

Laura Rich

New Artist



Mission Statement:

It is my goal to bring the traditional arts of West Africa to students and to instill in them a sense of pride and accomplishment through self achievement and performance. I wish to share with educators ways in which music can serve as a base upon which to build integrated curriculum. Traditional arts serve as vehicles capable of building intercultural understanding. By exposing students to the joy, power and energy generated by West African music my residency connects them to a rich and vibrant history that has spanned generations.

Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

Rogue River, OR

Homestay:

Homestay required for residencies more than 70 miles from Rogue River, OR. Non-smoking preferred.

Traditional West African Drumming

Students will explore the instruments used to create traditional West African music. West African culture will be brought to the classroom through exploration of visual arts, music, dance, singing, foreign language and story-telling. If scheduling allows, the residency will culminate in a student performance. Drums and costumes are provided for each student to use.

Staff & Community Offerings

- 1) Building an Arts based Curriculum (teachers)
- 2) Teaching Language Arts Through Folk Tales (teachers and parents)
- 3) West African Drum Workshop (teachers and parents)
- 4) Comprehensive Teacher Workshop (includes sessions on all of the above (4 hours)

Facilities & Supplies

A self-contained classroom with chairs arranged in a large circle is required. A performance space is also required, if applicable.

Materials Costs

\$1 per student for supplies. Some or all may be donated.

About the Artist...

Laura Rich attended The University of South Carolina Honor's College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna cum Laude. She has spent the past 25 years studying percussion from noted instructors and Master Artists in Africa, Europe and the USA. She lived in the country of Guinea, West Africa where she studied at Ecole de la Musique under the tutelage of world-renowned artist Koungbanan Conde. Ms. Rich has performed and recorded as a vocalist and percussionist in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Nashville. She has taught percussion in schools and colleges and has conducted workshops and lectures throughout the United States. Ms Rich served as Managing Director of Borenya West African Drum and Dance for ten years before joining World Music Productions as Co-Executive Director, an organization that managed Performing Artists from West Africa. She toured internationally with World Music Productions before relocating to Oregon in 2007.

Curriculum Connections

CL CS CT DM GH
MM MC MU PE PG

