

6.23.2009

We invited Street Beat to come and perform at our Baldy Mesa Elementary School (K-5), in Phelan California. Upon speaking with Ben Hansen, I was extremely impressed with his professional behavior and sincere positive image. I could immediately sense his true enthusiasm for what he does- which was then conveyed in person, upon Street Beats performance at our school. It is obvious the company loves what they do, and let me just say, they do it extremely well! All of our children, as well as the staff thought this was one of the best assemblies we have ever had and truly enjoyed taking part in the practical part of the assembly. The company's love for music and their power of encouragement to get everyone involved was fantastic! We would love to have Street Beat back for encore performances every year. This is one assembly that was well worth every penny. We loved them!

Teri I. Dzida
PTA President
Baldy Mesa EL School
10376 Baldy Mesa Rd
Phelan, CA
sntnt3@msn.com
(760) 949-3391

March 12, 2007

To whom it may concern,

I first found out about Street Beat from a flyer that was distributed to all of the music teachers in the Los Angeles School District by the District Arts Branch.

It was very easy to book a school assembly performance, and I was disappointed that our school could not afford to do a longer workshop with them as well. Street Beat came to our school on the morning of December 12th, 2006. They were very organized and efficient in being early to set up, and everything was ready to go when the students arrived in the auditorium.

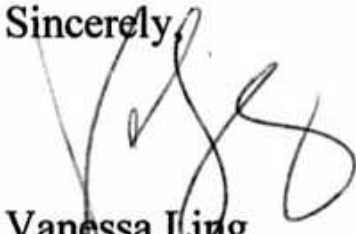
The presentation was received well by all in attendance. I particularly enjoyed how there was a variety of different activities involved including one that required volunteers from the audience. The presentation was definitely well-tailored to the age group/audience. Students, teachers, staff and administrators all raved about how amazing the group was.

Street Beat is skillful and professional in every respect, and they definitely provide unique and high-quality music education experiences to those they come into contact with.

If you would like to ask me any questions about them, I may be reached at 310.917.4800 or via email at VWL0151@lausd.k12.ca.us.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,



Vanessa Ling
Choral Teacher

May 2009

"Street Beat was a giant hit with Washington Elementary School in San Gabriel. All of our students (Kindergarten through fifth grade) attended and loved the show. In fact during the show one student asked, "Can you come back again next year please?" The teachers also asked for this assembly again in the future. The presenters were very kid-friendly and even took the time to interact and talk with some upper grade boys at the end of the show. The show is very appropriate and high energy for children. The two drummers at our performance taught the kids about transforming every day items into musical instruments. They also taught music vocabulary and a specific drum beat called the "paradiddle." Students came back to class and were anxious to drum on everything they could find!"

Lyndsey Rozman
2nd Grade Teacher
Washington Elementary School
300 N San Marino Ave
San Gabriel, CA 91775



March 12, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to give my unqualified recommendation for Ben Hansen and Street Beat. Street Beat presents a program of "found" percussion. Ben's stated purpose for Street Beat is to inspire urban kids to study and play music without having to purchase expensive instruments. His group appeared at our school this winter, and our kids are still playing trashcans!

The program is loudly percussive, and this would be an ideal program for an outdoor space. Not only do they play a wild assortment of buckets, cans, and various surfaces, they present a great deal of information about the discipline of music—the importance of warming up your hands, the importance of discipline, the importance of inspiration and the rewards of performing.

The ultimate message Street Beat brings is this: when every thing becomes percussive, that can carry over into the way you live your life—every thing has possibilities beyond the limits of what the thing normally is. I think that is a great stretch and leap for all kids, even if they don't become professional drummers.

Ben has a natural rapport with kids, and a great deal of cool, so the performance was extremely involving, and our kids were swept up in the presentation. Once the show was over, they were lined up to use the drumsticks themselves, and Ben allowed everyone who wanted a turn to experiment with his set-up and play with him. Since we adjourned directly to recess, we were given the enchanting spectacle of a playground full of kids drumming on things like the trash cans, recycling bins, and any surface they could find that resounded (as I mentioned above).

