

## Approaches to African Drumming in the Classroom

Presented by Andy Jones – DjembeDirect.com

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### Three Broad Approaches to Teaching African Drumming

The Three Approaches	Accessibility	Instrument Selection	Multi-Cultural Ed. Potential	Source of Content	Resources & Authors	Books/DVDs (Available at DjembeDirect.com for 15% off)
<b>Drum Circle/ Percussion Playground</b>	Low prep, no playing experience required, all ages	Anything Goes	Value of community, but nothing African	Non-African; educators; therapists	Kalani, Arthur Hull; Dave Holland; Mark Burrows; Facilitator Workshops	Together in Rhythm; Drumagination; Drum Circle Spirit; The Art and Heart of Drum Circles; Body Electric
<b>Rhythm Based</b>	Moderate prep and some technique	Most Hand Drums	Generalized, Simplified, or Incomplete	Diasporic; Composed; Modified Traditions	Bill Matthews; Will Schmidt; Calla Isaak; Training Sessions; Alan Dworsky	Conga Joy; African Rhythms and Beats; World Music Drumming; Gentle Djembe; Hip Grooves for Hand Drums
<b>Traditional/ Culturally Specific</b>	Moderate to Advanced technique and study required	Specific Instruments; All parts required	High, in depth	Study abroad, Cultural Representatives, 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation	Mamady Keita/TTM; Bantu Camp; Ryan Camara; Famoudou Konate; Master Classes / Lessons	My Life for the Djembe; Les Rhythms du Mandeng; Remembering How to Drum; Thione Diop – Rhythms of Senegal
<b>Keep students excited and engaged by using elements of all 3 approaches!</b>						
<b>Teaching Tips:</b> Use Listening & Watching Activities; Don't push technique too hard; Call & Response; Incorporate oral tradition						

#### How to Select Instruments

- Which instruments will I need to accomplish my objectives?
- Which instruments will fit the logistical needs (transport, storage) of my program?
- What size of instruments will my students need to play correctly?
- Would I prefer quality African-made instruments or synthetic, manufactured instruments?
- Given the options of body percussion, hand percussion, and drums, how shall I compose my instrument selection?
- What quality level do I need, and how can I get the most “bang for my buck” when purchasing drums?

#### How to Select an Approach

- What is my objective with my students in this program?
- What skill level do I have as a teacher? What skill level do my students have?

- How can I incorporate elements of all three approaches into my program?

#### Help Make a Difference with Africa Heartwood Project.org

Your school or drum group really can get involved by:

- Purchasing and playing on Africa Heartwood Project instruments
- Raising awareness by talking about the Project at your events
- Conducting fundraising activities at your concerts, drum circles, and within the community, for:
  - Clean water projects in rural villages in Ghana
  - Providing vocational training and higher educational opportunities for deaf students in Ghana
  - Sustaining our Refugee Orphan Home for up to 50 children and youth in Liberia and Ghana