

Paws Music Academy

Parent's Guide



Paws Music Academy

Percussion Is A Wondrous Noise!



It makes you want to dance. It makes you feel joy and move your body. Percussion is the fire of every music group. It moves our souls to a higher plane and it is a panacea for dark moods, thoughts and actions.

Let's face it, the complexities of raising our children have been compounded across the world by the many problems brought on by social media and its military grade algorithms that have physically, mentally and emotionally crippled our youth. We live in an information age where we are told everything we want to hear, in a time of social disconnection, algorithms learning what we think, believe, buy, sell, love and hate. And worst of all, we live in a time of emotional stagnation and immaturity.

The world of percussion is an emotional, physical and cultural connection to the inner self. It is based in community through its heritage and its practice. The study and practice of percussion can help heal the wounds created by social media's propensity to create loneliness and disconnection. It gives its students the impetus to forego screens and connect with others through rhythm. It also stimulates melodic, harmonic and emotive health. Studies have shown over and over again, that music ignites the human brain and creates better students. And that the act of drumming, in particular, creates a higher IQ in drummers. Yes, this is true.

Percussion is also like a Trojan horse, except it's used for music and song, instead of war. It usually gets introduced through the social misconception that it is easy to learn. It is not. However, despite its high level of difficulty, it is a great deal of fun to learn and play. This fact has remained one of percussion's greatest assets. Let rhythm engage your child and help them realize the full potential of their remarkable minds.



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Why should you enroll your child in a drumming apprenticeship?

1. To create a sense of cultural awareness and understanding in your child.
2. Its a unique experience in a forward thinking discipline.
3. Playing percussion has the added potential of being a well paying career choice.
4. Playing percussion is considered a life skill, like riding a bike or swimming.
5. It instills confidence in all areas of life.
6. It has the potential to show your child the world.
7. Drumming will increase your child's IQ.
8. It will enhance your child's relationships.
9. It elevates your child's self esteem.
10. It gives your child a truthful world perspective.
11. It centers your child emotionally.
12. It prepares the student for their role in a music intense culture such as ours.
13. It teaches the student that being racist is a choice we make.
14. Latin percussion instills a joyous account of culture and social dynamics.
15. It enhances the student's critical thinking.
16. It easily puts the student in a healthy meditative state of mind.
17. It releases all kinds of stress.
18. It heals self doubt, creating a well rounded person.
19. It enhances the body-mind connection.
20. It widens the doors of perception by releasing endorphins during long practices.
21. Percussion has inspired many of my students that have gone on to study physics, philosophy, cosmology, archeology, ethnomusicology, linguistics, carpentry, music composition, jazz, classical, mathematics and even astrophysics.

The Paws Music Academy is a safe space that is invested in music, culture and education. Some of the students that have attended our humble music academy have gone on to attend: The Juilliard School, MIT, NYU, USC, University of Michigan, Harvard, Yale, Berkley in Boston, UC Berkeley, Princeton, Howard, Brown, UCLA, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Georgetown University, Loyola Marymount University, Oberlin University, and many others.

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The Muze in Music

The etymology of the word music is quite obvious and most people who would take an educated guess would probably guess it correctly. In Greek mythology, the Muses were nine goddesses who symbolized the arts and sciences. Today, a muse is a person who serves as an artist's inspiration. This speaks to the necessity of keeping students inspired and forward thinking.

Fundamentals of Practice Discipline

It is ideal for each student to spend their time practicing by playing each rhythm for 50% of that rhythm's total practice time. 25% of the time should be spent developing the mental domain. The final 25% should be spent trying to play with the "feel" or emotion of each rhythm. It is necessary to spend 50% of all practice time simply playing each rhythm because the body's physical memory is a slow conditioning process. The emotional domain can also be quite elusive to some students. Most students begin to excel in the emotional domain only after they learn the skill sets of the physical and mental domains. This learning formula has worked on hundreds of my students and it requires a good amount of discipline. However, once the student is engaged, their progress actually accelerates.

