

**HIT THE BEAT**  
IN RHYTHM WE MEET

UNITY THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY

# HIT THE BEAT

IN RHYTHM WE MEET





# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC, DANCE, ART AND CULTURE

*” Music brings people together. In singing, drumming and dancing heartbeat and breath are harmonised. We see our fellow companions in a way beyond all social stereotypes. We get to know each other better, are more refined in our mutual responses, discover the abilities we have in common, strengthen our creativity and self-confidence. “*

**Simone de Picciotto**



Hit the Beat is passionate about putting people in tune with their own heartbeat: „Unity through cultural diversity“. In inter-cultural projects art provides the platform for young people from quite different backgrounds to meet.

The projects create genuine enthusiasm through a combination of choral sessions and workshops that really get down to business – all culminating in a grand performance. Lasting from one day to several weeks, and taking place mostly in Namibia, South Africa and Germany, they bring together young people from a wide variety of cultural and social roots.

Through music and movement young people discover their strengths – and come face to face with other cultures: on stage they stand as individuals, but also as members of an artistic community that draws its power from cultural diversity. Thus young people build bridges, overcoming prejudices and differences. For regardless of their origins, they all have dreams and talents. And with Hit the Beat all hearts pulse to the same rhythm.

# WHY DOES HIT THE BEAT EXIST?

## GLOBAL CHALLENGES



We at Hit the Beat have identified a number of global developments which we regard as major issues of our time. One is migration: all over the world cultures are clashing and mixing all the time. This puts many people in a position of not knowing how to relate to others, how to treat them with respect, interest and due consideration. The question facing everyone is: how can I value and be an active member of my own culture and still be open for others?

We also sense that the increasing digitalisation of every-day life tends to make individuals more isolated, there is a constant search for recognition in social media and our lives are increasingly ruled by superficial relationships. How can we create more community experience and authentic human interaction? How can young people show mutual appreciation of their abilities and creatively develop them, for instance, in school, at work, in daily life?

## OUR AIM AND THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION: BUILDING BRIDGES

Our aim is to bring people of different backgrounds together and build bridges between them. Our idea is that through their getting to know and appreciate each other personally they will also meet culturally: “Unity through Cultural Diversity”. At the same time we are keen to invest in the potential of the rising generation and resolve conflict through cultural exchange.

### As a registered organisation Hit the Beat’s purpose is to:

- \* serve and support the interests of young people
- \* promote arts and culture
- \* promote public and professional education
- \* promote tolerance in all areas of culture and inter-cultural understanding coupled to an international mind-set
- \* develop the musical talents of children, adolescents and adults from different cultural backgrounds, both migrant and settled, and to offer them social support.



” *Hit the Beat is cultural diversity in action: Through drumming, dance, music and art hearts from many different corners of the globe beat in unison! And this Hit-the-Beat-Spirit affects other people too: We take to the stage and let the audience share the fire of our enthusiasm.* “



## AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Through music, movement and visual arts we can communicate with each other non-verbally. Doing this enables us to experience other cultures while at the same time giving expression to our own. With Hit the Beat young people from different cultural backgrounds work together as a team – differences and preconceptions quickly become irrelevant through such personal encounters. Everyone finds their place in the group. Children, adolescents and young adults discover new talents in themselves and others, and find their identity within the context of diversity. Thus we achieve positive self-awareness, positive group dynamics and inter-cultural understanding.

We lead the participants into a character-forming process: learning to listen and recognise themselves in others are the first steps to more attentiveness, tolerance

and respect for one another. Hit the Beat projects have a lasting effect and turn the performers on stage into ambassadors for a way of life based on mutual appreciation and harmony. Often strong, continent-spanning friendships form.

Furthermore, the new skills the participants learn can have a decisive influence on their subsequent educational path: some former students have made a profession of the talent they discovered at Hit the Beat events. When young people become aware of their personal and cultural resources they become socially active in their own country and are much less susceptible to destructive life-styles. The reason for this is that they have gained perspective on their situation and are able to act on it. Some also become involved in Hit the Beat as Junior Trainers for the next generation.

Our educational projects bring people from different countries and cultures together on stage: joined in the spirit of artistic creativity, we make music, drum, dance and sing – in all sorts of languages, musical styles and rhythms. Thus we nurture talent, community and understanding for cultural diversity.

## MEET THE RHYTHM

### Music

We make music – with unusual instruments and objects. Everyone brings their music culture and individual abilities into the mix. But the main thing is to be involved: in our projects we find a role for everyone and develop their musical creativity.

