

ABT ALBERTA BAIR



T H E A T E R

EDUCATION GUIDE



Kattam and His Tam Tams

Friday, October 30, 2026
9:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Recommended for Grades K-5
Tickets: \$7.00 per person

Jane Wallace ABT Student Matinee Series

ABT Education Partner



Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
2801 Third Avenue North • Billings, Montana 59101
406.294.5206 or 406.256.8915
www.AlbertaBairTheater.Org

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Kattam

et ses and his

Tam-Tams



MUSICAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Who is Kattam?!

Kattam (his real name!) is a percussion musician living in Montréal. His mother is from Québec and his father is from Morocco. He started percussion on his trips to Morocco when he was very young, then attended elementary and secondary music schools where he was trained in classical music (piano, choir, percussion).

Through his avid interest in world music and his travels overseas, he has had many rich and varied musical experiences. He studied Afro-Cuban percussion in Havana, the djembe in Guinea, and the derbouka in Morocco. He also studied the dhol and tabla (Indian instruments) in Montréal. Kattam has a master teacher for each instrument he plays.

Recognized on the Montréal scene as a talented percussionist, Kattam performs and collaborates with several artists including Marie-Mai, The Lost Fingers, Lynda Thalie, Mes Aïeux, and many other world music groups.

With his show *Kattam and his Tam-Tams*, Kattam tours schools, daycares, cultural centres and festivals in Canada and the United States. In 2016, he came out with his French album *De Tomboucoute à Bombay*, and then the English version *Timbuktu to Bombay* in 2017, and the DVD of his performance in 2018. These three independent productions have garnered him 18 prizes and nominations, and expanded the breadth of his career.

Artistic path

Travel is Kattam's chief source of inspiration. From East to West, he has drawn on inexhaustible and ever-evolving traditions to nourish his world view. Be it to experience what is sacred or to celebrate, music is the instrument he uses as his passport to discover different cultures. Guided by his passion for percussion as well as for dance and theatre, Kattam is constantly setting a course for new horizons that bring out the depth of the human experience.

Among the music groups with whom he works, Kattam strives to strike a balance between technical and intuitive styles, inspired by the masters under whom he has trained. While staying true to the respective traditions of the instruments he plays, he also blends styles and genres, in keeping with the 21st century trend toward genre-bending.

In his youth projects, Kattam acts as both a transmitter and a communicator. His original pieces place children front and centre. Watch, listen and, above all, participate! His aim is to foster a taste for music, discovery and self-expression among these children, to partake in celebrations specific to different cultures, and to make both popular and spiritual music accessible—ultimately in order to teach children that beyond cultural differences lies a shared humanity...

For Kattam, the stage, first and foremost, is a way to share this enthusiasm and the life force that drives him.

Description of the show

To the sound of the n'goni, balafon, djembe, naffar, derbouka and dhol, percussionist Kattam invites you to discover Africa, the Middle East and India through rhythm, song and dance! From African rap and desert dance to trance sufi rhythm and Bollywood dance. Accompanied by his monkey, Takoum, Kattam never fails to enrol his audience! An incredible multicultural adventure... Ideal for schools and family events!



To view

Promotional videos: www.kattam.ca/en/multimedia/videos

Selection of 133 photographs of some of Kattam's travels: <http://tiny.cc/1ld41y>

(Morocco, Haiti, India, Cuba, Guinea, Mexico, Sahara Desert, Nunavik, Peru, Cyprus)



Preparing for the performance

Our voyage begins in **Africa**!

- What is **Africa**?
- Which African countries can you name? There are 54!!!

Get ready, because we'll be singing the song "**Rapping Africa**"!

During the performance, try to recognize the different **instruments** Kattam plays!

The n'goni



The djembe



The balafon



Be ready to answer
the musical riddles
Kattam plays
on his balafon!

The derbouka



"When I say 1, 2, you say **Habibi**!"
Habibi is an Arabic word. What does it mean?
Kattam will ask you this question!

The derbouka comes from the Middle East.
The Middle East is on which continent(s)?

