

Mediaportal Report

29/04/2008

- ▶ **World musicians make some noise**
City Chronicle, 29/04/08, General News, Page 10
By: None

Clip Ref: **00035992331**
217 words

23/04/2008

- ▶ **Talking drums keep time among the rhythms of life**
Canberra Times, 23/04/08, General News, Page 3
By: Sarina Talip

Clip Ref: **00035682492**
508 words

22/04/2008

- ▶ **WIN Canberra (Canberra)**
WIN News - 22/04/2008 6:58 PM
Jessica Good

More than 120 percussionists have banded together for a five day workshop at the School of Music at the Australian National University.

Interviewees: Gary France, ANU School of Music; Kalani, Los Angeles Percussionist; Yvonne Lam, Student

Duration: 1.30

Summary ID: C00030423079

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Demographics	
Male:	77657
Female:	94363
AB:	97287
GB:	81343
All People:	172037

▶ **ABC 666 Canberra (Canberra)**
Morning - 22/04/2008 10:51 AM
Andrea Close

Close crosses to Ping Lo who is attending a giant percussion workshop at the ANU School of Music. Ping tells of balloon ride.

Interviewees: Ping Lo, online producer

Duration: 7.25

Summary ID: C00030415716

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Demographics

Male:	2300
Female:	3300
AB:	1200
GB:	3800
All People:	5700

18/04/2008

▶ **Drumbeat of the world**
Canberra Times, 18/04/08, Times, Page 6
By: Expertise To Can Ben-a Sally D'souza

Clip Ref: **00035473338**

722 words

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Internationally respected percussionist and head of percussion at the ANU School of Music, Gary France, leads 120 talented drummers from around the world.

World musicians make some noise

ABOUT 120 musicians got into the rhythm in Canberra last week.

The percussionists from all over the world took part in the Australian World Rhythms Festival, a five-day workshop at the Australian National University (ANU).

This culminated in a grand performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay celebrations.

The group was led by internationally respected percussionist and head of percussion at the ANU School of Music Gary France.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for just about anyone who had an interest in drumming," Mr France said.

They explored the music of West Africa, India, Indonesia, Cuba and Brazil, among other

styles. Mr France had approached the Olympic Torch Relay committee a long time ago about the possibility of being involved.

"Linking it with the Olympic Torch Relay, it allowed me the funding to bring in artists from across the world to be part of 2008 World Rhythms Festival," he said.

The line-up of master percussionists included Kalani (USA), Tuza Afutu (Ghana), South Indian/Sundanese specialist Ron Reeves (Australia), Amrih Widodo and Soegito Hardiodikoro (Indonesia), Afro/Cuban specialist Alex Pertout (Chile), Fabian Hevia (Chile), Jim Sharrock (Australia) and Gary France (USA) specialising in world rhythms and new technology.



Talking drums keep time among the rhythms of life

By Sarina Talip

American drummer Kalani jumps in the air and with a wave of his hands, the "drum circle" bursts into a high-tempo explosion of beats, bells and rhythms.

Kalani is one of six international drummers and percussionists who have been teaching at the inaugural five-day workshop for the Australian World Rhythms Festival, which finishes tomorrow.

Run by the Australian National University School of Music, with support from Canberra community arts organisation Music For Everyone and the ACT Government, the festival has attracted more than 120 participants.

Los Angeles-based Kalani, who has played with American singer Barry Manilow and is also on a "couple of Muppets CDs" said leading a drum circle was like conducting.

"It's really spontaneous music conducting. It's done live but of course – like any musician – I've got my repertoire and I can draw from my experiences and my background and decide what's appropriate for this group," he said.

"This is what I would call a festival style – celebrating and coming together to experience unity."

Ghanaian drummer Tuza Afutu, who lives in Sydney, said conducting was instinctive.

"You have to look into people's eyes and feel them. If you close yourself it's really hard for the people to play, but if you open yourself up then they'll get it," he said.

Afutu has been drumming since he was five years old and said the workshop was a chance for him to share his culture.