I would be more than happy to talk to anyone who might want to contact me for more information. This was definitely one of my favorite performances!

Sincerely,

Christina Garcia, Librarian

PS#1

1454 Euclid Street

Santa Monica, California 90404

310.394.1313 x129

christina@psone.org

5.16.2009

Hello,

I am writing to whoever wishes to listen for a moment while I tell about our school's experience with Street Beat.

The music experience was enjoyed by 3rd to 6th grade students. From the moment they entered the room with all the alternative instruments on stage, until they charged out drumming their own bodies as percussion instruments, they were enthralled.

You see the performance and performers spoke to them and how they want to learn and have fun. The teachers had a great time too. We liked the learning that took place about percussion. We liked the respectful way Ben et al handled the crowd, asked them to participate, and asked them to listen.

They were very professional in the arena, very professional in dealing with me as school contact, and other school employees as well. Street Beat was prompt and thorough in all business dealings.

What's left to say?

Well the students "played" percussion the rest of the day. I got a great idea, and we plan to offer the assembly in the coming year, as an incentive for students who meet some academic challenge.

Christine Ladewig/contact teacher

Washington Elementary
Bellflower, CA 90706 USA
chrisrlad@yahoo.com



BETH KROM, Mayor

www.ci.irvine.ca.us

City of Irvine, One Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 19575, Irvine, CA 92623-9575

(949) 724-6233

October 31, 2007

Mr. Ben Hansen
Street Beat
2515 Ocean View Ave 106
Los Angeles CA 90057

Dear Mr. Hansen,

It was my privilege as the Mayor of Irvine to welcome everyone to the sixth annual *Irvine Global Village Festival* on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Once again, this year's Festival was a unique and exciting event designed to promote cultural awareness, understanding, and harmony throughout our diverse and dynamic community. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to experience many different cultures of the world . . . all in one day!

Your organization's participation in the *Irvine Global Village Festival* contributed greatly to the success of the event. Your participation helped expand the scope and quality of the Festival and added a community dimension that was exceptionally valuable. Because of your efforts, thousands of residents were able to delight in many cultures and enjoy the heritage and traditions of their friends and neighbors. The Irvine Global Village Festival could not have been so successful without your participation.

On behalf of the City of Irvine and our entire City Council, I commend and thank you for your participation in the sixth annual *Irvine Global Village Festival*. We look forward to working with you again in the months and years ahead!

Sincerely,

BETH KROM
Mayor

Thank you
for the Band
it was Cool!

