ 708/328/1428

“Drum Therapy”/Healing work including work with At-Risk groups

➤ For Youth:

- ❖ Musical Director “HELLO Drum Chorus”, a drum ensemble comprised of **homeless teens** 1/07-current.
 - ☞ Contact – Deb Smith of The Night Ministry @ 847-418-1053
- ❖ Conducted djembe session for House of the Good Shepherd, **Emergency Domestic Abuse shelter**, 8/04-6/08 for youth age 6-12
 - ☞ Contact – Betsy Ko of Merit Music @ 312-786-1712
- ❖ Conducted weekly drum therapy sessions at Paulina House (a Merriville Academy group home), 9/02-12/05, for **behavioral and developmentally delayed** boys, age 10-18
 - ☞ Contact - Dr. Harry Steckman of Steckman Studio of Music @ 708-524-1954
- ❖ Conducted monthly drum therapy session at Village Day School, beginning 3/02 – 6/05, working with **developmentally and behaviorally delayed** boys aged 5-12
 - ☞ Contact - Mike Lazarus @ 708-660-1821
- ❖ Conducted rhythm workshop/performances at Ferst School, Chicago for **physically and mentally challenged youth** 1/04-current
 - ☞ Contact – Melissa Mallinson of Old Town School of Folk Music @ 773.751.3337
- ❖ Conducted rhythm workshop/performances at Comer Children’s Hospital at University of Chicago, Chicago for **hospitalized** youth 1/04-current
 - ☞ Contact – Melissa Mallinson of Old Town School of Folk Music @ 773.751.3337
- ❖ Conducted djembe session for Buckingham School, school for **behaviorally delayed**, 2007, for youth age 6-12
 - ☞ Contact – Betsy Ko of Merit Music @ 312-786-1712
- ❖ Conducted djembe class for music credit for BRONZEVILLE ACADEMY Alternative High School, Chicago 3/01-6/01 for **at-risk students** age 13-20
 - ☞ Contact - Oyo Nsefik @ 773-538-0059
- ❖ Music Director for Chicago Park District Therapeutic Recreation program 6/96 - 8/96 at Loyola Park location for **developmentally delayed youth** age 5-12
 - ☞ Contact - Linda Kelso @ 312/742-7921
- ❖ Conducted monthly therapeutic rhythm workshops for **incarcerated** youth at the Juvenile Court
 - ☞ Contact - Joe Pacelt @ 312-433-6593

➤ For Adults:

- ❖ Created and conduct DRUMMEDITATION™ – a combination of intentional drumming, breath work and guided meditation designed for healing
- ❖ ‘TRANSMEDITATIONAL DRUMMER’ for lecture/workshops “CREATING A MORE HOLISTIC LIFE -- HOW RITUAL ENHANCES THE MIND/BODY/SPIRIT CONNECTION” AND “IDENTIFYING AND INTEGRATING THE CHAKRA SYSTEM INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE” – created by Kurt Hill (Holistic Healthcare Practitioner) 312-664-8376
- ❖ Conducted monthly drum therapy session at Westlake Hospital – Behavioral Health Unit, working with the **psychiatrically impaired**
 - ☞ Contact – Amber Kanopa @ 708-938-7279
- ❖ Live drummer for workshop ‘DARE TO LIVE YOUR DREAM’, created by Susan Day, ICF (Life Coach) 312-464-1188

Video/DVD projects:

- ∞ AKARAN IKO IKO (LEARN AGAIN, AGAIN) - co-produced with Mahiri Fadjimba Keita (Tam Tam Mandingue-Washington, D.C.), this is an instructional DVD focusing on practicing traditional djembe orchestra music of the Mande ©2006
- ∞ 'REMEMBERING HOW TO DRUM', instructional DVD focusing on traditional djembe technique ©2003
- ∞ 'A DJEMBE STARTER KIT' – produced in conjunction with Farafina Dambe, a VHS video offering basic information with the purchase of a traditional, West African, hand carved djembe drum ©2003

Audio Recording projects:

- Composed, arranged, recorded, produced compact discs of original percussion-based music:
 - ∞ 'SILENCE IN THE RHYTHMIC SOUP – RHYTHMIC ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOGA AND MEDITATION' ©2003 – Designed for use with Yoga and meditation practice
 - ∞ 'SILENCE' - second cd and first solo effort to date, ©2002
 - ∞ 'A TOUCH OF CHAOS IN THE RHYTHMIC SOUP' – improvisational rhythmic roots of Taylor and Christian Pawola ©1996
- Djembe and dunun player on Linda Robertson's children's music CD entitled **"Come and Go With Me"** ©2006
- Djembe player on Omar al Musfi's Arabic fusion record entitled **Modern Mijanna**, released 2005
- Recorded djembe and bata drums for EVANSTON NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TV SPOT WITH OLYMPIC ATHLETE KAREN HUFF (JAVELIN) which aired during the 2000 Summer Olympics
- Recorded West African music with Yaya Kabo for "ECHO" an exhibit in the Education and Administration Wing of Symphony Center (**Chicago Symphony Orchestra** 67 E. Adams St, Chicago, IL 312-294-3000)
- Composed and recorded original music for Corn Production's (312-409-6435) hit musical spoofs, **SANTA MEETS THE FRUITCAKE** and **FLOSS**, Chicago, IL

Performance projects:

- Performed with international voice/percussion phenom **VINX**, March 14th-15th, 2008, Chicago
- Performed for **Amateur International Boxing Association**, at the Chicago Theatre, 10/22/08
- Performed with **Yoyo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble (featuring Yoyo Ma)** June 2007 at Pritzker Auditorium in Millennium Park, Chicago
- Performed with **Omou Sangaré**, vocalist from Mali, West Africa at Old Town School of Folk Music, 2002
- Djembe player for **Jaliya**, featuring West African **Kora Master** and **Jali, Morikeba Kouyate**
- Member of MASTER DRUMMER MADOU DEMBELE'S performance group SUPER YANKADI, based out of New York City
- Principal percussionist for JUBILATE CHILDREN'S CHOIR (now named Youth Choral Theatre of Chicago), director Paul Caldwell 773.882.7285
- **Toured Ireland** 6/12-6/21/03 with JUBILATE CHILDREN'S CHOIR (now named Youth Choral Theatre of Chicago), director Paul Caldwell 773.882.7285
- Performed with DAHUI at **BABATUNDE OLATUNJI'S** birthday benefit 4/7/01 in Middletown, NY
- Member of BATTERIE, performance ensemble with **LEDDY GARCIA FROM POI DOG PONDERING** and Rick Garcia, dj
- Performed with **Madahoochi**, band based in St. Louis, MO.
- Performed with Lola Van Ella at Cowboy Cabaret Burlesque Review
- Founder of **KABEN KAFÖ**, West African djembe ensemble
- Founder of **HOLY GOAT ENSEMBLE**, West African djembe ensemble
- Performed with banjo virtuoso, **Michael Miles**
- Principal drummer for **ONE WORLD DANCE THEATRE**, director Rebecca Huntman – 708.386.8681
- Performance Tour with **ONE WORLD DANCE THEATRE** via Urban Gateways 2005-2006
- Founding member of percussion ensemble DAHUI, specializing in West African djembe ensemble
- Djembe player and co-composer in Stark Raving Ensemble's production of 'Light in the Village', a play by John Clifford
- Created original performance art piece entitled 'THE JUNGLE - ART FORMS FROM THE SILENT DIN' combining music, poetry, multiple instrumentation and theatre

Workshops:

Conducted original workshop program entitled 'ORDERED CHAOS AS PER TAYLOR' from 8/95 to present for Chicago Area Guitar Center stores, Rhythm Revolution, Chicago Park District and for other organizations independently. Workshop includes instruction on technique, rhythm exercises, 'drum philosophy', community building, West African rhythms, improvisation, etc.

<i>WORKSHOP HOSTING ORGANIZATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Rhythm Revolution	➤ John Yost @ 773-286-0605
Chicago Park District	➤ Linda Kelso @ 312-742-7921
The MIDWEST DRUM AND DANCE FESTIVAL @ Oakwood Farms, Selma, IN	➤ Steve Lange @ 765-287-1757

Miscellaneous:

- *In 2007 received **TAM TAM MANDINGUE DIPLOMA** – the highest level of degree and certification in the Tam Tam Mandingue, International schools. In 2005, received the degree of **TAM MANDINGUES TEACHING CERTIFICATE** – Tam Tam Mandingue Certification and Diploma are a degrees in the djembe (and dunun) drum offered exclusively by Mamady Keita, Grand Master Drummer from Guinea West Africa. This certification was born as part of the school Mamady established in Brussels, Belgium in 1991, called Tam Tam Mandingue. Tam Tam Mandingue currently has branch schools in North America, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.
- Principal drummer for **MASTER DANCER MOUSTAPHA BANGOURA**, hailing from Guinea, West Africa

