



Stouffville's Justin Kerswill will show youngsters how to play instruments from around the world Aug. 30.

## COMING UP: Stouffville library workshop Musician shares collection of world instruments

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Australian didgeridoos, Indian ragas, African drums and Turkish doumbeks are vastly different styles of musical instruments, but they all have two things in common — they provide expressions of one's self and a sense of community.

Teaching others about the world's unique musical stylings and instruments, along with their history and impact they have on that country's culture is a part of the World Beat Workshop being led by Stouffville's Justin Kerswill, Aug. 30 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

"It's a little bit like a petting zoo with instruments," Mr. Kerswill, 31, said of his workshop aimed at 10- to 13-year-olds.

Mr. Kerswill was exposed to Indian classical and flamenco music as a child. He then took guitar lessons as a teenager and formed a band.

"My love for music and instruments just increased from there," he said.

Mr. Kerswill started collecting instruments whenever he travelled and asks all of his friends to bring him back an indigenous instrument from wherever they go.

The entrepreneurial teacher now

has about 20 drums, four stringed instruments and a number of smaller pieces.

"I am not an expert in all of these instruments," Mr. Kerswill said noting he is mostly self-taught. "I love them all and they all have their own applications."

Although Mr. Kerswill's collection is vast, he is always looking for something new, including the tabla, which he said is a very-hard-to-obtain and play Indian drum.

The two-and-a-half hour workshop is split into two parts.

During the first half, Mr. Kerswill provides the participants with historical and geographical information relating to the instrument's significance. He also demonstrates them.

During the second half, everyone gets a chance to create music.

"It's a hands-on interactive jam," he said. "It sparks people's creativity and leadership as well."

The workshop runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$15 per participant and pre-registration is required.

For more information and to register, contact the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library at 905-642-7323. The library is at 30 Burkholder St. in Stouffville Memorial Park.

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