



September 10, 2015
VSA Vermont uses the magic of the arts to engage the capabilities and enhance the confidence of children and adults with disabilities.

Getting Ready for BOOM VT

Our Third Annual BOOM VT Drum Festival is less than a month away, and we hope you'll be excited about all that's new at BOOM VT this year. Just to spice things up, this year's drum festival will be a bit different. Six professional drummers will be providing mini lessons, demonstrations, and lectures. We'll tell you more about these great drummers and what they will be teaching and sharing with you in the next e-blast newsletter.

This year, Burlington's Fletcher Free Library is hosting BOOM VT on Sunday, October 4th from 1 to 4 PM. The library will be closed for normal business, and you can bet it won't be a quiet day among the books!

Here's a draft schedule for the afternoon of October 4th:

Main Room

1:00-1:10	Welcome
1:10-1:45	Taiko demonstration and lesson with Stuart Paton
1:50-2:20	Lecture, demonstration, and lesson with Jeff Salisbury
2:25-2:45	Adaptive drumming with Peter Kriff
2:45-3:00	Drum Parade
3:00-3:10	Introduction to Drum Circle and VSA Vermont
3:10-3:55	Drum Circle, Solos, Community Drum Jam
3:55-4:00	Door Prize Drawing

Fletcher Room

1:00-2:45	Drum Making and Food/Refreshments
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Pickering Room

1:00-2:45	Remo Comfort Sound Drums & Sound Exploration Art Project
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Community Room

1:10-1:40	Shaker workshop and lesson with Nic Cannizzaro
1:45-2:15	Demonstration and lesson with Dov Schiller
2:20-2:45	Demonstration and lesson with Bruce McKenzie
2:45-3:00	Drum Parade



Looking for Volunteers



We are looking for volunteers for BOOM VT on October 4 at the Fletcher Free Library.

Volunteers are needed to help throughout the day at drum making workshops, with art projects, and during the final community drumming session. In addition, volunteers can help with set-up and clean-up and provide general assistance at the check-in table.

Michael Benoit and his wife volunteered last year at BOOM VT and he had this to say about his experience: "The music was absolutely fantastic all the way through! I'm a big music fan of many genres so listening to all the drums while volunteering made it enjoyable. The other volunteers were fun to work with—really great company. It was a lot of fun to use our skills to be able to help out a worthy cause."

For more information about BOOM VT or to volunteer, please email info@vsavt.org or call Heidi Swevens at 802-238-5170.

Sound-Adapted Drums Acquired by VSA VT

With a grant from the Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation and assistance from Arts & Services for Disabled, Inc., VSA Vermont has been able to purchase sound-adapted drums: four, 22-inch drum tables and two, 30-inch drum tables. These new percussion instruments use Comfort Sound Technology, specifically to aid as a tool for people with sound sensitivities. The drums were developed with input from music therapists, clinicians, and other educators that wanted adapted instruments to further access their students and clients' greater health, therapeutic, learning, and recreational needs.



In early 2015, the drum makers at Remo Inc. released Comfort Sound Technology, a drumhead composite material designed to deliver a unique quality of sound by suppressing high-frequency overtones. These specialty drums have a BIG vibration with a focused, controlled sound that delivers beautiful tone, while remaining accessible for individuals or groups with sound sensitivities.

According to Alyssa Janney, Health Program Development and Marketing Manager for Remo, Inc., "Strong vibration, shortened decay, and focused low frequencies provide a comfortable sound that is not overstimulating, and is described as 'irresistible.'" Janney notes that "There are no wrong notes on these drum tables. Rhythm can be used to orchestrate a better quality of life without requiring mastery of the instrument."

Cognitive studies are suggesting that being able to synchronize to an external beat may correlate not only to improved health, but also to better language and reading skills. Furthermore these drum tables

fits in virtually any music activity for any group for recreation, education, or therapy, and are particularly effective for individuals with autism, Alzheimer's, and dementias.

VSA Vermont will be demonstrating these new drum tables at its October 4th BOOM VT Drum Festival at the Fletcher Free Library. Come try out these drums for yourself and let us know what you think. At VSA Vermont, art beats for all!

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