



School Assemblies

with

Feraba- African Rhythm Tap
Company

School year 2024/25

Curriculum Links:
Music, Dance, Social Studies, Cultural Awareness
Grades: Pre-k to 12



We believe that an arts education is essential to a young person's academic development because it engages students visually, aurally, and physically.

Mission

Feraba's mission is to empower, educate and entertain school communities by providing a greater understanding and appreciation of West African cultures through music and dance.



Our interactive live performances help to transform children into engaged, creative learners who are excited to come to school.

Program 1: Sound of the Mande Empire

"I am writing regarding the HAI performance for our school. If the students weren't dancing, they were sitting in their seats enjoying the music. We had no behavior problems during the show, and from all reports, none that afternoon when they returned to their sites. The next day I visited 2 of our sites, and there was a quiet, peacefulness in both units that is unusual for a Friday."

Gloria DuBois,
AP - District 75

The Mande Empire was founded by the great King Sundiata Keita in the 13th century and lasted for more than 500 years.

In this show students will learn about the history of this important empire while exploring a fascinating collection of traditional West African instruments including the balafon, krin, djembe, doun doun and karian.



Students will connect to the captivating music and rich culture of West Africa and gain a better understanding and appreciation for the depth and variety of percussion rhythms that keep us dancing.

A highly interactive and fun performance!!

Program 2: Roots of Tap

In this program we explore

- West African dances,
- Ring Shout
- dances from the masters of tap:
- Bill “Bojangles” Robinson,
- Eddie Brown and
- Leonard Reed’s Shim Sham.

Tap dance originated in the United States in the early 19th century at the crossroads of African and Irish American dance forms.



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“The troupe was prompt, a joy to meet and work with, and very self-sufficient. I would certainly recommend highly them to any school looking for an unusual, fresh, inspiring and energetic trip into culturally fused music and dance.”

Anne Lloyd, Enrichment and Arts Council, Stamford, CT

Program 3: Biashi- The Journey

Performers from three continents fuse tap dancing and traditional West African songs and dance into an electrifying art form that truly reflects the melting pot that is America.

“What an outstanding production! Because of your special talents, Fériba was a tremendous success. The pleasure it brought to both students and staff was most apparent by the applause, laughter and smiles on the faces of all who attended. Please know how much your efforts and hard work are appreciated.”

Marcy Berger, Principal PS4@PS179 Queens



Program 4: The Epic Tale of Sundiata Keita Triumph Over Adversity

Pre-k to 3rd grade only!!!!



Emphasizing the cultural significance of storytelling in West African society, the show invites students to actively participate on stage, fostering a dynamic and memorable experience.



This engaging program immerses audiences in the remarkable story of Sundiata Keita, the founder of the historic Mande Empire (1230-1670 AD) in West Africa.