There are many percussion practice routines that help students retain the vernacular of the rhythm parts, cultural expressions, idioms and genre names. Sometimes in English, sometimes not, this discipline's nomenclature can be daunting. Creating a practice routine chart can be a great help to students that want to plan their practice for the most effective use of their time. This works to keep your child's progress steady with the added benefit of giving them another tool they can use to break down and organize their days. *(Below I have attached a practice routine chart that I made for one of my advanced Latin percussion students.)*

Conclusion

These tools of learning are tools that the students will have at their disposal. This study apparatus can be used for self assessment as well, so the students, or the teacher, can gauge their progress more accurately. It clarifies what the students already know and what they need to study further. And it is a great way to discover what style of learning the students themselves engage in.

Personally speaking, the knowledge of my learning style affected my life deeply and put me on a better footing to learning in any academic setting, as well as, giving me the confidence to become the drummer I had always longed to be.

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Latin Percussion Practice Routines

3 RUMBAS	TIME
Tumbao for Yambú	20m
Segundo for Yambú	20m
Guagua	20m
Tumbao for Guaguancó	20m
Segundo for Guaguancó	20m
Palitos	20m
Tumbao for Colúmbia	20m
Segundo for Colúmbia	20m
Catá	20m
TOTAL TIME	3H

AFRO & 6/8	TIME
Bongo Cencerro - 6/8 Bell	10m
Timbales - Pulse on Cha Cha Bell	10m
Congas - Afro Rhythm / 6/8 Rhythm	10m
TOTAL TIME	30M

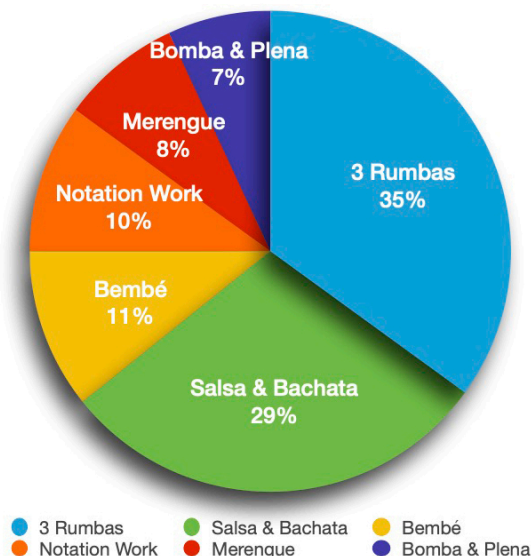
BOMBA & PLENA	TIME
Bongo Cencerro - Bomba Bell	10m
Timbales - Bomba Cha Cha Bell w/Cua	10m
Congas - Bomba Sica	10m
TOTAL TIME	30M

BOLERO & BACHATA	TIME
Bongo - Martillo Bolero	10m
Timbales - Bolero Cascara	10m
Congas - Bolero	10m
TOTAL TIME	30M

MERENGUE	TIME
Merengue on Tambora	10m
A Pampichao on Tambora	10m
A Caballo on Congas	10m
Güíra	10m
TOTAL TIME	40M

MOZAMBIQUE	TIME
Congas - Mozambique Rhythm	10m
Timbales - Mozambique Rhythm	10m
Bongos - Cencerro Mozambique Pattern	10m
TOTAL TIME	30M

Practice Routine Concentration Percentages



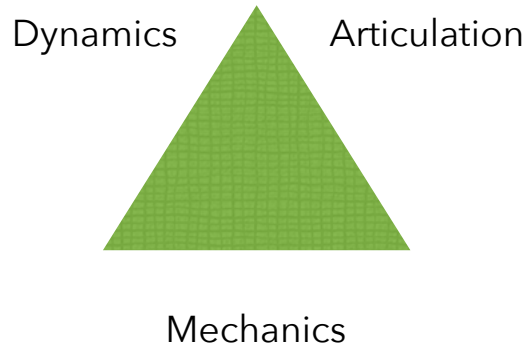
SALSA & CHA CHA CHA	TIME
Timbales Cascara	10m
Timbales Mambo Bell w/clave	10m
Timbales Abanico	10m
Bongos Martillo	10m
Bongos Cencerro	10m
Congas Marcha	10m
Congas Mambo	10m
Maracas	10m
Güíro	10m
TOTAL TIME	1H 30M