John Paul



Street Beat
Rocks

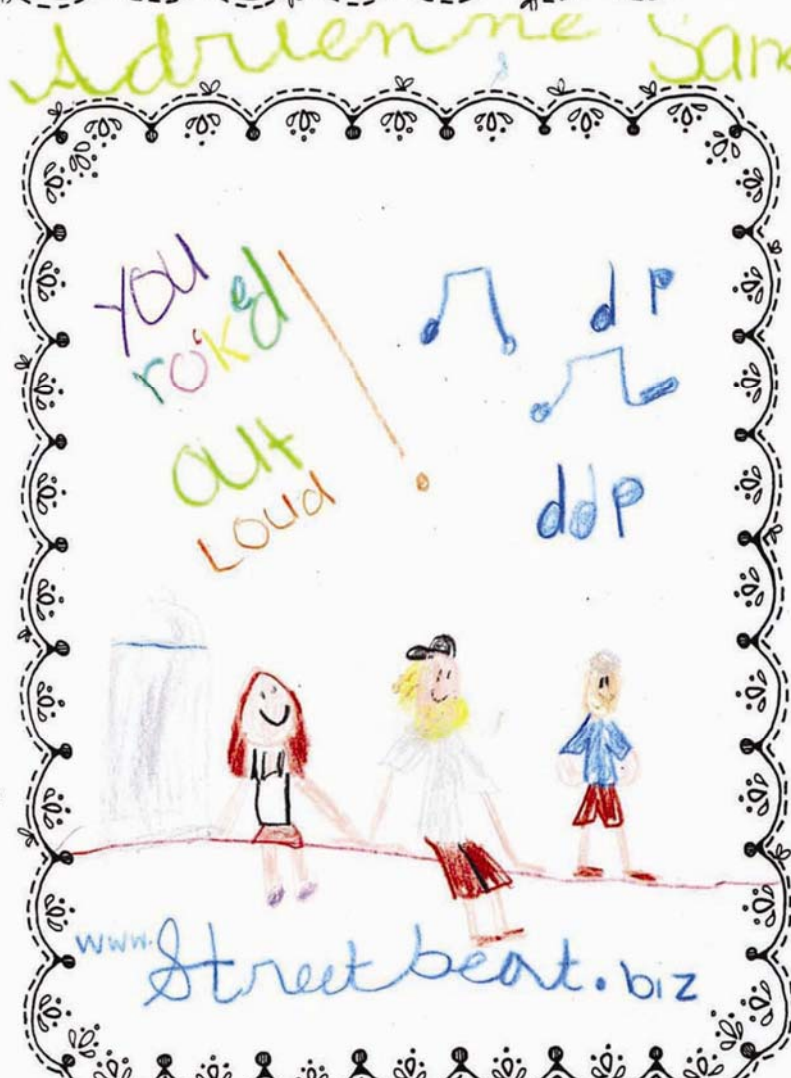
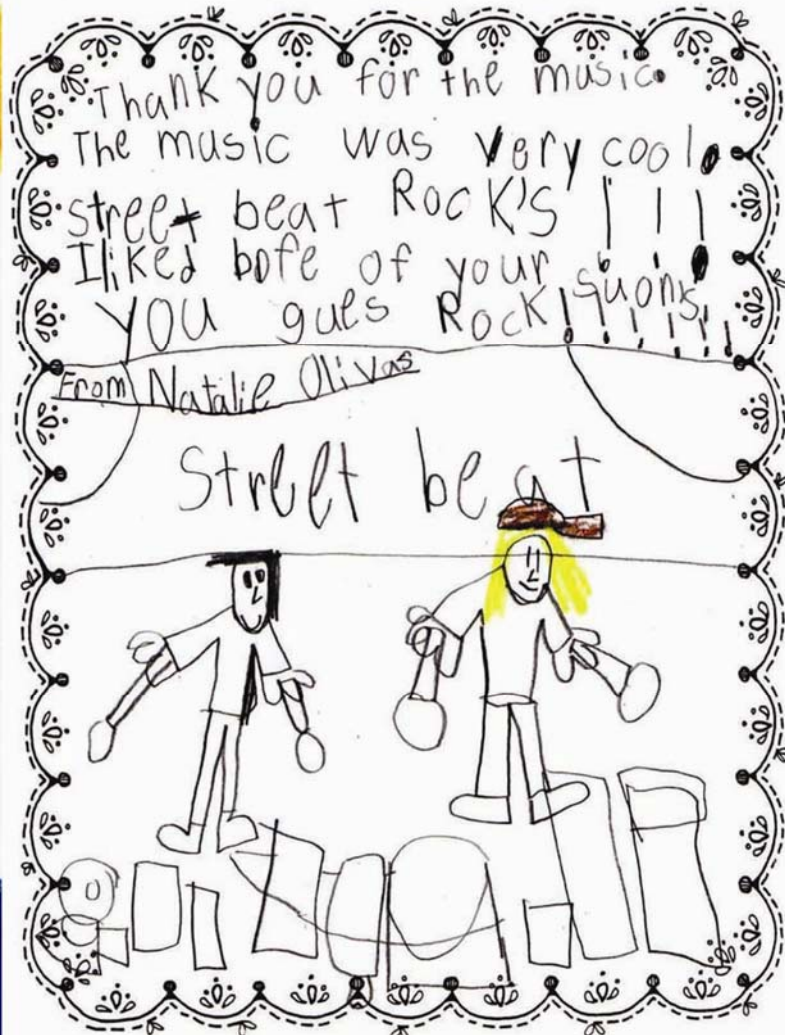
