

PERCUSSION NEWS

The newsletter of the PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2012

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New Rhythm! Programs Draw Visitors

Rhythm! Discovery Center is quickly becoming a destination within the Central Indiana community for music appreciation and education initiatives while fulfilling the PAS mission of promoting percussion education, research, performance, and appreciation. National publications and newspapers recently wrote about the Center and the great offerings for tourists coming to Indianapolis for weekend trips. Two new programs have brought new patrons and excited children to Rhythm! with great results and placed the Center as a leading, standards-based music education facility in Indianapolis.



Find Your Rhythm! Outreach Program

Through a generous grant from the NAMM Foundation and the Arts Council of Indianapolis, Rhythm! Discovery Center and PAS enacted the *Find Your Rhythm! Outreach Program*. Through this initiative, PAS partnered with Indianapolis Public Schools to engage 4,000 elementary students in the school district to raise awareness about rhythm and music and ultimately increase enrollment in music education programs throughout the Indianapolis Public Schools system. Students come to the Center for a free 60-minute guided tour of the interactive museum. During the tour, they learn basic principles of sound production for percussion instruments and how those sounds are manipulated to create music; innovations within the percussion world; and the role of percussion in radio, film, and television throughout the 20th Century and beyond. The experience culminates in a facilitated drum circle where concepts discussed during the tour are reinforced through a group performance on drums and other percussion instruments.

In addition to the guided tour, the program enrolls each student into the *2012 Rhythm! Club*. With entrance into the *Rhythm! Club*, students and their families gain free access to the Rhythm! Discovery Center for Saturday programming occurring each weekend. The club allows students to introduce their families to the Center and show what they learned during their guided tour as well as to spend time as a family exploring percussion and participating in family-designed percussion-based programs. The response from students and teachers who have already toured the center through the *Find Your Rhythm! Outreach Program* has been extremely positive.

Rhythm! Saturday Programs

In the Fall of 2011, PAS began offering family-centric Saturday programs at the Rhythm! Discovery Center. The programs offered include drum circles, drum making workshops, performances by Midwest university and secondary school ensembles, "From the Archive" presentations, storytelling, and many other exciting events.

On January 14, PAS joined with the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation to present a special "Rhythm of Indiana Avenue" program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The program included a discussion of the role of Indianapolis during jazz's heyday in the 1940s and '50s and concluded with a performance by Indianapolis Jazz Hall of Fame members, presenting compositions by jazz masters and Indianapolis natives Freddie Hubbard, J.J. Johnson, Wes Montgomery, Dr. David Baker, and many others.

Future programs include the Leon Enneking African Gyl Ensemble, the Indiana State University Steel Drum Band, Dancing Drum, the St. Xavier Jungle Drummers, and the Louisville Leopard Percussionists. Saturday programs will continue through the school year and begin again in the Fall of 2012.

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