



# Djembe Orchestra and Performing Arts Co.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Urban Foli to offer workshop classes for all Father's Day Weekend

Baltimore, Maryland - June 2, 2016 -- *Muze It Outreach* is a program that focuses on both African and American music, cultural heritage, and drum based rhythm to create a unique Djembe drum based curriculum. Through the program, led by Menes Yahudah, students are exposed to musical history, black artistry, and a wide range of educational activities including math, geography, and history. The program focuses on artistic development, leadership training, social activism, and personal responsibility.

The *Muze It Outreach* program focuses on providing students with a positive exposure to African culture and Heritage as well as creating a refuge away from difficult issues at home at school or among their peers. It helps them develop a positive view of world cultures, specifically focusing on the African continent. The teaching team consists of multiple professionally trained artists and musicians who work with children to make a positive impact in their lives and in the community.

Throughout the year, students work to learn a variety of musical patterns, "call and response" songs, and simple to complex rhythms. This allows them to practice fine and gross motor skills as well as hand eye coordination. In addition, students learn to perform individually, as well as the importance of working together in both small and large groups to perform rhythmic pieces. According to Yahudah, "If we start to teach them in a rhythmic way, how to read and how to write, then education becomes fun."

This year Urban Foli drum students will be participating in an end-of-the-year presentation that includes school participants, community classes, and multiple special guests. Participants range in age from two years of age to 50 years old and older. This Festival will be taking place in three separate locations for 2016.

On Friday students of **Barclay elementary school** who took part in the Muze Outreach Program will participate in an end of the year recital for their peers, staff, parents and community. This event will also host a performance by a special guest.

On Saturday June 18th 2016 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **29th Street Community Center** there will be a Children's Dance and Drum Conference. This will include workshops on Hip-Hop Dance, Modern Dance, Voice, African Dance and Drum.



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From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at **Lovely Lane Methodist Church** will be an evening Community Showcase. Performances will include Urban Foli community classes and special guests such as Farafina Kan Jr Company will be on the line up.

On Sunday June 19th 2016 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. there will be an all-day Adult/Teen Dance and Drum Conference at the **Living Well**. This will include workshops on African Dance, ASA!, and Djembe Drum.

Menes Yahudah  
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