

We have been keeping a close eye on what's happening with the economy and school funding. We can see that shrinking school budgets are standing in the way of our primary mission.... **to infuse school music curriculums with West African drumming and dance!** We've come up with a plan that we believe will be a win-win situation!

The Offer:

PROJECT DRUM is offering a FREE
5- day Artist-in-Residence program
to the first five Boulder/Denver area schools!

The Program:

PROJECT DRUM will provide:

- An instructor for 5 days with 6 contact hours per day (please limit group size to 30)
- Drums and other instruments.
- Direction and facilitation of a "Grand Finale West African Drum and Dance Performance," with all of your students and members of the **PROJECT DRUM** staff!
- An amazing experience for you, your students and the entire school community

We ask that your school provide:

- A suitable space to work with the students.
- A venue large enough to host all of your students and families for an evening performance. (Boulder High, New Vista, Manhattan Middle etc...)
- Promotion and ticket sales for the final performance

The Fine Print:

PROJECT DRUM will accept the proceeds from the final performance as the sole compensation for the Artist-in-Residence program

There is no cost to your school or PTA.

Currently, we are offering this package to the first 5 Boulder/Denver area schools to confirm booking dates with us.

The Process:

To book your free residency please email Scott with the following:

- Confirmation that you have approval from your administration
- Tentative dates in 2009 for your 5-day residency.
- Number of students in your music program.
- Suggested venues for the final performance. (We request that you check tentative dates with the venue)

PROJECT DRUM'S MISSION

The mission of **PROJECT DRUM** is to:

- A. Infuse school music curriculums with West African Drumming and Dance
- B. Provide rhythm based educational and teambuilding services to schools, organizations and music educators .

Rooted in the rich musical traditions of West Africa, we strive to bring people from all walks of life together for a joyful and enriching musical experience.

We strive to accomplish this by:

1. Working directly with students through Artist-in-Residence programs.
2. Providing in-depth, graduate level workshops for music educators.
3. Providing fun and inspiring In-Service programs with entire school faculties.
4. Helping corporations, teams and organizations work more effectively, by coming together through drumming and dance.
5. Inspiring and educating people of all ages, colors, cultures and backgrounds through our performances and assemblies.

MEET THE **PROJECT DRUM** STAFF



Fara Tolno was born in Conakry, Guinea, West Africa. He spent his youth in the village of Kissidugu and Guinea's capital city, Conakry. Fara playing djembe since the age of nine, he has traveled extensively performing and teaching both drumming and dance. Fara spent nine years as the lead drummer for Les Merveilles de Guinea (The Wonders of Guinea) under the tutelage of West Africa's most influential director and choreographer, Kemoko Sano. Fara has performed with many of the world's premier musicians including Mamady Keita, Burning Spear, Neil Young, Sekouba Bambino, Youssou N'Dour, Salif Keita, Habibe Koite, Oumou Sangare... Currently Fara is focusing his energy locally by developing Project Drum and Kissidugu, an explosive West African percussion and dance troupe. He is also pursuing an MFA in Dance at CU Boulder and has recently become the father of his new son Fyah. Fara's performance style has been described as mystical as he dazzles audiences around the world. Now as the director of Kissidugu he has taken his depth of knowledge to the realm of musical arrangement and choreography. Fara has a magical way of teaching everything from the basics to the beautiful intricacies of West African percussion to Western players of all levels and ages. His energetic and passionate teaching style make him one of the most sought after drum and dance instructors in the United States.

Scott Griffiths holds a degree in Alternative Education and has worked in and with schools since 1999. Scott has been studying African percussion and dance since 2001 and has been a member of "Kissidugu," Fara Tolno's performance troupe, since 2005. His experience in education and as a student and performer of West African music allow him to bridge the gap between Western educational models and traditional African teaching styles.

Nate Vellinga, a founding member of Kissidugu, began drumming eight years ago after witnessing his first authentic West African drum and dance performance in Boulder, CO, featuring Abdoul Doumbia and Djeneba Sako from Mali, West Africa. After witnessing the joy, energy, and connection between the dancing and the drumming, he knew he had found a new path. Nate's studies have focused primarily on djembe and dunun music guided by several master drummers residing in the USA and West Africa, and has spent seven months studying in Mali. During his first stay in Mali, Nate began a fair-trade drum import business called One Tree Drums



Tober Schorr is originally from Bellingham, WA. His first musical influence was his parents' record collection, which included everything from jazz to Jimi Hendrix. In 8th grade, he started listening to African music with the CD "Rhythm of Resistance: Music of Black South Africa". At 16, Tober decided to take up the drumset. In college, he began studying the djembe with Stuart Dinwoodie. After returning from a stint in the Peace Corps in Mozambique, where he taught high-school biology and played in a traditional drumming and dance group, he moved to Boulder in order to study more seriously with Abdoul Doumbia and Fara Tolno. Tober has been a member of Kissidugu since 2005