STOP WISHING. START DRUMMING.

INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION WORKSHOPS, DRUM CAMPS, EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

WWW.KOSAMUSIC.COM
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

KoSA Music is dedicated to developing and promoting percussive arts events that specialize in active mutual participation by professionals and students. This goal is met by featuring the best programs taught by some of the finest artists and instructors today. We purposely keep the size of the program small to facilitate personalized learning in a friendly, accessible environment. KoSA strives to connect people through the universally shared language of music because a world immersed in making music is a world at peace.

Aldo Mazza
Founder / Artistic Director
Dr. Jolán Kovács
Founder and Project Coordinator

“Life is too short to be wishing for things that have been proven by many to be achievable” is a wise statement made by self-help author Edmond Mbiaka. While such a notion may seem obvious to some, how many people do you personally know that wake up each day wishing for things that are actually attainable? … if they only would put their wish into action!

At KoSA, we believe that everything is possible – even things that don’t yet exist. It is the imagination that creates the vision and the image of what is possible. Once the imagination has created the image of what we want to achieve, then it is only a matter of investing the time, the energy and the focus to achieve our goals. Naturally, you need to put in the hours to grow, improve and reap the rewards of your hard work. This is true whether you are a farmer, the owner of a vineyard, an aspiring athlete, and this is certainly true for those pursuing their dream as musicians.

As musicians, the inspiration to make music may come early in life, but not everyone is gifted in other things. Often people end up in music because they were naturally gifted or were influenced by someone. For instance, the great jazz composer George Gershwin. In fact, Gershwin spent all his time playing sports outdoors and never even considered taking up an instrument until the day he went to his friend’s violin recital and then everything changed. George Gershwin simply left the recital, told his parents he had taken up an instrument when he was younger, and then never did anything about it. How different the Gershwin story would have been if George had decided to give music a try.

We at KoSA constantly hear people say: “I wish I had taken up a musical instrument” . Having worked countless hours on our craft all our lives, we know the benefits of music and how it changes lives. Through our combined careers, we have taught thousands of students, and through our personal experience in teaching and performing, we know that there is nothing more positive and powerful than music. But how do you convince people that their wish is possible? For over two decades, we have been creating educational programs all over the world, telling people just that. If you wish to be a musician, take a musical instrument and practice for hours every day. If you have the discipline and the dedication, you will succeed.

At KoSA, we believe that everyone can achieve their musical goals if they put in the effort and hard work. Stop wishing and start drumming. KoSA Music is dedicated to developing and promoting percussive arts events that specialize in active mutual participation by professionals and students. The goal is to make music accessible to everyone, and KoSA strives to connect people through the universally shared language of music because a world immersed in making music is a world at peace.
ALDO MAZZA

Founder and Artistic Director of the KoSA International Percussion Workshops, KoSA Music worldwide programs and festivals, and member of the internationally acclaimed percussion ensemble, Répercussion performing over 2,500 concerts around the globe. Founder of the Giardines delRey Jazz Festival, Cuba. Aldo is an internationally recognized drummer-percussionist, recording artist, clinician, composer, producer, author, publisher entrepreneur and educator.

He has recorded over 100 CDs with such artists as Celine Dion, Jon Bon Jovi, Répercussion, Alain Caron, Phil Wilson, Joachim Horsley and Aldo Nova and has performed live with such artists as James Brown, Shirley Bassie, Marvin Hamlisch, David Amram, Chris De Burgh, Claude Bolling, Frank Sinatra Jr., Oliver Jones and major symphony orchestras.

Aldo was house drummer for a national television show Montreal Pop, and has performed on many national television specials in Canada, the United States, and Europe. He has participated in several important film soundtracks including Les Plouffe and The Pines of Emily Carr. He has appeared in numerous film documentaries, radio programs television shows and participated in numerous international classical, contemporary, as well as jazz music festivals.

