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ONE STOP YOUTH CENTER



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Aaron Warren plays the drums for the kids during his class.

AARON WARREN TEACHES WITH EXPERIENCE, JOY

**PHOTOS, STORY
BY DENIS
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Drummer Aaron Warren has performed in the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Grand Avenue, Lake Merritt Amphitheater, San Leandro Marina and other places around the Bay Area since 2016.

In his 23 years of life, his talent on the drums has been felt in concerts, venues, stages and rooms with artists

like Leela James, Rob Woods, Capolow, Sage The Gemini, DMac and Ella Mai, among others, who he has performed with.

And this year, every Monday afternoon, kids in the RPAL youth center have had the chance to learn from Warren during his 4:30 to 5 p.m. beginner class or 5 to 6 p.m. advanced class.

Warren invites drummers from all levels to come and participate in

I am here to inspire, help and teach.

RPAL drum instructor Aaron Warren.

the class.

“We can all learn from each other,” he said.

For him, teaching a class will test him as an instructor and help him develop even further. And for the students, he hopes to be as much

help as he can be.

“I am here to inspire, help and teach,” Warren said.

Warren grew up in Oakland and started drumming at the young age of one.

Through his live performances in the streets, online videos and his other artistic adventures Warren has been known as “Drummer Boy Aaron”.

Current drumming student 15-year-old

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Warren: Professional instruction, talent

CONTINUED

Ja'wione Smith remembers one of the first time he played with Warren.

"He was with Rob Wood and the Curb-side Service practicing in Guitar Center in Emeryville," Smith said.

Smith has grown up playing drums since he was two. As a drumming enthusiast, he had seen the viral videos of Warren playing at Lake Merritt.

He remembers thinking at the time, "It's Aaron, Drummer Boy Aaron. The one that be doing the licks and breaking sticks."

At first he watched them practice, but Warren motioned him over to "hop on the kick," Smith said.

"So I hop on and I'm playing it and then I get off beat."

The instruments stop and Warren goes over to shows Smith a way to grip the stick and flex it. Then they go back to playing.

"He brings the full drum experience," he said.



Drumming student Ja'wione Smith wants music to be a part of the rest of his life. He is learning to play the organ. He eventually want to learn all of the percussion instruments he can.

Because Aaron has been drumming for 22 years and has played with big names he teaches at a professional level.

"He has met alot of people, and those people have gave him tips. He most likely added those tips to how he plays," Smith said.

Through his instruction Warren will pass on his experience to the youth that attend his classes.

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Drumming student Josiah Jones loves to play drums to escape and focus on music. As he gets in his rhythm he is known to play hard. Some, like Ja'wione Smith, say he murders drums.



Aaron Warren practices with a student as the other students watch him during one of his drumming classes.

Warren: "Timing is everything"

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When you enter Warren's class you will see him smiling, something that he does alot.

During his class with beginners, Warren will sit a student at a drum set and teach them one of the most important concepts of drumming - timing.

"Timing is everything," Warren said.

As the students

If you end up playing an instrument, make the best of it.

Drumming student
Josiah Jones



(TOP)
A student practices how to keep a beat during his first time in the drumming class with Aaron Warren.

drums," Josiah Jones said.

He is also a current drumming student at the youth center.

Drumming allows him to let out his anger while teaching him patience and rhythm.

"If you end up playing an instrument, make the best out of it," Jones said.

learned how to keep a four beat bar and a two beat kick during a class in October, he challenged them to think about how they held the sticks.

Warren aimed to solidify the concepts of a good grip, a loose wrist and timing into the minds of the young aspiring drummers.

"You can do alot with

(BOTTOM)
Creative Director Mark Anthony plays the drums with Aaron Warren before a class.

