

Mark Powers presents **TrashBamBOOM!** (formerly “Junk Jam”) and **The Sights & Sounds of Ghana**, two fun and interactive percussion-based programs, to students of all ages.

A percussion artist/educator and world traveler, Mark has studied, performed and taught throughout North America and Europe, as well as in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the South Pacific. He has shared the stage with everyone from Cheap Trick’s Rick Nielsen, Devon Evans (of Bob Marley and the Wailers), Rolling Stones saxophonist Tim Ries and America’s Polka King- the late Frankie Yankovic, to disco sensations The Afrodisiacs and 80’s nerd-rockers The Spazmatics.

Powers facilitates a variety of percussion programs, educating students of all ages in schools around the world, as well as working with adults in rhythm-based corporate leadership/teambuilding workshops and at correctional facilities.



As a speaker, he has taken the stage at **TEDxConcordiaUPortland** (2012), **Ignite Salem** (2013) and **TEDxYouthOmaha** (2014).

Mark is co-author of **Alfred’s Drumset Method, Book 2** (with Dave Black) and **The 2-in-1 Drummer** (with Walfredo Reyes, Sr., Elliot Fine and David Stanoch); author of **Solo In Style** and **Slammin’ Simon’s Guide to Mastering Your First Rock & Roll Drum Beats** (and multiple other Slammin’ Simon instructional drum books for kids), and author of two children’s board books, **I Want To Be A Drummer** and **I Want To Be A Reader** (both published by blue manatee press). He has also written for Modern Drummer, Percussive Notes and Fever Pitch magazines, and has published seven original percussion compositions.

Fun fact: Mark is former co-holder of the **Guinness World Record** for Longest Drum Roll by a Group- a title shared with colleagues Namiah Tribolini, Peter Buxman and Patrick Flanigan.

Mark can be found online at **PowersPercussion.com**



TrashBamBOOM! (formerly "Junk Jam") *Turning Garbage Into Grooves*

Hands-on experiences are an exciting and educational way to promote teamwork, nurture creativity and boost self-esteem among youth. The **TrashBamBOOM!** program is designed with these goals in mind, while allowing students to explore firsthand the percussive possibilities hiding within common everyday items.



Students will learn that **any ordinary object can indeed be a musical instrument**. In merely seconds, they will transform these "found sounds" into intense rhythms- at the same time **developing creativity, listening and communication skills**.

Playing on "instruments" such as 5-gallon pails, garbage cans, automotive brake drums and soda can shakers, students will find that **rhythm exists everywhere** and that by working together they can discover music in their own environment, their own bodies, even in the vocalization of their own names.

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THE SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF GHANA

The Sights & Sounds of Ghana program will take students on a journey into the world of West African percussion while heightening their awareness and understanding of African cultures.

A collection of **authentic drums** of the Ewe people are featured- including the boba, sogo, kidi, kaganu, axatse and gankogui- all used in creating the traditional style *Gahu*.

The program will integrate numerous Education Standards, helping educators to meet several general music and social studies outcomes for their students.



The presentation begins with a video filmed during Mark's studies in the village of Kopeyia- giving students a peek at life, music and school in Ghana. Students are then introduced to several Ghanaian instruments, **learn a greeting in the Ewe language and also get onto their feet for some traditional dancing!**

** free classroom preparation packet (pdf) available online at:
PowersPercussion.com

PAST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE and SCHOOL/COMMUNITY GROUP FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