- \*Chor
- \*Drumming
- \*Vocal coaching
- \*Hip-Hop
- \*Being a band
- \*Instrumental improvisation
- \*Garbage music
- \*Mini-orchester

### Visual Art

We do action art, or devise backgrounds for the musical shows with photos, films, and creative stage scenery. Depending on what is on offer, the participants have the chance to try their hand at a wide variety of visual arts:

- \*Installations
- \*Graffiti
- \*Photography
- \*Video
- \*Painting
- \*Handcraft





## Performing Arts

And action! We work out original dance choreographies: this entails creative combinations of traditional and modern dance elements, theatre, poetry and what lives in the locality. We also incorporate singers, musicians and drummers into our ideas for the show:

- \*Dance
- \*Theatre
- \*Spoken word
- \*Poetry slam
- \*Stick-fighting

## Event Management

What would a show be without technology that works, fund-raising, catering or decoration? Students on a practical placement or job-shadowing get a chance to display and develop their organisational talents.

- \*Planning, execution and evaluation of events
- \*Finance
- \*Fundraising
- \*Storytelling
- \*Marketing
- \*New media
- \*Stage, sound and lighting technology
- \*Catering
- \*Decoration
- \*Security and fire prevention

## Personal Development

Hit the Beat seeks to develop the participants' self-esteem, their ability to be at home in inter-cultural situations and their soft skills. We're not looking to turn out perfect artists, but to meet the whole person in an authentically creative way. Thus we are constantly improving our standards and bringing out new talent.

- \*World café
- \*Sound journeys
- \*Team-building
- \*Individualised coaching
- \*Mediation
- \*Conflict resolution
- \*Further training



„ It was lovely to see my own child in the middle of everything and having such fun drumming. “

## Short Workshops

### Info

Multiple input (one to three-day) workshop, designed to inspire: In small groups of around 15, young people of various ages try out a variety of musical and artistic offerings. They go through a sequence of creative disciplines and learn some basic skills – running these in parallel means that we can manage 45 participants at the same time.

### Target groups

Children from 5 years on, teenagers and young adults

### Duration

1–3 days, e.g. 3 rotating 2-hour workshops per day

### What's the point?

- \* To try out music and art
- \* To discover one's own talents
- \* To learn social skills
- \* To promote inter-cultural understanding
- \* To experience teamwork

### Beispielmodule

Holiday learning-camp: 4-day experiential programme involving overcoming learning difficulties, increasing competence in German

School workshop: world café in German or in English

Hip-Hop and Beatbox workshop. Traditional/modern dance.

African drumming. Poetry-slam. Choral singing



” Investing in children is something really special: we get first-hand experience of how they develop and grow, and how passionate they are about community and building up their talents. “

### ALISA Kid's Camp

## ART AND MUSIC WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

At the ALISA Centre in the Easter holidays there is drumming and singing – plus visual art and dance theatre. For two whole days about 45 young people aged between 5 and 16 come together from all kinds of schools in the northern district of Worms. In an inter-disciplinary workshop they discover new talents and learn important social skills.

Hit the Beat offers a colourful programme with daily rotating workshops. All children can try their hand at music (singing/drumming/improvisation), visual art and dance theatre. Together we set stories to music, improvise on instruments, learn simple drum rhythms, make sculptures and collages, and join in creatively choreographed dance moves. All these activities then culminate in a grand presentation.

Content is tailored to each age-group: with the small children, for instance, we will accompany stories with musical improvisation: what does a sunset sound like, birdsong, frogs, rain, water? We listen to each other, find our own sound and combine these into a beautiful composition. All these things we have learned are then presented to parents in an hour-long performance.

For young people with not much art in their daily lives this is a super holiday activity from which they can gain a lot. Through music, art and dance theatre we promote communication between different social groups: We learn to play together, to listen to each other and include everyone.





*Warehouse Theatre  
„Honour the Earth“*

## CREATIVE PROJECTS IN SCHOOL

A different way of doing school: Over a period of three weeks students of Windhoek Waldorf School, Namibia, have the chance to try out an art of their own choice. This is a set project for classes 10 to 12, and it always centres around an important social/political theme.



” My husband and I were very surprised that our daughter sang a solo. She stood there on the stage like a star, so confident and convincing. “

## Educational Projects

### Info

This is open to schools and other educational institutions for two to three weeks at a time. In workshops conducted in parallel, groups of up to 15 students have the opportunity to discover their artistic, musical, personal or organisational abilities. Altogether this format is suitable for up to 150 adolescents and young adults, assuming there are enough rooms available. The whole thing is focused on a final two-hour performance with a live band and full choir.