"In Africa drumming is part of the life, you can't run away from it," he said. "In schools we use the drums to tell the students to go for breaks, celebrations, ceremonies. We don't use bells or alarms, we use drums, but whatever we play the students understand."

ANU head of percussion Gary France said the students used wooden and metal drums and percussion instruments from Brazil, Africa, Indonesia, India and Cuba.

"Drumming is a means of communication. It's [one of the first

things used in building a] diplomatic relation – sending musicians and artists to other countries – and it's the fusion of world music and culture that really helps us understand each other," he said.

Music For Everyone artistic director Vivienne Winther said there was an enormous interest in world music drumming. "It's something that people can get involved in at any stage of their life," she said.

"We've got kids here from 11 years old working side by side with adults, so drumming has a lot of potential for people to feel comfortable to come into it at any time.

"But I think it's also just about the primal element of rhythm and drumming that people actually still react to in the same way as they did thousands of years ago."

Participants from the festival will perform tomorrow at the Olympic torch lighting ceremony at Reconciliation Place, at 6.25am and 7.30am, and again at the free torch farewell concert at Stage 88, Commonwealth Park at 11.40am.



TUB THUMPING: Guest drummer Kalani leads participants in the "drum circle" during the inaugural five-day workshop for the Australian World Rhythms Festival. Picture: KATE LEITH



Drumbeat of the world

Talented percussionists are bringing their expertise to Canberra, **Sally D'Souza** writes

For those of you who may be joining in on the celebrations at Reconciliation Place and Commonwealth Park for the Olympic Torch Relay next Thursday, then forget about performances from Shannon Noll, Brian Cadd and Russell Morris and pay closer attention to the drumming performances programmed for the day. They are part of our very own 2008 Australian World Rhythms Festival held at the ANU School of Music from Sunday, April 20 to Thursday, April 24.

Featuring leading percussionists from around the world, the ANU School of Music, in collaboration with Music for Everyone and the ACT Government, is hosting a five-day world-drumming master workshop on the school grounds to present repertoires performed on Thursday as part of the Journey of Harmony celebrations.

"I was speaking with organisers of the Olympic Torch Relay a long time ago about the possibility of being involved in that, and at the same time, I thought it would be wonderful to have a master school with specialists in several different

areas and [by] linking it with the Olympic Torch Relay, it allowed me the funding to bring in artists from across the world to be part of 2008 World Rhythms Festival," says the Artistic Director of the Australian World Rhythms Festival, Gary France, who is also the Head of Percussion at the ANU School of Music.

"The master workshop is open to participants of all different skill levels, from total beginners through to advanced," says Artistic Director of Music For Everyone, Vivienne Winther. "Even though it's a master class, these teachers are really expert educators who are just as interested in working with participants drumming for the first time and participants who are really advanced students. The advantage of this kind of world drumming is that you can have people making music together at all different levels."

The line-up of master percussionists includes Kalani (USA), Tuza Afutu (Ghana), South Indian/Sundanese specialist Ron Reeves (Australia), Amrih Widodo

and Soegito Hardiodikoro (Indonesia), Afro/Cuban specialist Alex Pertout (Chile), Fabian Hevia (Chile), Jim Sharrock (Australia) and of course, Gary France (USA) specialising in world rhythms and new technology.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for just about anyone who has an interest in drumming," France says. "We have three different subsets of students. We have tertiary students from the ANU World Music Ensemble, we have pre-tertiary students who are involved in the ANU M.U.S.T. program and then the terrific way to open the program is to include the community at large, and

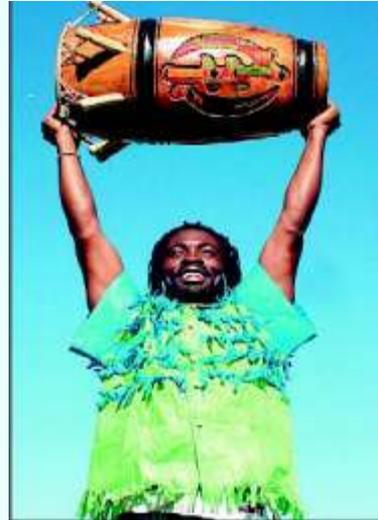


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that's where our strategic alliance with Music For Everyone comes in," France says. "In the community program, we also have opened it up to young people aged 12 to 18 as well as adults, anybody in the community who would like to be involved. So our open enrolment part of our program allows for that [to] have total integration in the community."

