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Monira Al-Haroun Silk/Staff



Photo and text by Monira Al-Haroun Silk | | Story updated at 12:25 AM on Friday, February 24, 2006

Dr. Arvin Scott remembers being attracted to the sounds of percussion at a very early age.

Growing up in Knoxville, Tenn., Scott felt the universal appeal of a drum's beat, and decided to dedicate his life to helping others through his gift of music. Scott, a full-time faculty member with the University of Georgia's Hugh Hodgson School of Music, teaches multicultural percussion and jazz drumming. Scott also volunteers his time and talents to area schools, like Chase Street Elementary School (pictured here), libraries, art centers and music festivals.

He is the director of the UGA Hand Drum Ensemble and the leader of the Arvin Scott Jazz Ensemble. In 1997, Scott began "Drumming for Success," a local youth program that uses music to inspire children ages 6-17 to achieve success in life.

"Out of being responsible to the blessings I have been given as a musician, this is my way of trying to make a difference in the world," Scott said. The program is free to students, and will be circulated at schools in the Clarke County School District this spring. Scott's kick-off fundraiser for the program, "Beat the Drum," will be held tonight at the Lakeview Center in Dawsonville at 8 p.m. For more information, call 706-216-1022.

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