

Artist Resume and Biographical

Michael A. Nelson – Baba Mike
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<https://myspace.com/workingthespirit>

Background

I am a veteran of the St. Louis music scene and world traveled cultural artist the result of having been shaped by strong family and community musical influences.

I was introduced to music at an early age. Firstly by my father who played trumpet in the Army band while he served as a radio operator in the Pacific Theater during WW II. As a child I took piano lessons from our church pianist and by sixth grade I was introduced to brass instruments in school band having the fortune to be taught by Oliver Lake, who was a founder of the world renowned Black Artist Group or "BAG" and presently one of the most celebrated saxophonist and composers of jazz improvisation in the world. I grew up in a neighborhood surrounded by some St. Louis greatest jazz and blues artist like Albert King, Oliver Sain, Davis Hines, Lester Bowie and Freddie Washington. My aunts and uncles founded the "Freedom singer" during the Civil rights movement and my Aunt Bernice went on to establish "Sweet Honey In the rock" as one the world's most innovative accapello singing groups.

I studied music and played trumpet through high school and attended the University of Columbia through a music scholarship.

Post Education Training and Experience

- Katherine Dunham Performing Arts Training Center (PATC) SIUE.
- Studied trumpet under David Hines Jazz educator and Gary Smith St. Louis Symphony
- Study and apprenticed under Master Drummer MorThiam of Senegal West Africa.
- Studied Afro Cuban music under Filipe Garcia Villimil from Mantanzas Cuba in initiated into sacred drum order of Omo Ana
- Trained In the music of Trinidad while performing with Oswald Moses and his steel band "Cambooley".

Published and recorded work

- Baba Mike and the Unity Art Ensemble” Working the Spirit”
- Mike Nelson “ Just Passing Thru”
- In 2014 my original music was selected for the theGitana production of “Muddy River”

Professional Experience

Teaching Experience

<https://www.facebook.com/baba.mike1/videos/vob.1245762901/10201533813647634/?type=2>

- Adjunct Faculty off-site teaching artist for COCA (Center of Contemporary Arts) 2001 to 2005
- Environmental education arts specialist, The Green Center, 2001-2004.
- Principal Instructor for Urban Rhythms Program, Better Family Life, 2003-2006.
- Music instructor for 21st Century Program in St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant and Rockwood School Districts.
- Founder of "Sworn to the Drum" percussion classes.

I have taught over 13 years locally and nationally and have reach hundreds of students each year. I am known for my creative approach to education. I use the most effective and flexible approaches such as Gardener's MultipleIntelligences, Reggio Emilia, and Project Based Learning (PBL). I have taught in classroom, after school and in community education programs. I am a firm believer in the life long learning model and strive to make learning a fun and creative process.

Performing and Touring Itinerary

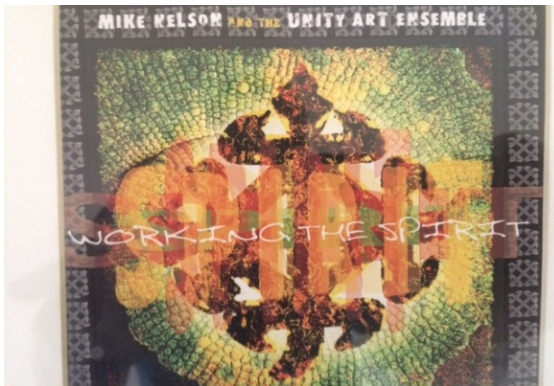
Currently I perform as “Baba Mike” <https://www.facebook.com/baba.mike1>
with :

- STL Free Jazz Collective <https://www.facebook.com/stlfreejazz?ref=hl>
- Grupo Atlantiao <https://www.facebook.com/GRUPO-ATLANTICO-ST-LOUIS-MO-184195797619/>

- *Emikeke-an Afro Cuban folkloric ensemble based in Los Angeles, California*
I am bandleader and founder of :



- *Baba Mike & Rhythms of the Caribbean*



- *Unity Art Ensemble of World Musicians and Dancers*
- I am well known for my work in African and Afro Latin music and especially known for my skill in shell horn performance.

I perform annually at the:

- **African Arts Festival,**

<https://www.facebook.com/BaabaRay/videos/vob.1245762901/222138591139431/?type=2>

-**Festival of Nations,**

https://www.facebook.com/463214620475479/videos/474859142644360/?video_source=pages_finch_main_video

-Chesterfield Folk Fest,

<https://www.facebook.com/baba.mike1/videos/vob.1245762901/10201553260773800/?type=2>

-Gitana Production Amherst Park Peace Fests,



Fair St. Louis and many more local and State festivals.

I have in the past performed with the:

- St. Louis Symphony for Hannibal Petersons “ African Portraits’ ,**
- The China National Orchestra**
- Peru Negro**
- Melba Moore**
- The Last Poets**