He is contributing writer to magazines such as Drum!, Canadian Musician and Australia’s Drum-Scene. He has recently authored a best selling book “Cuban Rhythms for Percussion and Drum Set: The Essentials” with Alfred Music.

www.kosamusic.com / www.aldomazza.com

DR. JOLÁN KOVÁCS

Equally a master in classical piano and classical violin, Jolán was a double scholarship recipient at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal where she studied as a young child for nearly ten years. Her piano teachers included Dorothy Morton, Anton Kuerti, Manahem Pressler and Elena Turovsky, and Raymond Dessaint, Denise Lupien, Tom Williams, and Gerard Kantarjian in violin. As an award-winning performer in many provincial and national competitions on both instruments, Jolán discovered that she had a secondary passion for teaching. After completing a performance degree at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, she continued her studies at McGill obtaining a PhD in Music Education Research and has many publications to her name.

With over 30 years of teaching experience, Jolán is an in-demand music educator successfully preparing her students for music careers. She has been teaching at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in the Music Research Department for over two decades. She often serves as an adjudicator in music festivals and music exams. She also teaches skype lessons in the U.K for the past 9 years - an arrangement easy to do as she possesses the envious ability of having absolute pitch.

Since 1996, Jolán is the co-founder and project coordinator, along with her percussionist and drummer husband Aldo Mazza of KoSA Music – an international renown music education events company which hosts workshops and festival world-wide. www.kosamusic.com.
KOSA NYC’s ANNUAL PERCUSSION DAY FIRES UP THE STAGE AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

New York, NY: On November 19, 2016, Lehman College and the Pacheco Jazz Festival (Allan Molnar, director) hosted the KoSA NY annual Percussion Day presenting a variety of masterclasses and clinics by internally renowned artists culminating in an exhilarating jam session performance in the early evening.

The day began with a performance by the Lehman College Jazz Ensemble under the very capable direction of Allan Molnar. Legendary jazz drummer Mike Clark (Herbie Hancock) then gave a clinic using the jazz ensemble performance as a critique vehicle and making suggestions to enhance the performance of the pieces. Following Clark was Brazilian percussionist and KoSA Faculty alumni, Marcus Santos, who was accompanied by the New York based Brazilian percussion ensemble, Fogo Azul NYC bateria directed by Stacy Kovacs. Santos and Fogo Azul performed several Brazilian traditional numbers and gave a hands-on clinic on Brazilian percussion techniques as well as Samba Raggae ensemble rhythms.

Percussionist/drummer, Aldo Mazza continued the electric energy with a special interactive workshop on Southern Italian frame drums. Mazza played and incorporated the rhythms of his native homeland while playing traditional drumset. The participants were also treated to traditional African rhythms which Aldo also expertly demonstrated to the participants. He then incorporated djembe and drumset combinations to perform these rhythms.

The workshops for this very memorable Percussion Day concluded with performances by the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music Percussion Ensemble directed by Penny Smetters-Jacono. The ensemble and participants were treated to a highly interesting review and critique of the performance and ways to improve performance techniques by the highly respected classical percussionists Arnie Lang (former NY Philharmonic) and Jonathan Haas (NYU Percussion professor).

Finally, a special highlight from the event was the surprise award given to KoSA Music (Aldo Mazza and his wife Dr. Jolán Kovács) which was bestowed by Lehman College and the Pacheco Latin Music and Jazz Festival for their over two decade long work, passion and dedication in global percussion education.

The KoSA NY Percussion Day finale concert featured special guests Duo Clavis (Marcello Casagrande and Mateus Gonsales) from Brazil, Marcus Santos, The Fogo Azul NYC Bateria, Aldo Mazza, Allan Molnar, and nanny Assis and other surprise guest artists.

The whole event was streamed live by Bronx Net throughout the day.

KoSA NY was graciously sponsored by Ludwig, Sabian, Evans, ProMark, Istanbul Agop, LP, Innovative Percussion, Gibraltar, Remo, Kickport, Vic Firth, Lang Percussion, Lehman College/The Johnny Pacheco Latin Jazz Festival.
KOSA XXI:
A THUNDERING SUCCESS IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA!

Locri, RC – Italy: To the delight of many European percussionist and drummers, the renowned KoSA International Drum Camp and Music Festival founded by Aldo Mazza and his wife Dr. Jolán Kovács celebrated over two-decades of unparalleled music education seminars in a very different location. The usual majestic green mountains of Vermont, which was home to KoSA for 20 years, was “replaced” this year by the equally picturesque green mountains of Calabria, Italy – with an ocean view to boot! The event took place in the beautiful seaside resort town of Locri, Italy in the Reggio Calabria province, this past July 21-24, 2016.