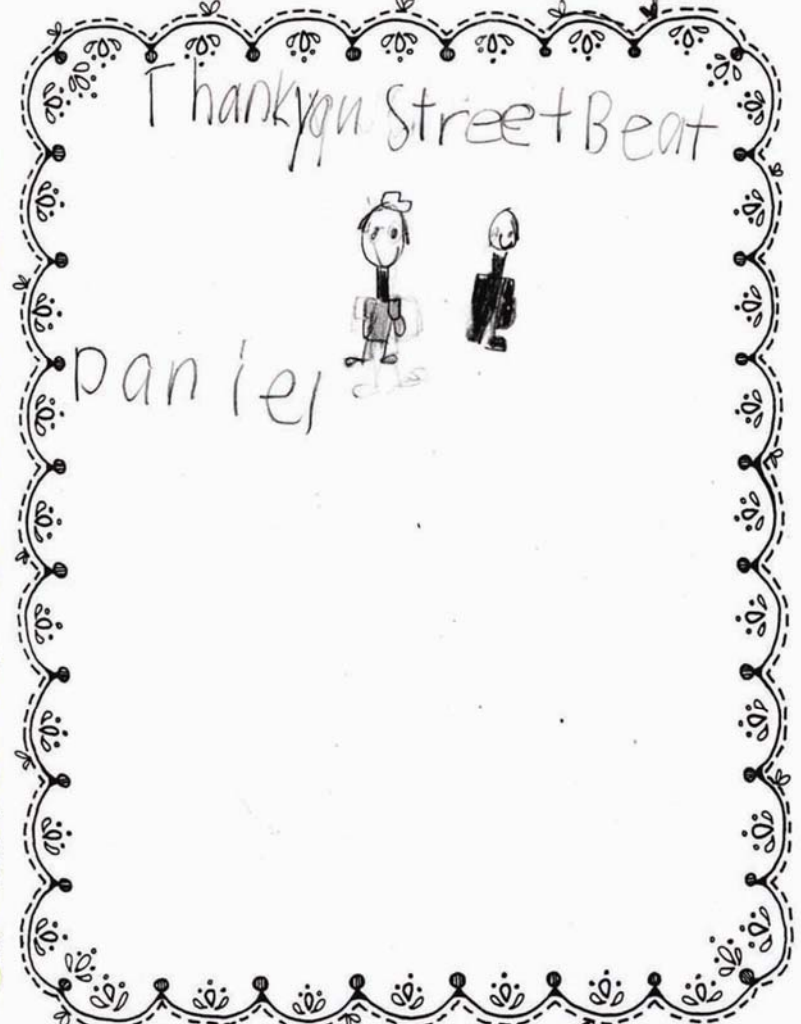
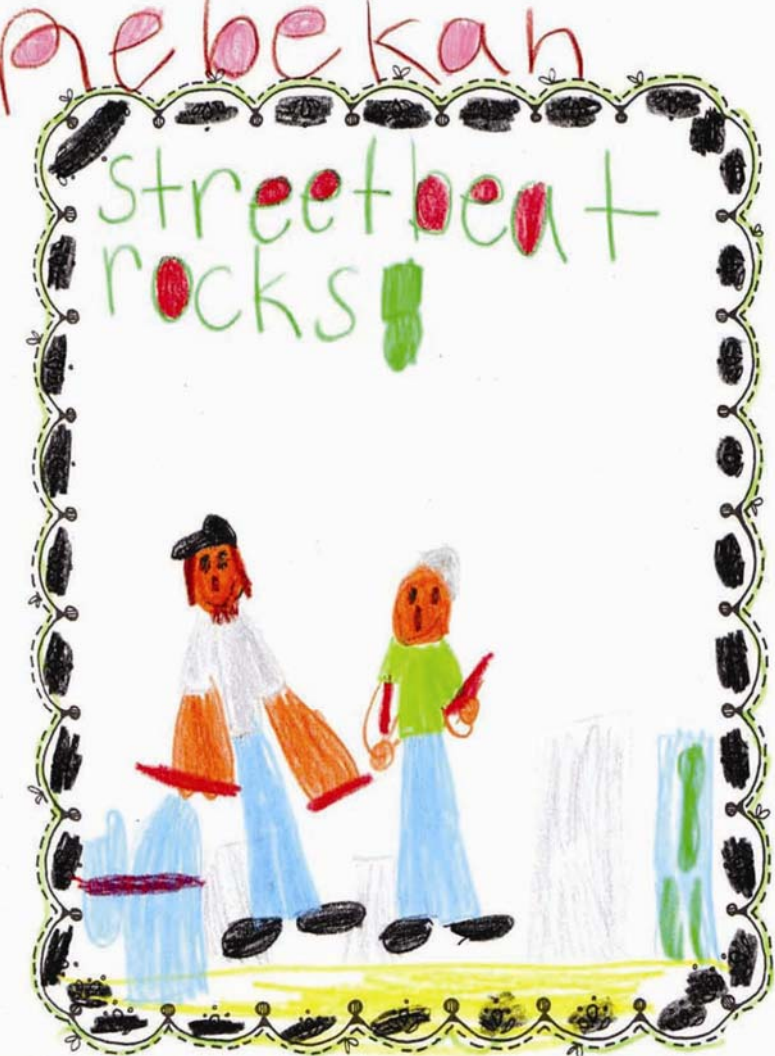


