



News Release

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MUSIC FOR ALL AND BONGO BOY MUSIC SCHOOL HOST MONTHLY COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Music for All (MFA) and Bongo Boy Music School (<http://www.bongoboymusic.com/>) are launching a monthly community drum circle initiative for downtown business professionals in Indianapolis. This program will allow professionals of all ages to get connected to the arts community, network with one another and gain benefits from actively participating in music making – all on one day a month during a lunch hour.

Music for All plans to offer this opportunity to the public free of charge, and the first drum circle will take place on May 16, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Music for All office, located inside Union Station off of Meridian Street at 39 W. Jackson Place, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46225. This initiative will continue monthly on the third Wednesday of each month until February 2013. MFA will partner with Bongo Boy Music School to provide instruments for participants. Music for All hopes that regular downtown drum circles will provide a unique “win” for Indianapolis while showcasing its status as a home and destination for music and arts community engagement.

MFA Sponsor Remo, Inc. says, “According to Mickey Hart: ‘The Drum Circle is a huge jam session. The ultimate goal is not precise rhythmic articulation or perfection of patterned structure, but the ability to entrain and reach the state of a group mind. It is built on cooperation in the groove, but with little reference to any classic styles. So this is a work in constant progress, a phenomenon of the new rhythm culture emerging here in the West.’”

This community initiative is possible through generous support from Indianapolis-based LDI, Ltd. Music for All, along with 15 other Indianapolis arts and cultural organizations, received a special project grant from LDI, Ltd., who is marking 100 years in business by giving more than \$1.2 million back to Indianapolis through the

LDI 100th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Partnerships Gift Program. Cultural arts projects funded by this gift program, including this community drum circle, will happen throughout the city for an entire year.

“We would like to express our appreciation to LDI, Ltd. for allowing Music for All the opportunity to pursue this unique program,” Eric Martin, Music for All President and CEO, says. “In addition to providing an opportunity to engage in music making, our drum circles will also provide recreational engagement and offer the Indianapolis business community the documented benefits of ‘wellness,’ stress relief, and community connection and support. We’re extremely grateful for the opportunity to partner with Bongo Boy Music School to offer these unique musical experiences to a new audience.”

RSVP to save your spot by emailing development@musicforall.org. For more information, visit <http://www.musicforall.org/connect/community-drum-circle-initiative>, or call the Music for All office at 800.848.2263.

About Music for All

Since 1975, MFA, through its Bands of America and Orchestra America programs, has been a destination and set the standard for scholastic music ensemble performance and student and teacher education. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, MFA uses its national profile programming to model, showcase, recognize and provide individual, teacher and organizational examples of music performance excellence and achievement. MFA’s programs include 20 annual events, including the Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching band; the Music for All Summer Symposium camp for students and teachers; and the Music for All National Festival for concert bands, orchestras and percussion ensembles. Music for All’s programmatic model is designed to mirror and supplement the classroom and performance model adopted in most American scholastic settings. Music for All values and promotes societal recognition of music education and active music making as essential and core parts of every student’s educational development.

Music for All’s efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor, Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Uniform Sponsor, Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Equipment Sponsor, Wenger Corporation; Official Student Travel Partner, Music Travel Consultants; Corporate Sponsor, Remo, Inc.; Strategic Advocacy Partner, NAMM; and Associate Sponsors, Vic Firth, Inc., DANSR, Delivra and SmartMusic®. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis, by the

Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, LDI 100th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Partnerships Gift Program and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

About Bongo Recreational Music Center

Since its inception in 2003, Bongo Boy Music School has always had a vision to encourage recreational music making. One of its goals has always been to give back to the community in ways that celebrate rhythm and music. In July 2006 Bongo Boy Music School started hosting a Free Community Drum Circle. Thanks to the generous corporate sponsorship from Remo, Inc., we were able to provide drums and percussion for every individual in attendance. Over the years the popularity of the Thursday Night Drum Circle increased and finally outgrew its space. In October 2008, Bongo Boy Music School added Suite 900 to its address, and the Recreational Music Center was born.

The Bongo Boy Recreational Music Center is dedicated to providing a safe and fun atmosphere to experience rhythm, music and movement. Welcoming people from all walks of life, all ages, and with or without a musical background, BBRMC provides people with opportunities to make music and share rhythm and creative expression together in a friendly, non-challenging environment. It is a place where all people, regardless of age, culture or gender, can explore rhythm and play music for pure enjoyment. The purpose of our programs and classes centers on fun, connection, discovery and well-being. Most programs do not require practice or training.

About Bongo Boy Music School

Bongo Boy Music School is a private music school located in the Castleton area of Indianapolis. Our goal is to provide the best music instruction in the city of Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Here you will find a safe, professional and creative atmosphere to enhance your musical abilities and establish a solid musical foundation. Our instructors are seasoned live, touring, studio and schooled musicians who have years of experience teaching students of all ages, all styles of music and all levels of ability on most instruments, including voice, recording and songwriting.

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