



AL-ANDALUSIA TO DIZZY
WITH THE RHYTHM KINGS ENSEMBLE

Napoleon Revels-Bey
THE GOLDEN GLOBAL DRUM SERIES
COMMUNITY & ARTS INTERGRATION PROGRAMS

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A unique opportunity to see a summary of events, introduce and familiarize long life learners of all ages with the music from the America's, tracing its history, and evolution.

The Rhythm Kings Ensemble program will encourage and promote participation as well as the awareness of 21 Century music and dance through past centuries of this rich cultural and historical mixture.



Illustration by J.R. Hagens-Bey



*The Moorish Chief 1878
Painting by Eduard
Charlemont (1848-1906)*

The man is standing in a Moorish palace dressed in the kind of hooded cloak typically worn by Arabs and Moors. A kaffiyeh (headdress) covers his red cap underneath.

THE BEGINNING: AL ANDALUSIA 692-1492

THE MOORISH INFLUENCE

Contributions in the arts, sciences, and technologies

From “The History of the Islamic Empire in Europe,” by S.P. Scott. “At a time when ninety-nine percent of people were wholly illiterate, the city of Cordova had eight hundred public schools, and there was not a village within the limits of the empire where the blessings of education could not be enjoyed by the children of the most indigent peasant. Medicine, Glass, Chemistry, Botany, Physics & Optics, Surgery, Pharmacology, Astronomy, Mathematics, Textiles, Carving, Leatherwork, Ceramics, Architecture, Navigation, Metallurgy, Geography, Engineering, Zoology, Cuisine, Agriculture, Hydraulic Technology, Calligraphy & Games.”

With the downfall of Al Andalusia the Moorish Dynasty in Spain, the need to find new sources of revenue, came by way of the slave trade (1550-1880).



PS 333 Bronx Jazz Dance performance LI Elementary school performance

THE MUSIC NAMED JAZZ

To explore the beauty of the music we must understand it in relation to its cultural history, and evolution, with its major and minor influences. The program will give a brief summary of the creators, and the times. It is a beginning point but not an end to the continuing growth of a living music that includes Dance, Gospel, Blues, Rag Time, Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, Soul, Motown, Fusion to Hip Hop.



This “heroic” scene of Columbus “discovering” America erroneously depicts the event that led to the demise of Taino culture in less than one generation. The Taino were part of the Moorish Empire.

THE SPANISH INQUISITION

Europe would demand conversion to the Roman Catholicism and two main languages, Spanish and Portuguese. Much of the Native culture, which was in place before the arrival of the Spaniards and Christopher Columbus, was suppressed due to forced assimilation, the rest was combined with the Moorish and West African culture, when Europe, its people began arriving in the 16th century. Through this rich cultural

mix, this distinct Moorish or commonly referred to as Afro-Caribbean culture has emerged.



Cuban dancers playing the calabash or bottle gourds known as shekere

The music and dance forms were considered “talking” the percussive sounds seemed to carrying current, as well as timeless messages; message of

history, struggle, and unspeakable joy, and pain. All this was accomplished through the replaying of these traditional Moorish/African/Native rhythms, sung on a “Golden Drum.”



Djembe drummers using the West African rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum that’s played with bare hands.



Painting by Edwin Lord Weeks (circa 1880) Alhambra in Granada, Al Andalusia now known as Spain

SPAIN FORMERLY KNOWN AS AL ANDALUSIA

492-1774

Slavery is believed to have transported and enslaved people of Moorish/African/Native descent. Facts have shown those of Moorish decent had domination and lived in what is now know in the west as North, South and Central America and the Caribbean Islands for many centuries. and were enslaved with in and refered to as Indians.

1779-1865

The nationality of the Moors was taken away, and the names, (although accepted till this day) of negro, black and colored was given by slave holders, forbidden from playing certain instruments, such as the drums and hand percussion (except for areas such as New Orleans Congo Square), those in the Caribbean were liberally allowed to play, which of course were not only for recreation and entertainment, but used as a means of communicating.

What is now known as Latin America the countries of the Western Hemisphere south of the United States, include the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Central and South America is highly influenced in these years by the European colonization and the slave trade and mixture with in the native Moors and West Africans.