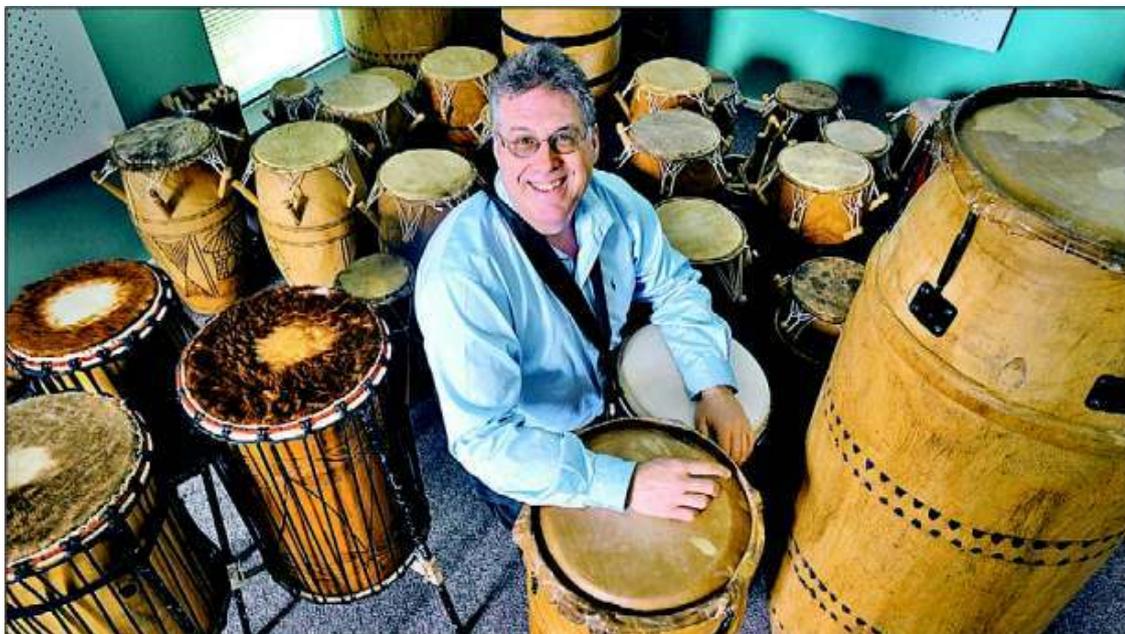
"Gary is actually passionate about making music open to everyone. He's always working with that in mind. Certainly Music For Everyone had an interest in doing something like this, where we can bring together the ANU School of Music, which is an expert in the elite teaching level of music, with Music for Everyone, which is teaching music from a grassroots level we can have a far greater effect by partnering together," Winther says. "It is really important to note that this is the kind of activity that the ANU School of Music with its expert staff can bring to Canberra. Music For Everyone may not have the expert knowledge that staff like Gary France has, or the kind of resources the School of Music has. This workshop and festival is a great example of what the ANU School of Music gives back to the ACT community directly. It's not



about restricting its resources or its expertise to a few elite musicians," Winther says.

Enrolments are still open. For further information and enrolment, visit www.mfe.org.au and go to Special Events to download the workshop enrolment form, or contact Music For Everyone, email info@mfe.org.au or phone 6230 7190.

All torch relay celebration details and the relay route will be available in your Beijing Olympic Torch Relay lift-out in *The Canberra Times* on Monday, April 21 or visit www.events.act.gov.au.



Head of percussion at the School of Music Gary France, above, and right, drummer Tuza Afutu.
Main picture: Richard Briggs