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Local News

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Musician invites others into his drum circle

Bongo Boy Music in Castleton offers variety of instrumental lessons.

By **Gretchen Becker**
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INDIANAPOLIS -- Ed Gaus, owner of Bongo Boy Music School in Castleton, has a passion for teaching music.

Since opening his own facility three years ago after MARS music center closed, Gaus has tripled the number of music lessons offered at the Bash Street site and doubled the space for classes and music making. Instructors provide lessons on drums, guitar, violin, piano, recording software and music production and more.

"I wanted to offer kids and adults the opportunity to be in a music school and take it to the next level if they want . . .," he said. "My passion is to help students find music, find their space."

He's had clients take lessons and then form bands, and this summer Bongo Boy offered a new rock band camp that ended with a performance at Sam Ash. Gaus would like to add more master classes and clinics, too.

"What moves me to teach students is all of a sudden you see that spark in their eyes and they start to take off," he said. "We're basically a road map, and they're driving the car."

New community drum circles started in July, and people of all ages can grab a conga or



Ed Gaus, owner of Bongo Boy Music School, started community drum circles in July. Drummers of all ages can grab a conga or a bongo and play together from 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. -- James.Yee@Topics.com

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Take a lesson

- What: Bongo Boy Music School.
- Where: 8481 Bash St., Suite 1100, Indianapolis.
- Hours: 1:30-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.
- Phone: (317) 595-9065.
- Web site: www.bongoboymusic.com

a bongo and play together from 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. The company also offers corporate drum circles for a team-building experience and rhythm birthday parties for kids.

High quality percussion instruments are provided through a partnership with REMO, Gaus said.

"I have always been in music," he said. "Overall I think it enhances one's ability to soak things up like math and science and builds self-esteem and study skills. Everyone's got some kind of musical passion."

Three of Sandi Tavel's four daughters have taken music lessons from Gaus, and her youngest, Amy, 12, loves to take friends to the drum circles when her busy schedule allows. She also takes percussion lessons.

"It gives them a chance to play different instruments," Tavel said. "There are no parameters on how to play or how loud they can play. It's a good way for kids to get rid of excess energy. I would like to see it grow to happen on other nights."

The drum circles are the perfect place for anyone who has ever daydreamed about playing the drums without having to know anything about it, Tavel said.

"The place is totally dedicated to learning," she said. "Ed really becomes interested in what his students are doing. He's upbeat and funny. I can't say anything bad . . . I would love to see his business grow."

Call staff writer Gretchen Becker at (317) 444-5574.