Attendees came from various countries and continents (North America and Europe) to join in this Italian adventure. All classes and nightly performances were held at the Cinema Vitòria – Sala Rossa in Locri. This year’s outstanding teaching faculty included: Rick Latham (Juice Newton, Edgar Winter), Massimo Cusato (South Italian Tamburello Artist and gracious host of the event), Andrea Piccioni (Bobby McFerrin), Mario DeCiuttis (Mallets/KAT electronic percussion), Alan Molnar (Jazz Vibraphone – Nelly Furtado), Gigi Morello (GM Drum Schools), Aldo Mazza (Repercussion-Artistic Director and Founder of KoSA) and the KoSA Rhythm Section: Gé gé Albanese (piano) with Stefano Napoli (bass) and other guest artists joined this fantastic line-up at the nightly KoSA Music Festival.

With the event being held in Mazza’s birthplace of Italy (Calabria), the general focus of this year’s event was understanding the concepts of Southern Italian rhythms and how these rhythms not only shape the music of today, but are in fact found in many different musical genres such as jazz, funk, and commercial/popular music. This year’s theme: Drum Without Borders was a fitting sentiment for this particular event because despite the language barriers, drummers from the USA, Canada, Belgium, and even Switzerland all grooved to the same beat as their Italian counterparts producing a wonderful fusion of cultures and a true borderless musical community.

The event kicked off with a highly informative session entitled: “The History of the Drumset” presented by the esteemed drummer/percussionist/editor, Alfredo Romeo (Drumset Mag). The jam-packed schedule then included hands-on sessions with the fiery and charismatic drummer Gigi Morello with the assistance of Cristiano Coraggio (GM Drum Schools). A special drumcircle class was scheduled to reach out and include young children from the local community. The drumcircle was facilitated by Massimo Cusato and Andrea Piccioni and it was such a success that these young stars were then featured in the finale concert much to the delight of their parents.

Mario DeCiuttis wowed the attendees with the launch of his unique and clever new instrument – the jamKAT – and he demonstrated his extraordinary percussive skills and great musicality on this one-of-a-kind instrument. Aldo Mazza gave classes in Cuban percussion and drumset as well as hand percussion concepts combined with drumset. In concert, Aldo gave a masterful solo performance with his unique multi-percussion-drumset hybrid with compositions combining African, Cuban, funk and Southern Italian rhythms with drumset. Andrea Piccioni delivered a jaw-dropping performance at the KoSA nightly festival alongside an equally talented musician – Francesco Loccisano who played a not-so-commonly seen instrument in North America – the Chitarra Battente. More musical highlights included Massimo Cusato who rocked out on his southern Italian tamburello accompanied by the warm and contagious beats of Fabio Macagnino (vocals and guitar). Allan Molnar treated the attendees and audience to some wonderful jazz compositions played masterfully on the vibraphone. He performed this music combining it to a visual presentation of scenes from his hometown of New York City – a real musical and visual treat for the mostly Italian audience. As the KoSA Concerts also featured participants alongside the faculty, Allan teamed up with a long-time participant – Cedric de Saint-Rome (Canada) who has literally grown up at the KoSA events (coming every year to KoSA Vermont for the past ten years) and Angelina Mazza (the KoSA founders’ daughter). With Angelina on vocals, Cedric playing the ukulele and Allan on vibes, the audience was touched by their rendition of the classic: Cry Me a River. Finally, the powerhouse of groove – Rick Latham delighted everyone with his funk drumming and astonishing technique. On the last night of the concerts, Rick was visibly moved when he received on stage the KoSA Lifetime Achievement Award for his great contribution in the world of funk drumming, his tireless development of groove and his great passion for education. The event closed on Sunday morning with renown creativity speaker (and drummer!), James Taylor, who educated attendees and our professional faculty artists and guest artists alike on how to succeed for the long-term in the music business. A highly inspiring close to a highly inspiring and unforgettable event for all.