Street Beat
Thank you to
play music for us
by Dexi



Dere streetbeat
that concert rocked
at la fe tra elementary
School you guys
rock the best band i ever
@ Sen. your friend Joey





Hot for Teachers

Attention musicians: Sick of the evening hours? A bump in state funding provides a daytime option

BY LAUREN HORWITZ



Ben Hansen, left, teaches rhythm theory on five-gallon paint buckets.

You wouldn't know it by looking at him, but drummer Ben Hansen is exhausted. Yesterday he played two two-hour sets with his performance group Street Beat, a high-energy *Stomp!*-style act of drummers and dancers bashing beats out of auto parts, water drums, trash cans, paint buckets and pots and pans. Tonight he'll join singer-songwriter Chad Gendason for a few sets at the Santa Monica Bar and Grille.

But Hansen, lithe and wiry in black T-shirt, jeans and boots, just did one of the most dangerous things one can do at 10:30 a.m.: He doled out empty five-gallon paint buckets and pairs of drumsticks to 20 seventh graders and told them to pound away.

The resulting, deafening noise is coming from Hansen's biweekly class in Room 210 at the Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprises, a public-charter, junior high school on the edge of downtown. Luckily, most of the kids depend on the hip-hop beat Hansen has been teaching them for several weeks in preparation for a December 11th performance.

"That sounded like the building was falling down," Hansen marvels after one particularly cataclysmic run-through. Unabashed giggles and attempts to master the one-handed drumstick twirl abound.

Hansen, who has performed with Ozomatli, worked with Anthrax's Neil Turbin and is under contract to producers Matrix Music Works (Avril Lavigne, Liz Phair), is not a parent or a credentialed teacher. He's one of dozens

of professional L.A. musicians working as part-time teaching artists in K-12 public schools — earning extra cash and inspiring kids who never would have had the opportunity in the classroom to pick up a paintbrush or a drumstick.

"I didn't learn my instrument only to teach. I'm a performer, but I wanted to combine it," says Hansen, who teaches drumming, rhythm theory and stage presence in his program S.B. Kidz. "You can take a third-grade class of 30 students. They'll all be given a paint bucket and two pairs of sticks, that's all we work with. And it ends up sounding amazing."

Thanks to a healthy boost in arts-education funding in California's 2008-09 budget, narrowly passed by Governor Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers in August, teacher/artists may be in demand next year as never before.

In an attempt to resuscitate arts programs that had all but vanished from public schools, thanks in part to the national No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the state has allocated \$109 million dollars in grants — a \$4 million increase from last year

— that school districts can use to hire more teachers and implement new music, theater, dance and visual arts classes. The No Child Left Behind Act requires states to test for basic skills in certain grades in order for those states to receive federal funding for schools. (Ironically, the Legislature didn't increase the embarrassing \$5.8 million allocated for arts funding in the budget, underscoring California's reputation as the state that gives the least amount of money to its artists and arts organizations.)