### Target groups

Schools and educational establishments with students between the ages of 14 and 22

### Duration

Up to 15 days

### Special features

freely chosen socio-political theme: e.g. Cultural Diversity, Honour the Earth, Let's Move It, Health, Nutrition, Prevention of Violence, Prevention of AIDS etc.

### What's the point?

- \* The opportunity to take part in a major artistic project: learning from professional artists and getting high-quality results
- \* Discovering unknown talents: awakening enthusiasm for art, music and creativity in students who otherwise wouldn't be interested
- \* To learn the value of essential qualities like team spirit, courage, creativity, perseverance, commitment, enthusiasm

## EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

For the 100 or so students the project entails six hours of lessons per day, during which time they attend a combination of workshops, such as music, movement, visual arts, event management and personal development. Every day we also join together to sing as a choir. All this activity culminates for everyone in two performances with a live band at the Warehouse Theatre in Windhoek.

This Hit the Beat project has been an established component of the Windhoek Waldorf School's calendar since 2012. Among the project's many activities everyone finds their place. Through taking part in these projects some students have even discovered their future profession and have entered upon an artistic or musical training on leaving school. Through activities that combine different classes we can strengthen the school community. In addition the students learn the soft skills required for working together with people in the future: empathy, team-building, reliability, creativity and independence.

Projects like this are concerned not only with developing artistic, organisational or musical talents, they are also about raising political awareness. In 2018 the theme was "Honour the Earth": the students wrote poems on this theme, chose appropriate choir pieces, and the classes on vocal-coaching, dance, musical improvisation drumming and Hip-Hop all worked with the same leading idea.



## Teambuilding, Bank of Namibia

# ATTRACTIVE GROUP EXPERIENCES FOR THE TEAM

A day of team-building for the complete staff of the Bank of Namibia: an event we plan and design for 150 people. We use group activities, such as singing, drumming, body percussion and artistic exercises, to strengthen team-spirit.

The bank's whole team, from the chief executive to the caretaker, attends our event. After setting the tone with a short Hit-the-Beat concert, we sing and drum together – an incredible feeling of community arises. Acting as a team dismantles negative hierarchies and gives everyone the feeling of belonging and being at home in the organization.

As a special African touch, the body-percussion session includes work with (highly symbolic) black and white stones. This is followed by a keynote speech on “Team-building”. The day is rounded off by putting together a grand piece of improvised percussion and dance – topped by a buffet for all.

” *Our world is so diverse – and yet we are one as a community, in our intentions and in our hearts. The djembe (African drum) is the beat of the heart, it unites us.* “

## Teambuilding

### Info

The aim of a team-building workshop is to create a sense of belonging through communal activities. With us the focus is on creative musical or artistic activities, e.g. percussion, musical improvisation, Filipino stick-fighting, dance or visual arts. Keynote speeches then complete the picture.

### Target groups

Companies, teams, colleges of teachers

### Duration

2-6 hours or on a daily basis

### Special features

Special emphasis can be placed on mediation, if desired: differences are dissolved by artistic means and channeled towards teamwork

### What's the point?

- \* to strengthen the feeling of cohesion in a company's team – colleagues meet each other on a level outside what they are used to
- \* the experience strengthens communication and brings new enjoyment and satisfaction to the work-place
- \* if there is a smouldering conflict within the team, this can be dealt with through special mediation exercises

*Wolwedans Collection, 2018*

# INDIVIDUALISED COACHING IN MUSIC, DANCE, ART AND SOFT SKILLS

The setting: A collection of strangely shaped chalets in the middle of the Namib Rand Nature Reserve. This is the Wolwedans Dune Lodge, which offers unforgettable closeness to nature – a holiday experience of a very special kind. Here Hit the Beat is engaged to provide coaching specifically designed to meet the training needs of the lodge’s staff – this involves choral singing, drumming and musical improvisation.

In future the Wolwedans Lodge would like to put on little artistic performances for its guests, and this is the reason for the coaching request. Over four days we take a group of 25 people through a series of exercises in various performing arts, little choreographic scenarios and percussion, with additional exercises in improvisation. All this is done in a way that seeks to take account of the individual needs of those taking part.

Through this artistic work a number of soft skills are developed, such as communication, empathy, courage, teamwork, self-confidence and creativity: all key qualities for those working in the hospitality sector. In this way we also support the personal development of these young staff-members and bring the Wolwedans Lodge’s holistic approach to staff-training to practical realisation.

A young member of staff, who is to be the choir-leader, is given one-on-one coaching on the skills needed for this position. This is „training on the job“, so his coaching involves working together with the whole group on various choral pieces. The outcome: the staff work more as a team, they can now design their own performances and have more confidence – which is then reinforced by the appreciation of the guests.

