

Music of Africa #2

Week Five, May 11



Hi Mercer Island Musicians! **This week, we continue our study of African music with the song “Fanga Alafia” from West Africa.** This song is a welcome song and travellers would sing it as they entered a new village. “Fanga Alafia” translates to “Hello, welcome” and sometimes “good health” or “peace.”

Sources

Opening Activity: Listen to this performance of [Fanga Alafia](#). Are the drummers both playing the same pattern or different patterns? Are they playing in one spot on the drum or in several spots? Can you hear the different sounds of the drum?

Activities

All Levels: Make a Drum!

- [Click this link](#) to watch Mr. Stevens’ demonstration video for **how to create your own African drum!**
- Select your activity preference below.

Beginner (K-1 Recommended)	Intermediate (2-3 Recommended)	Advanced (4-5 Recommended)
<p>Goal: Experiment with sounds on a drum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Using your home-made drum, find how to make your “bass” and “tone” soundsCreate your own patterns that include a mix of “bass” and “tone.” Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> (Bass - Bass - Tone)<input type="checkbox"/> (Bass - Tone - Tone)<input type="checkbox"/> (Bass - Tone - Bass)Watch this video of a Mercer Island family playing African drums and play along with them!	<p>Goal: Learn a West African rhythm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Use your home-made drum to learn alongside the student in this video, in which a West African musician teaches you how to play an important rhythm called “Fanga.”Try to play the “Fanga” rhythm without the help of the video.Once you feel comfortable with the “Fanga” rhythm, invent your own rhythm pattern using “bass” and “tone” sounds.	<p>Goal: Learn a West African rhythm and improvise.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Use your home-made drum to learn alongside the student in this video, in which a West African musician teaches you how to play an important rhythm called “Fanga.”Try to play the “Fanga” rhythm without the help of the video.Play the “Fanga” rhythm along with the Fanga Alafia video. Once you feel comfortable with the “Fanga” rhythm, play along with your own “bass” and “tone” pattern!

Extensions (Optional Activities)

Extension Game: [Mancala Game](#) (3 min)

Extension Activity: [West African Djembe Drum](#) (4 min)

Just for Fun!: [Gambia](#) (6 min) An inspirational song about the West African country of Gambia (sung in Mandinka)

Websites: Don’t forget to visit your school’s music website for more musical activities!

MISD K-5 Music

Websites:

- [Island Park Elementary](#)
- [Lakeridge Elementary](#)
- [Northwood Elementary](#)
- [West Mercer Elementary](#)

FANGA ALAFIA