The naffar



This trumpet is played in Morocco, where Kattam's father is from. It is played during marriages and to mark the beginning of the month of Ramadan. How did Kattam get this long horn on the plane? The performance provides the answer...

The dhol



The words **drum** and **tam-tam** refer to the family of instruments that are played with your hands or with drumsticks. Each type of drum has a specific name, such as the djembe, the bongos, the congas, the derbouka, the dhol, etc.

Dance

Dance and percussion go hand in hand, which means a lot of dancing during the show!

The last destination on our journey is to one of the most amazing countries in the world...India! This country is so big and so populated, it's like a continent of its own! It has the world's largest film and music industry, called *Bollywood*. So Kattam has prepared a dance choreography for you in this style! It's known as the *Bhangra* dance form.

Which region of India does this dance form come from?

Be in shape, because we're going to move—a lot!!!



2 CDs and 1 DVD

18 prizes & nominations

ADISQ

JCTM
JEUNE CHAMBRE
DE COMMERCE
DE MONTRÉAL

JUNO CANADA'S
MUSIC
AWARDS



Canadian Folk
Music Awards

CMQ
Congrès Maghrébin au Québec

COUP DE CŒUR
Charles
Cros

réseau
ontario

GLOBAL
MUSIC
AWARDS
WINNER



Available in person from Kattam,
at the online store www.kattam.ca/en/store,
and online (iTunes, Amazon, Spotify).

Arrangement of children during the performance

This arrangement is designed to have as many of the older children as the younger children in the front. When the older children are in the back, they feel less included and take a certain physical and mental distance from the show, they get less involved, and the show becomes more about the younger children. With the arrangement I am proposing, I have easy access to the older children; this gets them completely engaged! And when the older kids are having fun, the younger ones follow suit and have fun too! Thank you for your openness to trying this new approach if you have not already used it. Note that the children, depending on the total number of classes, will be arranged by class, one by one, two by two or three by three. I will be there to receive the children and help get everything organized with the teachers.

G	G	G	G	G	G	K	g
r	r	r	r	r	r	i	a
a	a	a	a	a	a	n	r
d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
6	5	4	3	2	1	r	n

Performance

♪ ♪ See you soon!!! ♪ ♪



[OFFICIAL SITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#)
[YOUTUBE](#) | [SPOTIFY](#) | [APPLE MUSIC](#)



Answers to the questions in the Teacher's Guide

- What is Africa?

Answer: Africa is a **continent**. Of all the continents, it is the one that has the most countries (54).

- Which African countries can you name?

Algeria	Gambia	Nigeria
Angola	Ghana	Uganda
Benin	Guinea	Rwanda
Botswana	Guinea-Bissau	São Tomé and Príncipe
Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Kenya	Seychelles
Cameroon	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Liberia	Somalia
Central African Republic	Libya	South Africa
Chad	Madagascar	Sudan
Comoros	Malawi	South Sudan
Republic of the Congo	Mali	Swaziland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Morocco	Tanzania
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Togo
Djibouti	Mauritania	Tunisia
Egypt	Mozambique	Zambia
Eritrea	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia		
Gabon	Niger	

- What does the Arabic word *habibi* mean?

Answer: **My beloved** or my darling (you can use it to refer to a friend, a family member, a lover, etc.). Note that *habibi* is the masculine and *habibati* is the feminine.

- The Middle East is on which continent(s)?

Answer: The Middle East is mostly situated in **Asia**, but also in **Europe** with the European region of Turkey, and in **Africa** with Egypt.

- Which region of India does the *Bhangra* dance form come from?

Answer: From the **Punjab** (northwest province of India and northeast Pakistan). Originally, the *Bhangra* dance was a popular dance form among farmers celebrating the harvest. The movements reflect those used to cultivate the land. Today, the *Bhangra* includes elements of very modern music and has become highly developed in Great Britain.