## Individualised coaching

### Info

With individual coaching we support participants according to their individual needs. For instance, people who want to work as trainers in music, dance or art, but so far have no experience. By practising “training on the job” we use a creative project that is actually in process as the training material, and thus the coaching takes place. Alternatively, there is personal, one-on-one coaching: we coach people who work in developing countries or wish to start projects with refugees.

### Target groups

People training to be trainers

### Duration

2 – 4 hours or workshops over several days

### Special features

Direct, on-site coaching

### What’s the point?

Coaching is specifically designed to meet the individual needs and wishes of the person(s) concerned.



” *Those who sing from their souls heal their own inner worlds at the same time.*

*When all sing from their souls they heal the outer world.*

*Singing unfolds to the extent in which it grows out listening and attentive awareness.*

*In singing we can refine ourselves so that we respect our fellow creatures and the time in which we live.*

*Therefore singing must not only be preserved but also promoted world-wide.*

*For singing makes possible, as nothing else, a direct communication of hearts beyond all cultural boundaries. “*

**Yehudi Menuhin**



” It was pretty scary at first, but after a few performances you get used to the stage-fright. Once the audience are swinging with us, it’s really fun. “ A participant





# HIT THE BEAT AND FRIENDS

Students of the Windhoek Waldorf School in Namibia stage creative workshops with students in Germany and bring them to a grand finale in which everyone takes part. The main thing is that there be meeting and cultural exchange between young people from different backgrounds.

In 2012 80 students from Windhoek Waldorf School in Namibia gave six concerts in Germany with Gonzo N'Friends, five of these featuring combined choirs. Thus in Berlin, Stuttgart, Worms, Künzelsau and Schwäbisch Hall up to 150 singers from Germany and Namibia stood side-by-side on stage.

In 2016 there was a revival. After a three-week project period, the Hit the Beat choir from Windhoek Waldorf School travelled to Germany. In parallel to these 24 Namibian students, children at the ALISA Centre in Worms and young refugees at the Parzival Centre in Karlsruhe had been working on the same songs and drumming pieces. The result was a Gala Concert for the opening of the exhibition

„NAMIBIA – the art of a new generation“ in the Würth Museum in Künzelsau, at which they all performed together. Through the intense rehearsals for the actual concert as well as being the guests of local families, they got to know one another on a personal level.

Through these diverse musical encounters the participants learn to appreciate one another. Any lingering prejudices will yield to the spirit of our motto: „Hit the Beat, in rhythm we meet – unity through cultural diversity“: „Wherever we young people come from, we all have similar wishes and needs, and dream of a world in which we can be heard.“

## CONCERTS

### Info

Being an expression of the mutual effects of different cultures, Hit the Beat concerts are fire-work displays of energy, élan and skill. During a concert tour various Hit-the-Beat projects can be combined – for instance, through several choirs taking the stage together. Alternatively, on the day of a concert several kinds of open workshop can take place, and their results can then be incorporated into the performance in the evening. Thus, through cultural exchange, young people from different countries discover new abilities in themselves and others.

The workshops can also be held in English.

### Target groups

young people from diverse backgrounds (refugees welcome)

### Duration

1-3-hour concert, including up to 8 hours of workshops

### Special features

artistic encounters between different cultures

### What's the point?

- \* International youth exchange
- \* concert programmes with plenty of variety
- \* To dissolve prejudices and widen horizons
- \* To promote friendships across cultural boundaries

### Sample module

- \* Combined choral work, bringing together choirs from different countries
- \* Morning concert: 45 minute concert as a way of introducing the various artistic disciplines offered by Hit the Beat
- \* Evening concert: A full-on 120-minute show with choirs, dance, drumming, poetry-slam, beatbox, R&B and film.

You are a school principal, social worker or entrepreneur and are looking for a partner capable of providing creative project weeks, day-long workshops or team-building events. We can offer a skills-package tailored to the specific needs of your particular target group. Whether the event takes place in-house or in an external setting – you decide.

*Your individual*

# HIT-THE-BEAT-EVENT



## 1. Choose the artistic elements

You can choose freely from the following modules combining them as you wish. Single components are also possible, e.g. drumming

- \_ MUSIC
- \_ PERFORMING ARTS
- \_ VISUAL ART
- \_ EVENT MANAGEMENT
- \_ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



## 2. Choose the format

Which format suits you?

