

# Buckets of Fun for Everyone

I recently had the opportunity to introduce more than 240 students at Gracedale Public School in Etobicoke to the fun of bucket drumming.

What is bucket drumming? Well, it's an art form that involves making music with a plastic contractor's bucket and a pair of drumsticks. Bucket drummers are found on the streets of cities around the world and were featured in the Broadway musical STOMP. Bucket drumming is also a great way to involve anyone in music.

In fact, the accessibility of bucket drumming is part of what makes it so much fun and easy to try. The cost of a bucket and a pair of sticks is about \$10, no previous musical training is required and anyone can participate in a way that is comfortable for them.

For the school workshops, I had four groups, each with about 60 students. Within 10 minutes, each group was playing simple call-and-response rhythms on their buckets. Soon, the students were playing bucket drumming compositions by ear using the four bucket drumming sounds: center, edge, side, and stick click.

Amidst the sound of 60-plus buckets being played by excited children, something great began to happen. The musical parts that the students had learned moments before started to take shape and fit together to make music. The drumsticks created rhythmic phrases in the hands of the students, most of whom had little or no musical experience and had never held a drumstick before. I knew the students were enjoying themselves when a student asked, "When are you coming back?"

In addition to being easy to try, bucket drumming teaches many important skills including focus, self-discipline, coordination, how to listen, and the concept of working with others toward a common goal, all of which encourages confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

So, regardless of your age and musical experience, grab a bucket and a pair of sticks, and start having "Buckets of Fun!"

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## Submitted by Ed Lettner

*Ed Lettner owns The Music Studio in Etobicoke which has offered music instruction since 1990. He is an honours graduate of the Humber College Institute of Technology music program. Ed offers bucket drumming workshops for schools, businesses, organizations and birthday parties. He will even bring the buckets and drumsticks. For info about the programs at The Music Studio, including bucket drumming, please call 416-234-9268, email [ed@themusicstudio.ca](mailto:ed@themusicstudio.ca) or visit [www.themusicstudio.ca](http://www.themusicstudio.ca)*