BEMBE	TIME
Congas - Bembe Rhythm	20m
Guataca - 6/8 Bell Rhythm	15m
Shekeré - Mula Rhythm	15m
Tumbadora - Solo	20m
TOTAL TIME	1H 10M

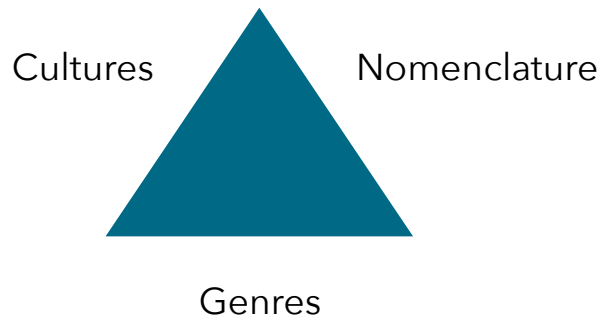
NOTATION WORK	TIME
Time Signatures, Meter & Tempo	15m
Rhythmic Subdivision of the Pulse	15m
Dynamics	15m
Notation Vernacular	15m
TOTAL TIME	1H

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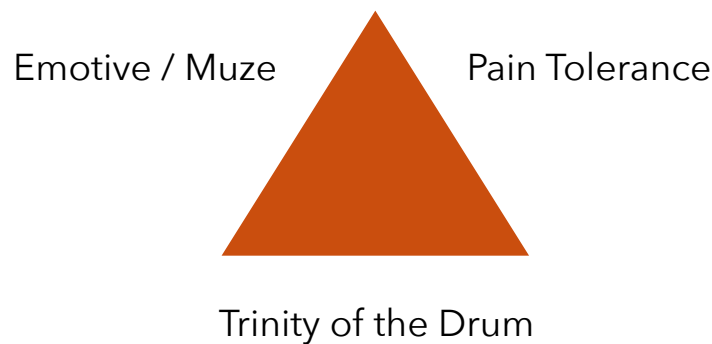
The Physical Domain



The Mental Domain



The Emotional Domain



Paws Music Academy

2023 / 2024 Curriculum

2023 - MAY / JUNE / JULY / AUGUST

University Freshman Program - Saturdays 10a-1p (+ 2 Hours Private Instruction)

YEAR ROUND CLASSES AT PAWS MUSIC ACADEMY

Rhythm Therapy Workshops - Wednesdays 6-7p

Latin Percussion - Saturdays 4-6p

Advanced Latin Percussion - Saturdays 1p-4p

Afro-Caribbean Ensemble (ACE) - Saturdays 6-8p

Recording Studio Program - Thursdays 6-8p

Private Instruction - Latin Percussion & Drums (Day & Time TBA)

Afro-Cuban Batá Drums of Santería

Batá: Oro Seco (Orú Del Igboḁú) - Saturdays 9-11a

Batajón & Cantos - Tues & Thurs 7a-9a

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

After School Music Programs - Ages 10-18

Batá & Cantos - Lecture Demonstration

Shekeré Building - Workshop Meets for 3 hours - (All materials included)

APPRENTICESHIPS are an ongoing, year-round commitment. Depending on the musical instrument being studied, apprenticeships can last for up to 3 years. Our 2023 apprenticeships are now open for auditions on congas, bongos, timbales, batá drums w/cantos, guitar, drums, bass guitar & upright bass, piano, djembes w/dunduns and vocals.