Walton Arts Center

Performance Guide

Kattam & His Tam-Tams

UE

MS

JH

HS

Arkansas Learning Standards: Fine Arts Theatre: CR.3.1, PR.4.1, RE.7.1 and 2, RE.8.1 and 2, RE.9.1, CN.10.1, CN.11.1 and 2. Theatre Appreciation: PR.4, RE.7-9, CN.10, CN.11. Music: RE.7-9, CN.10, CN.11. Dance: RE.7-9, CN.10 – 11. Performance Dance: PR.4, RE.7, RE.8, RE.9, CN.10, CN.11. Dance Appreciation: RE.7-9, CN.10 – 11. English Language Arts: RL.6.7, RL.6.9, SL.6.1, SL.6.2, SL.6.5.





We are going to Walton Arts Center!

Click [HERE](#) to read a Social
Story about your trip
(recommended grades K-4)

Click [HERE](#) for a Reader's
Theatre activity about your trip
(recommended grades 5+)





The Artist

Kattam is a Moroccan-Canadian percussion musician living in Montréal. He started learning percussion on his trips to Morocco when he was very young, and then was trained in classical piano and percussion in Canada. Through his avid interest in world music and his travels overseas, Kattam has studied **Afro-Cuban** percussion in **Havana**, the **djembe** in **Guinea**, and the **derbouka** in **Morocco**. He also studied the **dhol** and **tabla** - percussion instruments from **India**.

Kattam lives in Montreal, where he performs and collaborates with many world music groups. Travel is Kattam's chief source of inspiration as a musician. From East to West, he relies on various cultural traditions to inform his world view and musical practice. Music is the passport he uses to discover and experience different cultures.





The Art Form

Kattam performs a genre of music called *World Music*. Broadly defined, World Music is any traditional, folk, or classical music from continents other than North America or (western) Europe. Within the genre of world music are many different styles, instruments, rhythms, and languages. In *Kattam and his Tam-Tams*, Kattam focuses on playing music and teaching dance forms from Africa, the Middle East, and India. Hearing music from different parts of the world is a great way to learn about and understand other cultures.



Pre-Performance Learning

Kattam's Instruments

Kattam and his Tam-Tams features instruments from around the world. Here are a few examples of instruments you may see and hear at the show. Click on the name of the instrument to watch it being played.

(see speaker notes for detailed explanations)



Kattam plays the n'goni



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from Africa



N'goni



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from Africa



Balafon



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from Africa



Djembe



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from the Middle East



Darbuka



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from the Middle East



Nafir



Pre-Performance Learning

Instruments from India



Dhol



Post-Performance Learning

Learn more about World Dance Styles

In *Kattam and his Tam-Tams*, you learned a style of dance from India called *Bhangra*. Just as there is World Music - instrumental and vocal traditions around the world - there is also World Dance. You can experience World Music and Dance here in Northwest Arkansas through organizations such as the [Ra-Ve Cultural Foundation](#).



Ra-Ve Master Concert Dancer



Post-Performance Learning

Learn more about World Dance Styles

Skip Count Dance from Africa (recommended for grades K-2)



Post-Performance Learning

Learn more about World Dance Styles

West African Welcome Dance (recommended for grades 3-6)



Post-Performance Learning

Learn more about World Dance Styles

West African Dance Steps (recommended for grades 7+)



Post-Performance Learning

Reflect and Assess: Use the following questions to help students develop and expand their response to World Music.



- What did you notice about Kattam's use of music, dance, costumes and lighting?
- Were you familiar with any of the songs you heard? Which ones?
- Which countries did you learn about through Kattam's music?
- How did Kattam's music help tell the stories of different countries?
- Which dances did you learn with Kattam? Do you remember any specific movements?
- How did the performance make you feel?
- What moment in the performance do you remember most?



Walton Arts Center's 2024/25 Classroom Series is Supported by:



WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Education Partners:

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

UA Center for Children & Youth

Be a light! Become a Friend!

Our Friends help support arts education programming with their annual donations. Help light the way for even more students by becoming a Friend. Visit waltonartscenter.org/friends to learn more!

