

Baobab Tree Class Descriptions

please see 2008-2009 schedule for days, times, fees and instructors

Kids:

ROOTS CLASSES These age-specific classes (7-10, 8-12 & 11-13yrs ; see schedule) focus on developing creative expression through drumming, chant, body percussion and visual art. Basic hand drumming and stick drumming techniques will be taught through repertoire from Ghana, including children's game songs. Some singing, movement and cultural connections will also be made. Emphasis is given to ensemble playing and developing multi levels of listening and non-verbal communication. Each eight-week session will culminate in a short public open house.

Adults:

ADULT DRUMMING -INTRO for those new to Ghanaian drumming technique, and those who want to come back to refresh their skills. Through the teaching of popular pieces of Ghanaian repertoire, including the use of small Ghanaian percussion instruments and singing, students will learn good sound, healthy technique and develop multi levels of listening. Each season there will be one hand drumming intro class and one stick drumming intro class. Check the schedule for details on pieces and dates offered.

ADULT DRUMMING for those who have taken at least one intro level class in the appropriate style (hand or stick). Each session will focus on a piece of Ghanaian repertoire from different regions of Ghana. Time will also be spent on singing and some body movement/groove. Emphasis will be on developing better technique and building stamina and repertoire knowledge. This class is an opportunity to enjoy the rich variations in the pieces, while participating in a community experience.

ADULT DANCE CLASS is suitable for those with no dance experience as well as those with experience who wish to study particular pieces. Each session will focus on specific piece of repertoire from different regions of West Africa. The classes will be accompanied by live drumming.

ADULT SINGING CLASS **new* this season!* Singing is an important part of Ghanaian drum and dance culture, as well as accompanying daily activities. This six-week session will introduce several songs in their simplicity and complexity as well as develop community singing style. No singing experience necessary!