Now with money to spend, school administrators can search and hire myriad working artists in L.A. — everyone from street drummers to L.A. Opera's mezzo-sopranos — through the L.A. County Arts Commission's program, Arts for All, a 10-year initiative to help establish better arts education in all K-12 L.A. County public schools. The Arts for All Web site (www.laartsed.org) features a database of 225 arts programs helmed by teaching artists like Hansen, searchable by art, subject, grade level, program type and cultural origin. All of the programs adhere to the visual and performing arts standards for California Public Schools.

Arts for All's Director of Arts Education and Community Development Ayanna Higgins says the initiative has already made a huge impact since it launched in 2002. "We're providing technical assistance to about 28 districts throughout the county," she says. "When we first began ... there was only one school district, the LAUSD, that had an adopted policy and a long-range plan for arts education."

"In the last 20 or 30 years, local artists have been providing the arts almost solely in many of our schools and many of our districts," adds Arts for All Policy and Planning Manager Sofia Klatzker. "We're in this transition point of districts taking that back and we want our artists to meet the educational needs."

Teaching artists can apply to have their programs approved and included in Arts for All's database. The initiative also offers a 23-week teaching-artist training program Higgins and Klatzker recommend for those without much teaching experience. The enrollment fee is \$100.

Triola Sanneh, who teaches African drumming, dancing and language with her husband Niancho, said Arts for All has gotten them more gigs throughout the county. "Just being a part of it has helped us get more work because people are able to go on their site and see what standards we are matching with

Now with money to spend, school administrators can search and hire myriad working artists in L.A. — everyone from street drummers to L.A. Opera's mezzo-sopranos — through the L.A. County Arts Commission's program Arts for All.

African traditional art." A former site coordinator for after-school programs, Sanneh adds that working as a teaching artist also allows one to teach without slogging through the crippling bureaucracy and paperwork mandatory for credentialed teachers.

Of course, school districts are glad to have more funds, but money has not been the major problem for educators struggling to fit the arts into school days that are already crammed with lessons preparing children for standardized tests.

"In our own local research, time was the number-one impediment. Not money, but time," Higgins says. "But when you have the commitment, you not only find the money, but you find the time within the school day."

Bradley Kresde, executive director of Rock the Classroom, a nonprofit elementary school program listed in Arts for All's database, said he encountered the same problem when he and RHINO Entertainment founder Richard Foss and Chrysalis Records CEO Adlai Wertman began their nonprofit in 2003.

"[We] would go to a school and say, 'Hey, here's a free music program,'" says Kresde. "'We'll bring in the Beatles, bring in Mozart.' They'd say, 'Gee, we'd love to have it, but we can't make time. If we fall behind a week in our literacy curriculum, we could be fired.'"

The answer for Kresde was to create classes that mix music with schools' academic curricula. For example, Rock the Classroom artists will teach a unit on the Blues and its roots in slavery to a class studying the Civil War.

Singer Destani Wolf, who has recorded with the Pharcyde and the 88, performs with Bay Area Afro-Latin-hip-hop group AguaLibra and recently released her debut solo album, teaches fourth and fifth graders at three different schools through Rock the Classroom. She notes that the program allows her to keep a flexible schedule rarely found in other day jobs.

"That's what the program wants, people who are out there doing it, making it happen," she says. "It's not just people who used to be out there performing. I think it comes across with the students because they can feel that they're performing, too."

Fifth-grade teacher Alberto Ramirez says just interacting with Wolf once a week has been a revelation for his 11-year-old students, most of whom are learning English as a second language at Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School in East Hollywood.

"It goes beyond just music," Ramirez says, turning to Wolf. "You don't know this, but the kids have to write biographies of people that we admire. They're writing biographies about you."

"What the kids need to understand is that they can be this," he says motioning to the now teary-eyed singer only 10 or so years older than Ramirez's charges. "This is not just somebody they could never be." ■

 ORANGE COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The Orange County Performing Arts Center is pleased to welcome

STREET BEAT

as a performing artist on The Center's Arts Teach roster.

2007-2008


Nancy Warzer-Brady, Director of Education

THE CENTER'S

Assemblies Workshops Residencies


Jason Siebert, Manager of Community Programs