Abiqua Middle School • American International School of Kuwait City • Appleton East High School • Aquinas Middle School • Arrowhead Center for the Arts • Ash Creek Intermediate School • Ashland High School • Ashland Middle School • Auburn Elementary:Salem • Bancroft Elementary:Omaha • Baraboo High School • Bassett Grade School • Bayside Christian Fellowship • Best Friends of Neenah/Menasha • Boys' & Girls' Brigade:Neenah • Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley • Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay • Boys & Girls Club:Oshkosh • Boys Town, NE • Brown County Library • Brownell-Talbot School:Omaha • Camp Fire Kids USA:Appleton • Camp Helen Brachman • Camp Hope:Appleton • Carl Traeger Elementary • Carl Traeger Middle School • Cather Elementary School:Omaha • Catlin Elementary Arts Magnet Center • Centennial Middle School: Snohomish, WA • Central High School:Omaha • Chapman Hill Elementary:Salem • Chemeketa Community College • Children's Museum of Green Bay • Cody-Kilgore Elementary School • Cody-Kilgore High School • Collegiate Music Educators National Conference • Cub Scouts Pack #3091 • Cub Scout Pack #3607 • Cub Scouts Pack #4034 • Culler Middle School • Culture Shock:Salem • Cutcomb Lake School • De Pere High School • Dickinson Elementary after-school YMCA • Doane College: Arts Are Basic • Eagle Bluff Elementary • Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley • Emmeline Cook Elementary • Englewood Elementary:Salem • Evans Elementary • Farm Credit Services of America • Fontenelle Elementary:Omaha • Foster Elementary • Four Corners Elementary • Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra • Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • Fox Valley Youth Symphony • Franklin Elementary • Free Beat Nation Drum Camp • Friendship Learning Center • Future Neenah, Inc. • Gateway Elementary School • Gervais Elementary • Gibraltar School • Girl Scouts at Hillcrest Elementary • Girl Scouts:Omaha • Goose Creek School • Great Expectations School • Green Bay Downtown YMCA • Green Meadow Elementary • Haines Junction Public Library • Haines School • Harritt Elementary:Salem • H. B. Patch Elementary • Heid Music: Green Bay • Hemlock Elementary after-school YMCA • Heritage Elementary • Heritage Elementary after-school YMCA • Hickory Hill Elementary:Papillion, NE • Highland Elementary:Salem • Holy Angels School • Holy Family School • Holy Name School: Omaha • Holy Cross School • Hope Academy:Omaha • Independence Elementary • Ironwood Area Business & Professional Women's Club • Jackson Elementary:Omaha • Jack Young Middle School • Jacob Shapiro Elementary • Jefferson Elementary • Jewish Academy:Omaha • Kampala International School Uganda • Kopecky Montessori Elementary:Omaha • Lakeside Elementary • Lakeview Elementary • Lebanon Public Library • Liberty Elementary:Omaha • Lincoln Elementary:Appleton • Lincoln Elementary:Oshkosh • L.L. Wright Middle & Senior High School • Lombardi Middle School • Lourdes High School • Lyle Elementary:Dallas • Marian College • Mari-Linn School • Marion County Fair • McKinley Elementary School • McMinnville Adventist Christian School • Merrill High School • Merrill Middle School • Millard North Middle School:Omaha • Montclair Elementary:Omaha • Montessori Adventure School • Morton Magnet Middle School • Mountain View Middle School • Neenah Joint School District • Neihardt Elementary:Omaha • Neville Public Museum • Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility • Oakdale Heights Elementary:Dallas • Oaklawn Elementary • Omaha Children's Museum • Omaha North High School • Omaha Performing Arts • Omaha Youth Symphony • Omro Elementary • Oregon Music Educators Association • Oregon State Hospital • Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce • Oshkosh North High School • Oshkosh Public Library • Oshkosh West High School • Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School • Outagamie County Pre-Action Network • Papillion LaVista High School • Peace Lutheran Church:Oshkosh • Perry Tipler Middle School • PHAME • Pioneer Elementary after-school YMCA • Plattsburgh High School • Pony Lake School • Prairie River Middle School • Project S.O.A.R. • Propel • Pulaski High School • Reiki River Studio • Resurrection Catholic School • Ripon High School • Riverfront Wellness Center • Rivermeadow Retreat Center • Rock County High School • Rock Creek Elementary • Rose Community School • Rosenow Elementary • Rohwer Elementary:Omaha • Salem Area Chamber of Commerce • Salem Arts Association • Salem Montessori School • Salem Outreach Shelter • Saratoga Elementary:Omaha • Seattle World Rhythm Festival • Seton Middle School • Sheridan High School • Skinner Magnet Elementary School • Sleight Elementary School • Smith Elementary • South Park Middle School • South Salem High School • Southern Oaks Girls School • St. Bernard Catholic School • St. John Neumann Middle School • St. John the Baptist School • St. John's Catholic School:Oshkosh • St. Joseph Catholic School:Salem • St. Joseph School:Fort Atkinson • St. Mary Catholic Church:Omro • St. Mary's Church Youth Ministry:Hurley • St. Mary's Elementary:David City, NE • St. Mary's School:Bellevue, NE • St. Matthew Catholic School • St. Sebastian Catholic School • Standing Rock Elementary School • Standing Rock Middle School • Sue Buel Elementary • Swegle Elementary:Salem • The ARC:Oshkosh • Unitech • United By Music: North America • University of Wisconsin: Fox Valley • University of Wisconsin: Oshkosh • University of Wisconsin: Whitewater • Valentine Elementary School • Wascher Elementary • Webster Stanley Elementary • Weidner Center for the Performing Arts • West De Pere Middle School • West Green Bay High School • Westside Middle School:Omaha • West Side YMCA (Green Bay, WI) • Westwood Elementary after-school YMCA • Whiteaker Middle School • Whitworth Elementary:Dallas • Willamette University • Winnebago Mental Health Institute • Winneconne High School • Winneconne Middle School • Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired • Wisconsin Resource Center • Wisconsin Women's Bowling Association • Wood Lake School • Woodland Elementary:Appleton • Woodland Intermediate School:Appleton • Xavier High School • Yankee Hill Program:Lincoln, NE