Photo: Afro-Cuban drummer Chano Pozo (1915–1948) and jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie (1917–1993) in New York City. At the time, bebop jazz was still new and revolutionary. They only produced a few records before Chano Pozo died.

THE BIRTH OF JAZZ

The music named Jazz was originally a slang terminology dated back to early New Orleans, and used today to describe a music heavenly infused with Improvisation or the inter reactons between its performers.

This timeless music is alive and well considered to be hight of art forms for personal expression, group and individual with its compositional and improvisation shapes, making new forms that are grounded in the past, its current, to shape a future.

Today, some forms of Jazz are considered by most to be the classical music of the America but with its diversity of world music and different genders often invoke other types of “call and response.”

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. Which region was mentioned?

- Moorish Spain West Africa Carribbean Islands
 New Orleans None of these

2. What does the word improvise mean?

3. Why did early musicians improvise?

4. Where do the Rumba, and Cha cha Cha come from?

5. Can you name the musician who spoke only English?

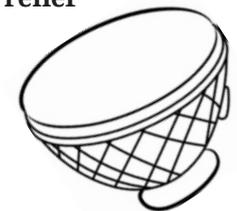
6. Can you name the musician who spoke Spanish?

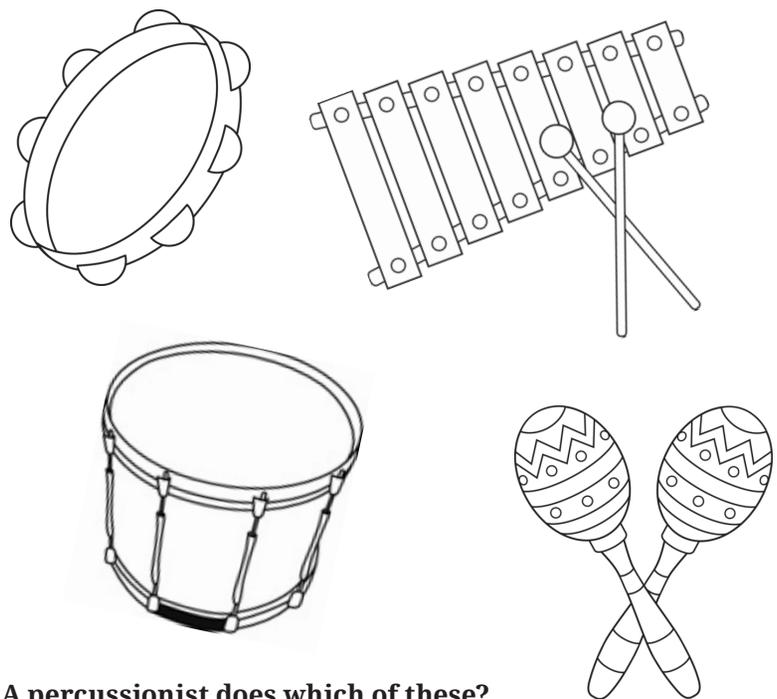
7. Which instruments are still used in performances today?

- Drum Piano Organ Violin Flute Bass
 Vibraphone All of them

8. Did these forms of Dance and music give relief to the enslaved?

- Yes No





9. A percussionist does which of these?

- Strike Blow Pluck Scrape Shake

10. What does Mr. Revels-Bey wear that denotes Greek American, Russian American, or Moorish American?

11. How many notes does the common rhythm pattern (Clave) have?

12. I think this program was:

- Slow Upbeat Dreary



NAPOLEON REVELS-BEY

Drummer-Percussionist, Educator, Composer/Arranger Music, Dance and Theatre Arts

Napoleon Revels-Bey is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, International Association of Jazz Educators Network, and the American Federation of Musicians. He has performed and toured with Gladys Knight, Gregory Hines, Aretha Franklin, and Cab Calloway. He has played in the Broadway productions of Jelly's Last Jam, West Side Story, Bubblin Brown Sugar, Dancin', Ain't Mis'Behavin, and Eubie among others.



Napoleon Revels-Bey with bassist Paul Ramsey



Napoleon (right) with Master Gnaoua Musicians

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Napoleon Revels-Bey teaching

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