

## Classes, Workshops, Performance in preservation of Mande culture



Tam Tam Mandingue-Chicago

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Michael J. Taylor, more commonly known simply as 'Taylor', has been teaching, performing, and recording West African percussion since 1994. The **Director of the [TAM TAM MANDINGUE DJEMBE ACADEMY, CHICAGO](#)** school of percussion, a **TAM TAM MANDINGUE CERTIFIED PROFESSOR\*** of djembe (holding a TTM Certificate \*and\* TTM Diploma) and the founder and driving force behind **[HOLY GOAT PERCUSSION](#)**, he teaches, performs, imports, sells and repairs West African drums.

His specialties are the djembe and dunun, but he plays a wide assortment of other drums including bugaraboo, congas, frame drum, bongos, and doumbek.

Taylor has taught in the United States and China studied, and/or performed in Africa, Japan, China and the United States with a number of djembe/dunun luminaries, among them: [Grand Master Mamady Keita](#), [Grand Master Famoudou Konate](#), [Grand Master Drummer Bolokada Conde](#), [Master Madou Dembele](#), [Michael Markus](#), [Master M'Bemba Bangoura](#), [Master Moussa Traore](#), Yaya Kabo, [Master Gbanworo Keita](#), [Master Laurent Camara](#), [Master Abdoul Doumbia](#), Minto Camara, [Arthur Hull](#), Yaya Diallo, and Jahamen Mobley.

In his work with youth, he has seen how drumming and storytelling can enliven and educate on a number of different levels. Qualities like discipline, patience, focus, cultural awareness and determination translate into reward, community, positivity and enlightenment when children drum. 'It is fascinating seeing kids understand what it is to understand on a deeper level than they are accustomed to', states Taylor, 'by this I mean not only understanding and mastering the pieces of the puzzle, the parts, but fitting them together, making one rhythm, one puzzle, where everyone has a role in the whole.'

\*Tam Tam Mandingue Certification and the Tam Tam Mandingue Diploma are degrees in the djembe drum offered exclusively by Grand Master Drummer Mamady Keita, from Guinea, West Africa. These degrees were born as part of the school he established in Brussels, Belgium in 1992, called the Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy. TTMDA currently has 15 branch schools in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle East.

To get a drum program in your school, contact Taylor at 773-909-8633 or [taylor@holygoat.com](mailto:taylor@holygoat.com)