TEACHER FEEDBACK

"I am writing this in great praise of the musical talents of Mark Powers. Four years ago my elementary students came to art class and could not stop talking about the 'awesome' musician they had a chance to work with in a music residency. I went down and sat in on one session and I was amazed. Mark is an outstanding teacher and person. He is not only one of the kindest people I have ever known; he is also one of the most talented. He has the rare ability to bring people of all ages together musically. It is very difficult to describe but I have, since meeting Mark, asked him to come to college level classes, gifted and talented enrichment classes and back to our school on a rotating basis and the results are always the same. Mark begins by erasing all fears and inhibitions as groups begin to play together. At first there is fear and then there is a tendency to focus inward and then Mark redirects that focus to the group and everyone joins sounds to produce a powerful composition as well as a powerful life experience. In all evaluations, his time with the students is a highlight of their class work! The students say over and over that the visualization was the best part of the whole class!!! I have participated in over 10 artist-in-residencies and am a huge advocate of the experience. Mark is one of the best artist-in-residence artists I have ever had the pleasure to work with and I strongly recommend him for any program you are planning. When Mark is in your building prepare to hear things like "this was the coolest thing I ever did" and "wow, I didn't even know I could play an instrument." He is a model of life-long learning and brings his travels and knowledge to his residencies. I can't wait until Mark comes back to our school and neither can the children!"

- Teresa M.

"Mark's demonstration is a perfect example of how music can impact so many aspects of a person's life . . . learning to play the drums was visual, auditory and kinesthetic . . . he is bringing an experience to many and most of who will never have an opportunity to travel to Africa or even experience another culture. Hopefully he will spark an interest in young people to dream of traveling in their future. Mark covered all of the concepts of music during his demonstration as well. I believe that Mark is an inspiration to others!"

- Kathy C.

"Having Mark Powers here was awesome! He had first hand experience and knowledge of such a unique culture. I think the first thought is to have Mark to come to celebrate Black History Month and have the students experience not only this music, but also much more. Having his class has gotten me excited about music again . . . I am so excited!"

- Margaret H.

"WOW-FUN!!! I cannot think of one kid who would not enjoy Mark Powers' presentation. I do a unit on Africa (geography based - customs - a few other facts) but this drum presentation gives the personal experience effect. The video, instrument playing, personal reflections and African custom facts were engaging. AWESOME afternoon."

- Amber H.

"Mark was a great speaker and presenter! I enjoyed the video and pictures as well . . . he had a great understanding of the instruments and how to play them. The sound of the music and the dance was interesting as well."

- Julie W.

"You were a hit last Thursday!!! It was great having you at Marian College. If we give this workshop again next summer, I will definitely be contacting you to be a part of it. Thanks again for your wonderful presentation!"

- Valarie M.

MORE TEACHER FEEDBACK

"Watching the video and hearing Mark speak about Ghana was very enriching. Introducing music of different cultures is important when it can help open doors to greater respect for all people. The complex rhythms were fascinating and challenging. Thank you for arranging this experience."