The KoSA World is continuously in expansion with programs not only in the USA, but in Canada, Cuba, China, and Italy. For more information on all things KoSA, visit us at www.kosamusic.com, and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/kosamusic. KoSA Calabria 2016 was graciously sponsored, in part, by: ProMark, Istanbul, Gon Bops, Drumset Magazine, Cooperman, DW, Sabian, Ludwig, Remo, Alfred, Evans, PM Snares, and Cinema Vittoria.
At KoSA, we are dedicated to the power and promise of drumming and percussion. KoSA Drum Parties are how we bring the life-changing experience of group drumming to you. Whether you are hosting a birthday party, having a gathering of friends and family, are responsible for planning an inclusive corporate event, a retreat, a special public event, or are simply after an entertaining experience you and your fellow participants will never forget, we are your facilitor!
For seven years now, KoSA Music has been a proud collaborator with China’s reputable 9 Beats Music Education Schools – a nationwide educational franchise comprising of over 650 schools throughout China which is directed by Mr. Li Hongyu. Back in 2010, Mr. Li (as he is known) contacted KoSA’s director, Aldo Mazza, to discuss his ideas in enlisting the support and help of KoSA in expanding 9-Beat’s own educational system. Having followed KoSA for years, Mr. Li was fascinated with the success of KoSA’s global reputation as a successful educational model and how in only two decades, KoSA has managed to create a recognized corporate brand.

Fast forward now to 2017, 9-Beats and KoSA have been having a strong and fruitful collaboration. Through KoSA, 9-Beats students have been able to register for U.S College Credits – an enviable arrangement for future Chinese students planning to study in North America when registering in their annual summer camp intensives. In fact, KoSA has been instrumental for being a window to the West as well as to help 9-Beats develop their programs.

Plans are underway for a continued collaboration in helping develop 9-Beats Music School’s curriculum. In fact, Aldo Mazza’s new book «Cuban Rhythms for Percussion and Drumset: The Essentials» is officially translated in Chinese and is being introduced to the schools in China.

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KoSA CHINA
**KOSA 23: DRUM CAMP IN MONTREAL WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS!**

KoSa’s Co-Founders and Directors, Aldo Mazza and his musician wife Dr. Jolán Kovács hosted a jam-packed room of eager participants who came from different parts of Canada and the United States to attend this uniquely inspiring and intense event.

The week kicked off with a very informative clinic on drumset techniques by Montreal Jazz musician and Concordia University professor Jim Doxas who was accompanied by bass player Adrian Vedady. Yves Cyphoh shared his expertise in African drumming and gave a highly energetic class to all on African djembe techniques. Tuesday evening, participants had a lively discussion via skype with the multi-talented Joe Bergamini live from his studio in New Jersey. Joe talked about the Sabian Education Network (SEN) and he covered the topic of drumming in Broadway shows. The week continued with the legendary Rumba Regiment of drumset techniques stemming from her own background in the drum corp world. The participants then showcased their own passion for drumming on Friday afternoon. Each evening the classes consisted of playing with the KoSa rhythm section and getting coached on how to improve their performances. All participants had a chance to perform alongside KoSa’s talented rhythm section: Juan Carmona from Cuba on bass and pianist Yoel Diaz.

On the last day, long-time KoSa alumna Faculty member Sergio Bellotti, spoke to participants about the importance of music education and gave a clinic on musical application of the rudiments on the drumset. Sergio was then joined in a round-panel discussion alongside Jim West (founder of Justin Time Records), and Aldo Mazza in a vivid discussion of “Success in the Music Business World.”

On Thursday, the KoSa camp was graced with the presence of Larnell Lewis of the Grammy-award winning group Snarky Puppy. Larnell spoke about his beginnings in music and what it takes to make it in the music world. He was very touched to receive a kindergartened ticket from KoSa to see Snarky Puppy and Larnell at the Montreal Jazz Festival that evening.

The week continued with the incomparable Glen Velez who taught Arabic frame drum techniques and who hypnotized everyone with his interactive vocalization and Central Asian overtone singing. First time KoSa Faculty member, Emmanuelle Caplette also shared her mega talent on Friday morning putting participants through a grueling regime of drumset techniques stemming from her own background in the drum corp world. The participants then showcased their own passion for drumming on Friday afternoon. Each evening the classes consisted of playing with the KoSa rhythm section and getting coached on how to improve their performances. All participants had a chance to perform alongside KoSa’s talented rhythm section: Juan Carmona from Cuba on bass and pianist Yoel Diaz.