- \_ SHORT (DAY-LONG) WORKSHOPS
- \_ EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS
- \_ TEAM-BUILDING
- \_ PERSON-CENTRED COACHING
- \_ CONCERT



## 3. Choose the duration

How much time do you want to spend with Hit the Beat

- \_ HOUR/S
- \_ DAY/S
- \_ WEEK/S





## 4. Make a request

Simply drop us an e-mail or call us on the phone. We will gladly advise you.



## 5. Individual package

We can design an event according to your wishes, and send you a quotation with the details.

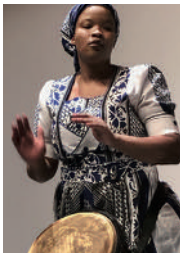


## Our musical method

Our workshops and events are based on insights derived from experiential music therapy that uses improvisation. With over 150 instruments, including drums, gongs, susula, sruti-box, mono-chord wah-wah tubes, singing bowls and many more, we have something creative for everyone. Singly or in groups we discover new forms of non-verbal expression. Our way of working is very well suited to the needs of traumatised individuals, and for inducing therapeutic deep relaxation by means of sound journeys and sound massages.

## HARMONISING HEARTBEATS

We are trying to build bridges – between different countries and cultures. In Namibia, South Africa and Germany we have already staged successful projects.



KASSEL  
DARMSTADT  
WORMS  
HEIDELBERG  
STUTTGART



BERLIN  
GÖTTINGEN  
SCHWÄBISCH HALL  
KÜNZELSAU  
ÜBERLINGEN



RUNDU  
WINDHOEK  
WOLWEDANS



KAPSTADT

*Hit the Beat***THE STORY SO FAR**

What moves us, moves hands, feet and hearts. We have over 20 years of experience with courses, workshops, training, team-building and performance

**2012****Hit the Beat and Friends I, Germany**

80 students from Windhoek Waldorf School give six concerts in Germany with Gonzo N' Friends, for 5 of which they team up with other choirs. In Berlin, Stuttgart, Worms, Künzelsau and Schwäbisch Hall 150 singers share the stage together – cultural exchange between Namibia and Germany, a meeting of minds and hearts, in action.

**2013–2019****Kids Camp Alisa, Germany**

Two-day inter-disciplinary project in the Easter holidays with drumming, dance theatre and visual artwork for young people from age 5 to 16: at the ALISA Centre in Worms we set stories to music, improvise on various instruments and learn simple drum rhythms.

**2013****Warehouse – „Let's move it I“, Namibia**

Three-week inter-disciplinary music, art and movement project with 120 students from classes 8 to 12 of Windhoek Waldorf School: action art with „Giant Letters“ in the centre of Windhoek, art exhibition and performances with Gonzo N' Friends at the Warehouse Theatre, Windhoek.

**2013****Future Now – Young People's Projekt, Stuttgart**

Over a period of half a year, a group of school-leavers craft creative ideas in movement, theatre, music and dance. The result is a performance at the Zollhaus. Here these young adults address themes such as: Who am I, where do I stand and where am I going to? The project proves to have a positive influence on life and career choices, on personality and skills development.

**2014****Warehouse – „Let's move it II“, Namibia**

Three-week interdisciplinary music and movement project with 100 students from classes 10 to 12 of Windhoek Waldorf School. A series of performances together with Gonzo N' Friends in the Warehouse Theatre, Windhoek.

**2017****„Gala Dinner“, Windhoek Waldorf School, Namibia**

Interdisciplinary music and movement project with 80 students of classes 9 to 12 from Windhoek Waldorf School. Performance with Sprengler & Friends in the context of a Gala Dinner for national and international guests.

**2018****Official founding of the association**

Hit the Beat e.V. finally comes of age. With seven founding members, who had been around for years, we are finally legally constituted as an association in Stuttgart. This means that from now on Hit the Beat can plan events under its own auspices and fundraise on its own behalf.

**2018****Warehouse – „Honour the Earth“, Namibia**

Interdisciplinary music, art and movement project with 100 students of classes 9 to 12 from Windhoek Waldorf School, plus guest participants from Namibia, South Africa and Germany. Performance involving everyone in the Warehouse Theatre, Windhoek. Theme: How are we currently treating the Earth? The project looks at what we must do, and how we can be heard.

**2018****Rundu – Rhythm that Unites! – Namibia**

Hit the Beat donates ten djembe drums to the little theatre “Home of the Arts” in Rundu, Namibia – an organisation for unemployed youth. The drums symbolise the common rhythm and the bonds between people. For the youth of the region there was then a two-day drumming workshop and artistic courses.

