

The Louisville Leopard Percussionists is a performing ensemble comprised of 60+ student musicians ages 7-16, who resides in 33 different Louisville zip codes and attend 49 different schools in and around Louisville, KY.

Award-winning teacher Diane Downs started her first percussion ensemble, The Fabulous Leopard Percussionists, in 1993 after she found some old instruments in a storage closet in the school where she taught in Louisville. After ten years as artistic director of The Fabulous Leopard Percussionists, Diane began to explore how she might make the Leopard Percussion experience available to children throughout the Metro Louisville community.

In the fall of 2003, The Louisville Leopard Percussionists launched as a freestanding community 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, committed to providing the exciting and enriching Leopard Percussionists experience to all children in the Louisville community.



Our mission is to provide a comprehensive musical experience for children that enriches lives and builds community.

Our vision is for participants of diverse backgrounds to develop music appreciation, performance skills, proficiency on a variety of percussion instruments, and to learn to improvise, compose, and teach music, and to care for their instruments. These skills build creativity and self-confidence and teach life-long values of personal discipline, cooperation, leadership, responsibility, and community.



## The Louisville Leopard Percussionist experience is . . .

**Music** - Leopard Percussionists learn about history and culture through firsthand exposure to all types of music - classical, jazz, Latin, pop, ragtime, blues, and more.



**Performance** - Leopards Percussionists develop confidence and poise by performing in local, national, and international venues. Nationally The Leopards have performed in New York City, New Orleans, Columbus, Tampa, Chicago, Kansas City, Cleveland, Atlanta, Orlando, Indianapolis, and Washington, DC. The Leopards have performed at numerous National Music Conventions as well as at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, at a TEDx Convention, and were the subject of an HBO documentary, "The Leopards Take Manhattan: The Little Band That Roared".

The Leopards have worked with special guest artists such as Joe Morello, Harry Pickens, Louie Bellson, Ndugu Chancler, Ben Sollee, My Morning Jacket, Teddy Abrams, and many more. The Leopards have performed for Coretta Scott King, Prince Charles & Camilla, Wynton Marsalis, Chick Corea, Victor Wooten, and many others.

**Self-Discipline** - Leopard Percussionists acquire life-enhancing personal and social skills such as cooperation, leadership, patience, and responsibility through rehearsals, small group sessions, instrument care, and individual practice.

**Versatility** - Leopard Percussionists expand their skills and challenge their limits by participating in intensive classes, including drumming rudiments, keyboard, mallet technique, hand drumming, Latin rhythms, improvisation, and more.



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**Creativity** - The Leopards Percussionist program nurtures children's self-expression by teaching them to improvise and to compose, arrange, and teach their own tunes.

**Community** - Leopards Percussionists from all neighborhoods, schools, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds learn to make beautiful and exciting music together.



Through their performances around town and around the country, Louisville Leopards also develop appreciation for the broader community and world in which they live.

