

The Sounds and Sights of Africa Workshops

- ◆ Polyrhythmic Hand-drumming workshops with Songs and Chants
- ◆ Drum Circles
- ◆ Traditional African Dance Workshops
- ◆ Storytelling Accompanied by Drumming and Chanting
- ◆ Modeling of Traditional Garments



African Drum and Dance Workshops



- ◆ African Drumming and Dance the Village Way
- ◆ The Journey with the Spirit Drum
- ◆ Togetherness Through the Drum (Polyrhythmic Drumming)
- ◆ Speaking with Your Drum
- ◆ "Amanko" (the Elephant): Songs to Wake the Spirit

The Story Behind the Image Workshops



www.bak2roots.com
 Email: kofinesankofa@gmail.com
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- ◆ Traditional and Modern Mask Making
- ◆ Thrones and Sculptured Chairs
- ◆ Linguist Staff - carved African figures on walking sticks
- ◆ Traditional Pottery - pinched and coiled pots
- ◆ Wood Sculpture - African forms and symbols in wood
- ◆ Festivals (nature)
- ◆ Traditional Adobe Sculpture (indoor and outdoor)
- ◆ Traditional and Decorative Dolls
- ◆ Traditional Game Pieces with instructions on strategies
- ◆ Drum Making Workshops
- ◆ Cruises and Conferences
- ◆ Adinkra Textile Printing

Kofi and Sankofa Drum & Dance

International master drummer,
 dancer, choreographer,
 sculptor and cultural
 educator



Maxwell Kofi Donkor considers the preservation of the indigenous Ghanaian art and culture his mission. He brings the Ghanaian history and it's way of life around the world.

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Maxwell Kofi Donkor



Maxwell Kofi Donkor is an international, award-winning sculptor, master drummer and teacher.

Kofi has been drumming and performing for over thirty years. He directs the African Drum and Dance Ensemble Sankofa, which in the Twi language of his native Asante Kingdom in Ghana, West Africa means “going back to the roots”. Sankofa has played with such nationally known drummers as Babatunde Olatunji and his Drums of Passion, Mickey Heart, Sikiru, and Camara. Kofi’s performances generate the community spirit of sharing, oneness, joy and love, where both audience members and performers are involved. His assemblies, lectures, performances, drum circles and traditional African Ananse (spider) stories promote diversity in different cultures, apart from African culture, in schools as well as the community, from conferences to festivals.

“Drumming is the heartbeat of humanity. It balances both positive and negative energies in the individual and ultimately in the community. Drumming heals.”

Maxwell Kofi Donkor

Kofi has been involved in a number of arts in education programs. They include a wide range of residencies from teaching special needs children (in the use of native techniques -pinch and coil, potter’s wheels, kilns and woodworking tools) to elementary, secondary, and university students in the areas of African dance, sculpture, traditional Adinkra textile hand printing, drumming, drum making and storytelling.

Maxwell Kofi Donkor is the recipient of numerous awards for his sculptures and residencies, including 1985 Best Sculpture Award at the Giftex International Trade Fair in Ghana, West Africa, the 1999 Fellowship in Folk and Traditional Arts by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the 1994 “Gift of Time” Award from the American Family Association in Pennsylvania, to mention a few.

Kofi’s programs reflect all aspects of African arts (both performing and visual) which are inseparable in this indigenous society. In fact, he is a living example of his native lifestyle. His lifelong exposure to the music and culture of his village gave him a unique, comprehensive grasp of the traditional African life.



Audiences

- ◆ United Nations world conferences with interactive workshops and concerts
- ◆ Corporate conferences providing teamwork and stress relief through the arts
- ◆ Universities and colleges - workshops/concerts
- ◆ Schools - high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, preschools, kindergartens
- ◆ Art centers, community organizations, libraries
- ◆ Special needs populations, senior citizens, cancer centers, drug and alcohol programs, prisons
- ◆ Spiritual organizations, yoga centers, hospitals (Cancer Centers with friends and families)
- ◆ Festivals, Kwaanza and Black History Month Celebrations, private celebrations

Types of Programs

- ◆ Residencies, assemblies, lectures, workshops
- ◆ Teachers in-service training, consultant
- ◆ Drum circles, assisting with establishment of drum circles
- ◆ Performances, concerts, celebrations, community projects

Benefits

- ◆ Kofi offers diverse educational opportunities that work well with the schools’ multicultural programs
- ◆ Kofi introduces all phases of African Art. His students/ audience work with different arts media which teaches them problem solving.
- ◆ Kofi focuses on identity and literacy crucial to children as they begin to form opinions of who they are and how they perceive themselves.