**2018****Team-building – Wolwedans Collection, Namibia**

In the NamibRand Nature Reserve are located the four luxury lodges of the Wolwedans Collection. For four days we coach employees and trainees in drumming, musical improvisation, and choral singing – to prepare them for doing little performances for the guests. We practise a holistic style of coaching, which means that it includes personal development and the learning of various skills, including soft skills.

**1999****Hit the Beat begins – Ziegelhütte, Germany**

Simone de Picciotto stages her first percussion workshop with teenagers at a special needs school.

**2006****Performances: UNESCO World Youth Festival, Stuttgart**

Drumming concerts and other artistic offerings by youth groups from Windhoek Waldorf School in Namibia, and the Associação Comunitária Monte Azul in Brazil – in association with the Football World Cup.

**2007****Team-building – Bank of Namibia, Namibia**

Vision-building workshop for 200 employees – from the director to the caretaker. Music workshop and concert under the guidance of 25 students from Windhoek Waldorf School.

**2009****Team-building – Life Line & Child Line Namibia, Namibia**

Team-building workshop for 80 staff-members. Concert and music workshop under the guidance of 25 students from Windhoek Waldorf School.

**2010****Drumming tour – Cape Town, South Africa**

Concert and music workshop under the guidance of 25 students from Windhoek Waldorf School. Various schools visited – drumming, dancing, singing and body percussion.

**2015****Project with young refugees, Germany**

In the Parzival Centre, a youth-aid organisation in Karlsruhe, we do music and improvisation workshops with refugees from Iraq, Syria, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and other places. Using the pedagogical approach for dealing with trauma developed here these young people are

**2015–2019****Edu-camp, Germany**

In cooperation with IBIS, Hit the Beat runs a project every year in the Easter holidays: this is a programme for improving proficiency in German in pupils of classes 2 and 3, and our role is to support this learning process with art and music. For instance, we might talk about animals and try and portray them in music.

**2015****Warehouse – „Silent Words – sing out loud!“, Namibia**

A one-year interdisciplinary music, art and movement project, incorporating a programme for HIV-prevention, for 120 students from classes 8 to 12 of Windhoek Waldorf School. Through this work the students were given full information on the subject and learned about protective measures. Performances together with Gonzo N' Friends in the Warehouse Theatre, Windhoek. Sponsored by PEPFAR (US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief).

**2016****Warehouse – „Cultural Diversity“, Namibia**

Three-week interdisciplinary music and movement project with 80 students of classes 10 to 12 from Windhoek Waldorf School. Performances together with Sprengler & Friends in the Warehouse Theatre, Windhoek. Prejudices are broken down by the experience of cultural diversity. Students present their own traditions, get to know something of other cultures and reflect on the advantages of diversity.

**2016****Hit the Beat and Friends II, Deutschland**

After a 3-week project period, 24 students from Windhoek Waldorf School in Namibia travel to Germany. In the Würth Museum in Künzelsau they give a gala concert for the opening of the exhibition "NAMIBIA – art of a young generation". The focus is on artistic exchange between young people from Namibia and Germany and with young refugee orphans from all over the world.

**2018****Anniversary Tour, Germany**

Concert tour with 12 students and former students at three Anniversary Celebrations of our sponsors. Performances in Worms, Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Künzelsau.

**2019****Holiday Edu-camp, Stuttgart**

Class 2 and class 3 pupils attend this camp for four days in the Easter holidays – they are given an experiential programme with artistic and musical elements. We give support to children with learning difficulties, help to improve their German in a creative way and give advice to parents.

**2019****Hit the Beat Waldorf100-Tour**

Concert tour through Germany with 24 students from Windhoek Waldorf School in connection with the 100-Year Anniversary celebrations of Waldorf Education. In addition to two Anniversary Gala concerts – one in Stuttgart (Liederhalle 7th September) and one in Berlin (Tempodrom 19th September) – there were 12 other concerts and workshops with students over the whole country.

**from 2022****Hit the Beat Academy: „Building bridges – unfolding potential through music, dance, art and culture“**

Our vision is to found an international „Hit the Beat - Academy“, in order to put our work on a sure footing for the future. Together with partners from Africa, we intend to support young people in becoming more professional. In March 2022 we will launch our first „Train the Trainer Camp“ in Wolwedans, Namibia. 12 young people and artists will receive on the job training. Starting with a workshop that will introduce the aims, visions and methods of Hit the Beat to the participants, we will then include all Trainers in a 3-day project with 35 staff members of Wolwedans lodge. At the end the Trainers will receive a certificate and training material enabling them to join future projects as „Hit the Beat - Junior- and Senior-Trainers“.

