



About Your Instructor

Bill Scheidt picked up an African drum for the first time more than 20 years ago, having studied a variety of Western instruments from age five. Since then, he has traveled to Africa six times, spent more than a year and a half living in rural African villages, and studied percussion at Berklee College of Music. Today he is the Director of Tam Tam Mandingue Winston-Salem, an internationally accredited school of West African percussion founded by Master Drummer Mamady Keita of Guinea, West Africa

Bill is a close personal student of Mamady Keita, and a certified Professor in Mamady's international school of the djembe, Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy (TTMDA). In earning the TTM DA Professor certification, Bill joins a small handful of drummers from around the world who have been commissioned by Mamady Keita to preserve and teach the music, culture, spirit and traditions of the Mandingue djembe. Bill has spent the last two decades traveling throughout the U.S. and to Guinea studying traditional music with his teacher.

Bill was among the first group of students to ever perform on stage with Mamady Keita in the U.S. and in his home village of Balandougou, in Guinea, West Africa. Other teachers Bill has learned from include Famoudou Konate, Bolokada Conde, Mahiri Keita, Daouda Kourouma, Sékou Konaté, Mohammed DaCosta, Fode Camara, Kikala Olaré and Joe Galeota. Bill also studied Afro-Cuban percussion with Ricardo Mendoza and Egguie Castrillo, percussionist for Tito Puente.

Bill regularly travels throughout the US leading workshops, clinics and performances. He has received multiple awards from state and local arts councils, and has been an instructor at institutions such as the North Carolina School of the Arts and Wake Forest University. Bill has recorded and performed with a number of groups playing everything from Latin jazz to traditional West African music to rock-and-roll. He has published percussion-related articles in several local publications, and has also completed the HealthRHYTHMS national facilitators training program.

Under Bill's directorship, TTM Winston-Salem has grown to become a thriving drumming school with classes, performances and events offered almost seven days a week. Each year TTM serves tens of thousands of people with a variety of programs ranging from public school performances and evening classes for adults to corporate drumming programs and drumming instructor training programs. Through his work with the drum, it is Bill's goal to create an experience of drumming that engenders success within the tradition of the instrument and fosters the use of the drum as an everyday tool for joy, health, and community.