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The day and the camp wrapped up with Marquis Guilliana (drummer for the late David Bowie) who was invited for the second time as a member of the KoSa Faculty but who was also a KoSa participant for two years in a row when he was merely 16 and 17 years of age. A fun fact and sheer inspiration for the current 16 year old participants to know!
KoSA CUBA GROUP TRAVEL
CUBA MUSIC PERFORMANCE, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

Planning a trip with your group to Cuba? KoSA has over 20 years of experience in organizing events, festivals and major international workshops in collaboration with Cuba’s cultural entities, the Ministry of Culture and government officials. We have been working as well very closely with many of Cuba’s best known and respected international artists and institutions.

These trips are customized according to your type of group, ages, interests and mission be it musical, educational or cultural including legal travel for USA based groups. KoSA has built a large support infrastructure in Cuba over the years. We have brought many musical instruments and other supplies, which are used in our projects giving us total control of our group activities and itineraries.

Each group is accompanied by our professional team every step of the way. It is a “turn-key” voyage full of unforgettable moments. Your group will have a full time private tour bus as well as on-hand guides and coordinators. Music groups are scheduled to rehearse and have musical coaching with some of Cuba’s finest artists in preparation for concert performance opportunities. Included will be visits to schools, festivals, museums, tourist and historic site tours and close cultural exchanges with peer groups in Cuba.

Cuba is a mecca for music not only in traditional and popular but in jazz, classical and choral. Their educational system is one of the best in the world, as education is not only free but a top priority. The level of music and culture is very impressive and your group will have the experience of a lifetime.

These trips are available any time during the year with the exception of August. All trips include meals, hotel, local transportation, visits, musical coaching and lessons as well as most activities.

Please visit our website to view our KoSA Cuba Travel www.kosamusic.com and contact us at 514-482-5554 or 800-541-8401.

Kosamusic.com
Montreal, March 20, 2019 – The KoSA Music directors – Aldo Mazza and his musician/business partner & wife- Dr. Jolán Kovács – celebrated their 18th edition of a week-long drum and percussion camp, in collaboration with the “Fiesta Del Tambor” (The Rhythm & Dance Festival). KoSA Cuba’s mission is to put a spotlight on the immense talent of Cuban musicians and dancers and to provide an insight on this island’s rich history and fascinating culture. This year’s trip took place March 3–10, 2019 in the historical capital of Havana.

KoSA participants came from all over the U.S, Canada, France and Switzerland and ranged in age from 17 to 78 years young this year. The program offered intensely fulfilling days of hands-on classes, workshops, concerts, lectures, and the exciting nightly performances of the Fiesta Del Tambor Festival. Conga, bongo, timbales, bata, drumset and other instruments were studied as participants were immersed in Cuban rhythms, and seminars on Cuban music (given by the renowned ethnomusicologist Dr. Olavo Alin. All instruments were provided, and participants studied, and played along Cuba’s top international artists such as Amadito Valdes (Buena Vista Social Club), Olivier Valdes (Cuba studios), El Peje (Chucho Valdes), El Panga (Havana top studio musician), Adel Gonzales (Afro Cuban Allstars), Jean Roberto Cristobal & Julio Lopez (Klimax) and Miguelon Rodriguez.

As part of their package, KoSA Cuba participants received a VIP access to the Fiesta del Tambor, a growing national percussion competition with associated clinics and concerts spearheaded by Giraldo Piloto (Klimax) in honor of his late uncle Guillermo Barreto. Special international guest artists joining Aldo Mazza and the Fiesta del Tambor Festival this year were Mark Guiliana (David Bowie) and his award-winning jazz trio - who wowed the Cuban audience with their experimental beat music. A special treat was hearing the talented American musician and film composer, Joachim Horsley (Beethoven in Havana) who was actually a former KoSA Cuba participant several years ago and now a part of the illustrious line-up of the Fiesta Del Tambor festival. Joachim performed many tracks from his latest masterpiece: “Via Havana” CD and he was accompanied by the Havana Symphony Orchestra as well as inviting Aldo Mazza on drums in a special collaboration. Another highlight of the week was hearing the Canadian percussion ensemble -Répercussion (Featuring: Luc Langlois, Robert Lépine, Aldo Mazza and Chantal Simard) who performed a specially commissioned Canadian work with the Havana Symphony – this marked the first time the group performed in Cuba after a long career of performing in nearly every corner of the planet!