*Better together***HIT-THE-BEAT-TEAM**

„Unity through cultural diversity“ – also lives in our team profile. We're all pulling together to make the best of the potential and talents of our participants. We are a flexible team of 13 trainers and several trainees in southern Africa and Germany. We would be glad to take up requests from other countries too.

**Hans-Peter Seeger** .....*Hit the Beat board member*

Hans-Peter has 30 years' experience in setting up and being responsible for the successful running of youth education initiatives, one of them being Windhoek Waldorf School, where he was CEO for 10 years. His focus lies in school-based education, vocational training and project management in the area of art and culture – in an inter-cultural context.

**Simone de Picciotto** .....*Founder and artistic director*

As music teacher, music/sound therapist and rhythm coach, Simone has a designing hand in every Hit the Beat event. Through her musical, creative and artistic leadership she both inspires and is a living expression of intercultural dialogue – also in her intercultural and inter-religious family life. Her focus lies in combining musical education, cultural diversity and non-verbal communication. This is why she founded Hit the Beat in 1999. She began with drumming workshops for students in Germany and later in Namibia. Since then, together with her team of professional artists, she has been continually building up the work with children, adolescents and young adults. She owns an extraordinary collection of over 150 instruments from different cultures and continents.

**Carmen Scarano** .....*Dance teacher and choreographer*

Carmen is an independent choreographer and dance teacher for social-, theatre-, school- and dance-projects. She teaches all-comers, both lay and profi, in classical ballet, modern jazz, contemporary and jazz dance, and loves working with young people and culturally diverse groups.



## Caro Krebietke

### *Art teacher and independent artist*

Caro stages international, participatory art projects for children, adolescents and adults. She has been successful in designing projects for complete beginners – and is happy to use local resources and low-cost materials.



## Felix Spitta

### *Hip-Hop artist and film-maker*

Felix regards himself as fortunate in being able to live his passion and express himself through music and film. As a professional in hip-hop and film-making for Hit the Beat he offers hip-hop workshops and makes brilliant films



## Gela Gordon

### *Director, actor and psychotherapist*

Gela is a director in film and theatre, and lectures at drama schools. In projects she uses methods she has devised herself: ConActation, constellation-acting-creation. Her stage productions and choreographies are stunningly original.

## Luigi Scarano

### *Personal development coach, actor and singer*

Luigi coaches young people in the area of inter-cultural education and stage-skills, also in singing and poetry. In doing so he is also working on their self-confidence and strengthening their personality.

*Better together*

## HIT-THE-BEAT-TEAM

### Katharina Wyss .....

*Social designer*

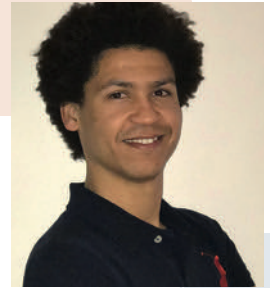
Katharina enjoys renewing the spaces people live in and thus renewing their lives. It's all about powerful atmospheres and resonance: the "how" is the decisive factor. As a coach she gives developmental advice to teams and families. She supports Hit the Beat with graphics and publicity work.



### Faizel Brownly .....

*Dancer*

Faizel is from Namibia and has studied dance. With Hit the Beat he has been leading African dance workshops, both traditional and modern, for many years. His heart is in his work with young people and he loves giving them the chance to be on stage.



### Sarah Situde .....

*Choir leader*

Sarah is a former student of Windhoek Waldorf School and has been a choir leader with Hit the Beat for five years. She sings, drums and has a whole African repertoire under her belt – always smiling and full of energy.



### Tapuwanashe „Tapz“ Munyayi

*Musician, song-writer, activist*

Tapz is studying African music and music theory in Namibia, and does drumming workshops for Hit the Beat. Originally from Zimbabwe, he works in support of young artists and community projects. He enjoys inter-cultural exchange and performing with his band.

## Ian Jaleel Brendell

### *RnB artist and musician*

Jaleel, from Windhoek in Namibia, has been making music since he was nine. He writes, plays and produces his own RnB music. As a coach for rap and hip-hop he really hits the beat.



## Claude Schmidt

### *Pianist, music producer, publisher, lecturer*

Claude has been on the road in the music business for 25 years: those special moments when spirit and emotion combine to make something new continue to inspire him. In Hit the Beat he passes this fire on and, as accompanist and bandleader, creates the context for talents to shine.



## Ruth Kahuure

### *Junior trainer and singer*

Ruth is an asset to Hit the Beat as singer, choir leader and event manager. This proud Herero beauty and former student of Windhoek Waldorf School sings, drums and regularly enchants the public with her moving African solos.