***Biographical Information for Michael J. Taylor,
Educator, Performer, Student, Entrepreneur, Composer, Recording Artist, Writer***

General synopsis:	Whether it is as an educator, entrepreneur, video/recording artist or performer, Taylor brings a unique perspective to his craft. With the combination of a unique ability to communicate, instill discipline and promote creativity, combined with a broad range of life and professional experience, he focuses on the relationship between the individual and rhythm/drumming. This has led to an overall philosophy that seeks to bridge the gap between all things in rhythm, seeking to find where ones own personal pulse lies in relation to the collective pulse. By way of traditional West African or non-traditional styles, Taylor demonstrates the universality of rhythm in everything he does.
Teaching:	Taylor brings a unique perspective to his teachings. As a Tam Tam Mandingue Certified Professor , he teaches traditional West African rhythms as well as traditional djembe technique, rhythm exercises and listening skills. Students are encouraged to explore the far-reaching implications of learning rhythm on how they think, their level of personal confidence, how they feel and how they reason. The learning of rhythm can be a conduit to understanding the importance of independence/interdependence. Learning your part achieves independence; putting that part in the context of others' achieves interdependence.
Workshops:	In his workshop program 'Ordered Chaos', he expresses his reverence to the balance between order and chaos in a philosophical light; he shows the balance between order and chaos as that which binds and separates the universe - the entire universe is in rhythm. He demonstrates this balance through various rhythmic/arhythmic exercises along with exploring the importance of technique in finding ones individual voice on the drum. Additionally, in the second half of the program, he teaches a traditional West African djembe rhythm, so that participants get a taste of the traditional side of the type of drumming he specializes in.
Work with youth:	In his work with children, he has seen how drumming can enliven and educate on a number of different levels. Qualities like discipline, patience, focus and determination translate into reward, community and "positivity" when children drum. 'It is fascinating seeing kids understand what it is to <i>understand</i> on a deeper level than they are accustomed to', states Taylor, 'by this I mean not only understanding and mastering the pieces of the puzzle, the parts, but fitting them together, making one rhythm, one puzzle, where everyone has a role in the whole.'
Work special needs groups:	In his work with the mentally and physically challenged, he has seen how drumming can bring out the abilities of mentally and physically challenged adults and children. Percussion is such a primal thing; it's appeal is on a very deep level in the human psyche. 'I have seen communication/bonding [by way of percussion] on a level with the handicapped that most of them were not able to explore in any other mode of communication', quotes Taylor.
Performances:	In his performances Taylor strives to translate rhythm into a variety of contexts, both traditional and non-traditional. In the traditional and non-traditional form performing West African djembe rhythms with performance ensemble with HOLY GOAT ENSEMBLE, he has combined his djembe stylings with poetry, voice, acoustic combos and ensembles, full bands, traditional combos and ensembles, performance art, etc. He aspires to combine theatre with rhythm, including lighting, costuming, scripting, etc.
Recording/ Video:	Taylor's most recent DVD project is an instructional DVD, focused on the practice of djembe rhythms of the Mande, entitled, "Akarán Iko Iko (learn again, again)" ©2006. His first DVD project focused on traditional djembe technique, and is entitled "Remembering How To Drum" ©2003. These ground breaking DVDs utilize cutting-edge DVD technology in presenting what he thinks any serious student of the djembe needs to focus on. As a recording artist, Taylor uses traditional instrumentation to translate his rhythmic ideas onto a recordable medium. His third CD, "SILENCE IN THE RHYTHMIC SOUP – RHYTHMIC ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOGA AND MEDITATION" ©2003 was created for use with Yoga and meditation. His second CD, 'SILENCE' ©2001, is his first solo work which he composed, arranged, produced and recorded. His first compact disc 'A TOUCH OF CHAOS IN THE RHYTHMIC SOUP' ©1996 was a collaborative effort between Taylor and his long-time partner in creative-crime, writer, producer, engineer, teacher, performer, Christian Pawola. Taylor's media are available at many stores throughout the U.S.; check www.holygoat.com for stores and availability.
Writings:	Taylor has written several pieces, all in some way tied to the drum experience as metaphor for larger experiences that all humanity shares. His works have been commissioned by WBEZ (Chicago's NPR affiliate) for World Percussion Rhythm Magazine and appear on his website.