



photo by Ann Fleming Taft

Dr. Arvin Scott and the "Drumming For Success" Ensemble

In 1996, Dr. Arvin Scott founded "Drumming For Success". It is a community-based youth program that provides a positive, non-intimidating environment that fosters personal and academic achievement, self-esteem, and creativity. Central to the mission of "DFS" is accessibility to all children who wish to participate. For this reason the program provides free classes, instruction, and percussion instruments, and operates from funds generated from volunteer donations, and fundraising activities. Youth participants are between the ages of three and thirteen and come from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds and ability levels. This program is accredited with nurturing for its participants improved grade reports and school attendance records, better attitudes towards school and learning, enhanced self-esteem, improved family relations, better social skills, greater mental concentration and focus, and improved muscle coordination. The program is managed by Dr. Arvin Scott, performer, educator, composer, author, recording artist, producer, and community leader. Dr. Scott has taught, entertained, and inspired music enthusiasts and students throughout the USA and abroad for more than three decades. Dr. Scott was a very active performer in the Northeast and an in-demand drum set instructor at the Berklee College of Music, The Academy of Musical Arts, and the New England Conservatory Outreach Program in Boston before he relocated to Athens where he now teaches African, Afro-Caribbean, and Brazilian hand drumming, percussion for music therapy, and all-around drum set styles, at the University of Georgia School of Music. He has performed with Widespread Panic and has toured extensively with Blue Note jazz Recording Artist and Grammy Award nominee Mose Allison. He is a charter member of the Educational Advisory Board of the Latin Percussion Music Group, and a member of the Vic Firth Education Team. His writings have appeared in major journals such as "Percussive Notes," the official publication of the Percussive Arts Society International, "The Jazz Educator Journal," "Modern Drummer," the "Reading Writing Rhythm Education Newsletter," and the "Vic Firth Education Newsletter." He is a clinician and endorser for Latin Percussion Music Group, Sabian Cymbals, Sonor Percussion and Vic Firth. Because of Dr. Scott's deep commitment to community service and education, he also conducts percussion workshops targeting youths as well as adults in neighborhoods in Athens, Boston, Rome (Georgia), Maine and Tennessee. In February 2000, Dr. Scott's "Drumming for Success" Youth program received the 22nd Annual Athens Human Rights Festival Award.

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