The exciting nightly concerts of this year’s Fiesta del Tambor Festival included a SABIAN night which featured many of Cuba’s top SABIAN and Gon Bops endorsees. Other memorable concerts featured well-known artists from Spain (the featured country of this year’s festival) – such as Ketama, a Flamenco-fusion musical group which had the audience on their feet wanting more. Finally, besides the nightly concerts, the Fiesta del Tambor also runs a national drum and percussion competition every year which is open to Cubans and International participants alike. The lucky winners of the competition receive much needed professional instruments such as a drum set, timbales, bongos, congas, and various drum accessories. KoSA Music is proud to be one of the official sponsors of this event and has been bringing these instruments as prizes for the past 18 years to the Cuban people.
Since 1996, KoSA Music has established itself as the world leader in percussion and drum education by offering the highest quality programs taught by the most reputable and recognized artists in their field. KoSA’s unique workshops and camps were first established in the beautiful green mountains of Vermont (USA) but its founders soon realized that there was a genuine need to expand its successful concept in other parts of the world. KoSA Cuba was established in 2002 and it has grown exponentially since its beginnings. KoSA Cuba in fact plays a key role in the music scene in Havana and works closely with the Ministry of Culture. KoSA Cuba also has a close relationship (as both sponsor and collaborator) with Giraldo Piloto – the founder and Director of the Fiesta del Tambor (Havana Rhythm and Dance Festival) which takes place annually at the same time as the KoSA Cuba workshops. KoSA China was another big success with its beginnings in 2010 with a fruitful collaboration with China’s reputable 9 Beats Music Education Schools directed by Mr. Li Hongyu. More rewarding collaborations with like-minded drum & percussion educators in the following years led KoSA to establish weekend workshops both in New York (NYU and Lehman College) and in Miami at the South Florida Center for Percussive Arts founded by Brandon Cruz. In 2016, KoSA proudly brought its program to the breathtaking region of Calabria, Italy. This edition of KoSA showcased the many flavours of southern Italian music and explored the commonalities of our universal language of music. KoSA Canada is our latest exciting project with a summer workshop in Montreal – a city that is often referred to as “the cultural capital of Canada”. Celebrating proudly its 24th edition, KoSA will once again unite drummers from every part of the world to study drums and percussion styles from different cultures. And that in a nutshell is KoSA World – a world immersed in music is a world at peace!
The KoSA Academy is a year-round music school in the heart of the city that provides students of all ages and all levels with the very best instruction by its top-of-the-line faculty. The faculty is comprised of professional instructors and performers who share a true passion to teach. Individual classes are offered on diverse instruments on drumset, all world percussion instruments, (Cuban, Brazilian, African etc), classical percussion, bass, guitar, voice and keyboard. Group classes are offered at the KoSA Academy in Brazilian percussion, African drumming, Cuban percussion, as well as playing in a band. Students of all ages and levels are invited to participate in weekly band class in Rock, Cuban and Jazz ensembles. Academy students get the unparalleled experience in participating in various KoSA activities and events organized throughout the year in the city as well as performing at the end of the year concert. KoSA is also recognized for preparing students for college and university entrance music auditions. KoSA's customized music-intense study programs for foreign students coming from as far as Brazil, Bermuda, and Australia are also in high demand. For more information on the KoSA Academy’s programs in Montréal, please visit www.kosamusic.com 514 482-5554.
CONGA COMPARSA (HAVANA):
THE PERCUSSION SECTION

See p.78 of the book for drum set adaptations and variations of this "conga Comparsa" rhythm.

* from book "Cuban Rhythms for Percussion and Drumset: The Essentials "
by Aldo Mazza
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