

Teaching Artist Bio

Mary E Knysh



Mary E Knysh is the founder of *Rhythmic Connections*, (www.rhythmicconnections.com) an innovative company advancing education, health, and creative development through drum circles and music improvisation. Mary presents at conferences throughout the United States, Central Europe, Australia and Asia and works as a teaching artist and professional development specialist offering facilitator trainings, residencies and performances. Over the past twenty-five years, Mary has worked with a wide range of organizations in the field of education, health care and with corporations.

Mary is a cutting edge workshop facilitator and trainer; leadership and communications consultant; professional musician; recording artist and international author. Mary's acclaimed facilitator's guides include *Boom Do Pa*, *Rhythms All Around*, *Innovative Drum Circles: Beyond Beat into Harmony*, and *Drumming and Storytelling DVD*. Mary is a facilitator and instructor for *Music for People* — an international organization that promotes self-expression through music improvisation, an endorsed drum circle facilitator for the *Remo Corporation and Rhythm Band Instruments* and an *Orff Schulwerk* clinician.

In addition, Mary is the chairperson of Music for People's Musicianship and Leadership program in Switzerland, as well as a teaching artist and professional development specialist with three State Art Organizations: the *Pennsylvania Council of the Arts*, *Young Audiences* of New Jersey and the New York State *BOCES*.

Mary's enthusiasm, interactive facilitation style and training techniques have been praised internationally. Mary collaborates with educators (from early childhood to university) in an on-going effort to improve the quality of education for young people. She promotes the development of new and innovative communication, creative problem solving, and leadership strategies and skills within all areas of curriculum. Educators report an increased openness to new ideas; enhanced creative problem solving abilities; greater respect for each other's contributions and a more cooperative, collaborative and joyful atmosphere for learning.



Recent Collaborations

International

- DCFT Organization (Drum Circle Facilitation for Teachers), Tokyo, Japan
- Kientalerhof Center for Learning and Creativity, Kiental, Switzerland
- Musikschule of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany
- Music Together Organization, Bologna, Italy
- ANCOS (Australian Council of Orff Schulwerk), Melbourne, Australia
- Sure Start Organization, Manchester, England

National

- Battery Park City Parks Organization, NY
- Remo Drum Corporation, Los Angeles, CA
- Bowman International School, Los Altos, CA
- Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
- Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
- Young Audiences of New Jersey Organization, Princeton, NJ
- Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY
- Pennsylvania Council of the Arts Organization, Harrisburg, PA

Programs

Customized Programs Including Concepts Such As

- Short and long term artist in residency programs
- Innovative brain based residency designs
- Organizational team building
- Leadership and non-verbal communication training
- Creative problem solving skills which promote innovative and strategic thinking
- Programs to uplift educator and student morale
- Reducing stress which leads to educational success
- Building community within school organizations
- Creating unity while celebrating diversity

Results

- Engaged and energetic educators and students!
- Improved innovative approaches to problem solving
- Enhanced integration of multi-cultural differences
- Effective high functioning communities within organizations
- Increased creativity and strategic thinking
- Development of strong and flexible leadership skills
- Creation of effective non-verbal communication skills

"Mary Knysh is a bright light in the field of music making and movement. Her global experience and musical talent combine for a most unique and powerful residency and training experience. I highly recommend her."

- Christine Stevens, MSW, MT-BC, author, Music Medicine