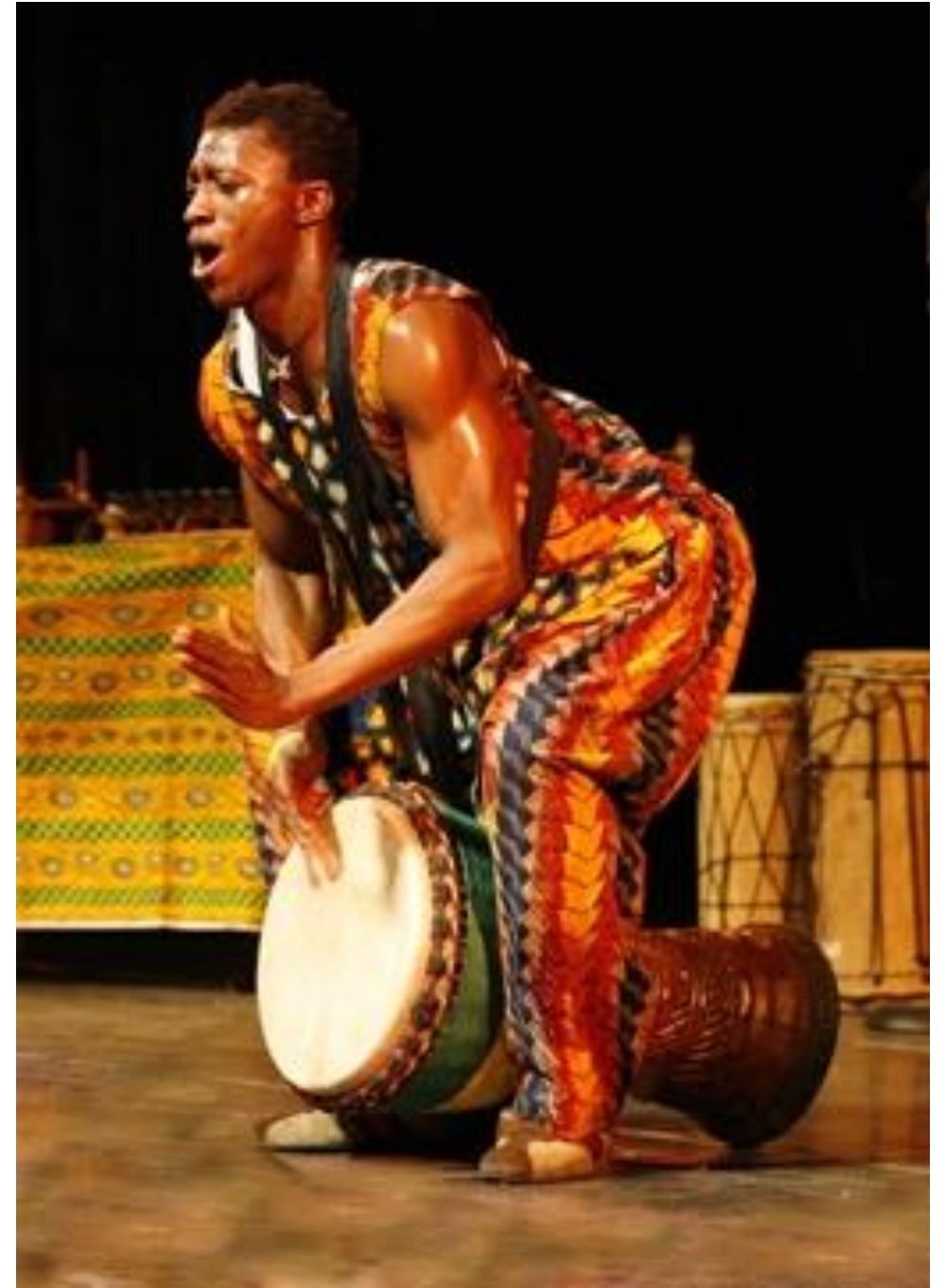
Through an interactive blend of traditional West African songs, music, dance, and original compositions, along with storytelling, the performance brings Sundiata's legacy to life in an entertaining and educational manner.

Who we are

Féraba was founded in New York City in 1995, through the collective creative vision of Austrian tap dancer Irene Koloseus and world-renowned master balafonist Abou Sylla from Guinea, West Africa.

A multicultural and multiethnic performance group, Féraba fuses the traditional sounds and movements of West Africa with the American artistic forms of tap dance in a unique and exciting way.

Féraba exposes its audience to many different cultures, and seeks to create a bond of understanding among the people of the world, suggesting that this diversity enriches one's life.



Awards and History

Féraba's explosive blend has been well received by audiences worldwide, including performances at Lincoln Center, Aaron Davis Hall, Town Hall, and other prestigious venues throughout the U.S., Europe, and West Africa.



- NYFA fellow in Music Composition
- Jubilation Foundation Fellow in teaching artistry
- Brooklyn Arts Fund Grantee
- Manhattan Arts Council Grantee
- Sunshine Award
- Ethnic Dance Award
- Su-CASA Grantee

Contact

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"The music and dancing from their troupe was from the heart, direct, and a great demonstration of human connection through music -both within the group and out into the audience!"
Parents Association, CT