## Zephy Kameeta

### *Junior trainer and poetry slammer*

As singer and poetry slammer, Zephy is an integral part of Hit the Beat. He is a former student of Windhoek Waldorf School and writes about Africa, about the disintegration and integration of cultures. His dramatic texts and authentic presence are very moving.

## Antonia de Picciotto

### *Junior trainer and event manager*

Antonia attended Windhoek Waldorf School for a number of years and now lives in Germany. She is a bridge-builder between continents – in her capacity as event manager and tour-guide with Hit the Beat. She was on the scene of Hit the Beat even before she could walk.



## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED

Has Hit the Beat affected the rhythm of your heart? We would be delighted if you joined us, cooperated with us or supported us with a donation.



## GETTING INVOLVED

### One-off donation

Support young people in Namibia and our work there: it costs 250 euro for a student to take part in a 3-week project. You can send your donation to our donations account or online at [www.hit-the-beat.org/spenden](http://www.hit-the-beat.org/spenden)



### Become a regular donor

We would be very glad if you could support us on a regular basis. This would help to put our work with young people on a secure footing: The minimum annual contribution is 60 euro for adults and 25 euro for secondary and tertiary students. Further information on how you can become a regular donor can be found on our homepage [www.hit-the-beat.org](http://www.hit-the-beat.org).

### Become a project sponsor

As a project sponsor you can be intimately involved in facilitating cultural exchange among young people: You support a project from A to Z and can have a say in how it is run. We have forms for particular projects, such as Waldorf 100 or the “Hit the Beat” Academy, and will gladly send them to you!

### Give someone an education voucher

With an education voucher we can contribute to the further training of young adults in music, art or dance, thus enabling them to multiply the impulse for other children and adolescents. At the same we are helping develop their personality and talents. With an educational voucher of 25, 50 or 100 euro you give young adults the chance to develop themselves.

### Stage a Hit-the-Beat event

Become a project partner and stage a concert, workshop, project or team-building event. One day costs between 1500 and 2000 euro. For such a sum we will tailor an event to your specific wishes. What type of event to choose can be found on p 18/19 of this brochure.

### Tax receipt

As an officially registered charitable association, we will automatically send you a tax receipt. We will also keep you regularly informed about our projects. With your help we will continue in future to build bridges through music, dance, art and culture. Many thanks!

## WHY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WORK?

Hit the Beat has 20 years' experience in working with children, adolescents and young adults. We support both individuals as well as educational establishments and companies. As a project provider we are a competent partner for foundations and sponsors. We help people discover their potential, teach them soft skills and awaken creative abilities, promote experience of community, empower teams – and all in the name of inter-cultural understanding.



More than

20

years' experience

100

concerts

140

workshops

150

different instruments

We have worked successfully with the following partners, for it is only by working with others that we can achieve our association's goals: the intercultural education of children, adolescents and young adults through music, movement and art.

## OUR PARTNERS AND REFEREES

WALDORF SCHOOL WINDHOEK

WOLWEDANS NAMIBIA

ALISA ZENTRUM WORMS

KUNSTHALLE WÜRTH

STADT SCHWÄBISCH HALL

SCHULWEGE E.V.

FREIE WALDORFSCHULE HEIDELBERG

WALDORF CAMPUS FELLBACH

WALDORFSCHULE DARMSTADT

WALDORF100

BUND DER FREIEN WALDORFSCHULE

LAG HESSEN

FREIE WALDORFSCHULE SCHWÄBISCH HALL

FREIE WALDORFSCHULE KASSEL

WALDORFSCHULE GÖTTINGEN

WALDORFSCHULE WIESBADEN

WALDORFSCHULE STUTTGART UHLANDSHÖHE

WALDORFSCHULE BERLIN SÜD-OST

WALDORFSCHULE DIEZENBACH

VULAMASANGO SÜDAFRIKA

JUGENDHILFE ZIEGELHÜTTE

IBIS-INTERKULTURELLE  
BILDUNGSINITIATIVE STUTTGART

HOTA RUNDU / NAMIBIA

MUSEUM WÜRTH

DEHMELDESIGN

RUTH WARTH | WORTFROHE TATEN



1.500

singers & musicians  
on stage

4.500

workshop participants

20.000

audience members

” *Hit the Beat joins many cultures together. And from this arises a new culture: the culture of togetherness.*

*Ruth: Junior-Trainerin aus Namibia*

“

## Want to hit the beat with us?

Simply drop us a line, call or donate.

### Hit the Beat e.V.

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info@hit-the-beat.org  
www.hit-the-beat.org

### Donations account

GLS Bank  
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BIC GENODEM1GLS

Here you can donate online!  
www.hit-the-beat.org/spenden

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