

Samuel Anderson

Musician – Master Drummer
Wolf Trap Teaching Artist



Sam Anderson is a native of Mobile, Alabama, and began studying drums at the age of 11. He attended Texas Southern University on a music scholarship and graduated with a bachelor of arts and sciences degree in 1973.

Sam moved to Arizona in 1976 after receiving a master of social work degree from the University of Alabama. For more than 20 years, he studied traditional West African drum and dance at Arizona State University with Ghanaian master drummer C. K. Ganyo. Sam is a teaching artist with Arizona Wolf Trap, a national education program for early learning through the arts. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty in sociology at South Mountain Community College.

Sam is the founder/artistic director of Desert Drums and the creator of the MARS© method for rhythm circles. He performs regularly with Keith Johnson's Sankofa, West African Folkloric group, and Dr. Lynne Haesler's Solstice Concert Ensemble and leads drum groups at the Musical Instrument Museum with Frank Thompson's AZ Rhythm Connection.

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