- Claire K.

"WOW! I think my heartbeat has changed to 'Gun-Godo-Godo'! How mesmerizing and hypnotizing the drums and beat are. The drums and his knowledge are unique and powerful. This was an energizing time."

- Mary B.

"What an absolutely wonderful experience. I love the way he organized his presentation- talking about the culture more as he explained each drum. It gave us many ideas to brainstorm and research in the classroom - the relationship between man, the drum itself and earth/spiritual life. I also appreciated the discussion about Mark as a student and how he had to conceptualize what he had learned with both sides of his brain. It made me think about my awareness level and how important it is to teach with variation to reach every student. He was great."

- Coleen W.

"I really enjoyed hearing about how music is woven into the culture in Ghana. Mark's demonstration and discussion helped me to reflect on my own teaching information that I use when teaching different cultures. I will always remember to ask the question: 'What was the purpose of that piece of music?' This is a fully interdisciplinary program."

- Lisa H.

"What a great performance. We have had a dance/drumming troop come in the past but I enjoyed how he shared his experiences in Ghana along with the instruments and their music."

- Timi E.

"I loved the way he engaged our whole bodies and mind. He taught so much about Ghana and its music in a very non-threatening way . . . gives children the exposure to different types of music, cultures, clothes, language, etc. Mark was able to bring a taste of Ghana to FdL. The opportunity to hear the drums and touch them excited and engaged . . . his personal stories brought it all to life!"

- Lisa B.

"Mark reinforced the importance of not an isolated experience, but an immersion into a topic, by bringing artifacts, video, experience, knowledge and music and talent."

- Terri H.

"WOW! This was the coolest experience. I wish I had more time to listen to him and his stories longer. What a great presenter . . . children find his lessons just completely amazing. He can make learning fun . . . a great way to get kids excited about learning, music and alternative musical non-traditional drumming (other countries and junk drumming). HOW COOL!!"

- Katie H.

"What a wonderful presentation! The video gave us a true taste of life in Ghana. The material and amount of time in the video is appropriate for kindergarten. The presentation of names and different uses of the drums, shaker and bells is great entertainment for K students as well as exposure to another culture. I feel his interest and dedication to learning about another culture is contagious. Great choice."

- Sara M.

TO BE SUPPLIED BY SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

For **TrashBamBOOM!**, the school/organization must provide:

- adequate stage area for the instruments and presenter
- chairs (preferably without armrests) and sufficient room for all participants
- a teacher or aide throughout each session, for classroom management

... AND may be required to supply:

- one (1) 5-gallon plastic bucket (no lid) per participant
- additional "instruments," including garbage cans, soda can shakers and similar
- costs to ship drumsticks to/from the location of program(s)

(some art-related materials may need to be supplied by the school, depending on program content)

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For **The Sights & Sounds of Ghana**, the school/organization must provide:

- adequate stage area for the instruments and presenter
- floor-space or chairs for attendees
- six (6) additional chairs (without armrests) or short stools, for stage area
- video equipment (DVD player [or laptop], projector, screen & all necessary cables)
- a teacher or aide throughout each session, for classroom management

... AND may be required to supply:

- costs to ship traditional drums to/from the location of program(s)

OR:

- costs to rent drums locally, if available

(some art-related materials may need to be supplied by the school, depending on program content)

The Sights & Sounds of Ghana and **TrashBamBOOM!** (formerly “Junk Jam”) programs can be tailored to fit any age/grade level and participants do not need any previous percussion or music experience. The programs length and content can be customized to fit your class schedule, as well as particular needs and/or interests. Please inquire if you have any special requests!

PROGRAMMING OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- general assembly (single presentation)
[The Sights & Sounds of Ghana ~ 45–60 min. / TrashBamBOOM! ~ 30–45 min.]
 - half-day of smaller in-class workshops (approximately 8–11am or 12–3pm)
 - full-day of in-class workshops (approximately 8am–3pm)
 - 5- to 10-day residency (one or two full school weeks of in-class workshops)
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Email or call for a complete breakdown of program costs.

** Not included in the program rates, some programs may require airfare or other travel, car rental, lodging and/or other expenses. These must be provided or paid for by the school/organization.

BOOKING/CONTACT

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