

No beat up - drum and percussion camp will be a massive hit with music students

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Music students, from left, Harrison, 12, Lawrence, 13, and Amber, 15, at the Drum and Percussion Camp 2014. Picture: Tait Schmaal. *Source:* News Limited

DRUMS of all shapes and sizes have beaten a path to Adelaide for an international convention for students, aficionados and virtuosos.

The University of Adelaide is hosting the Drum and Percussion Camp 2014, the first in Australia organised by the international Percussive Arts Society.

Some of the world's big hitting names in marimbas, vibraphones, timpani and plain vanilla drum sets are giving masterclasses for enthusiasts of all ages.

Organiser and associate professor of percussion at the Australian National University's Music School, Gary France, said the camp introduced people to the enormous variety of percussive instruments and sounds..

"Our object is to bring together all aspects of the family of percussion under one roof for a six-day musical convention for people of all ages," he said.

"There are young children having their first experiences of percussion, university music students and their teachers, and the elder statesmen of percussion."

The camp is a golden opportunity for young locals, like Amber Watkins, 13, from Tea Tree Gully, Harrison Leinonen, 12, from Magill and Lawrence Mau, 13, also from Magill.

The three are among more than 100 participants, including 12 from the US and a further eight

from New Zealand.

Harrison said he first started playing to get his anger out.

"But it's fun to play," he adds.

He has been playing in bands and in the Primary Schools Music Ensemble.

"There are a lot more instruments than I thought there were, and I knew of a lot of instruments already," he said.

The students were also learning the names of the rarer instruments like Amber's 'gankogui' from Ghana, Lawrence's 'tar' from Morocco, and Harrison's 'axatse', also from Ghana.

At Elder Hall tomorrow night the music camp's featured public concert will be played by world famous marimba player and composer Nebojsa Zivkovic.