



2908 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55408-1954  
Tel 612.341.0755  
Fax 612.341.0902  
Web [www.artsmidwest.org](http://www.artsmidwest.org)

---

## **Mission of Arts Midwest World Fest**

Arts Midwest World Fest presents international musical ensembles in intensive week-long residencies in smaller Midwest communities. Its purpose is to foster global understanding and appreciation through cultural experiences.

Arts Midwest World Fest's objectives are to:

- present top-quality international musicians to small and mid-sized Midwest communities;
- provide a multifaceted experience to community residents, particularly young people;
- integrate the artists and their music into a broader social, cultural, political, and historical framework;
- encourage young people to explore and understand diverse cultures; and
- create a lasting musical and cultural impact on our Midwest residents.

Each cycle of Arts Midwest World Fest occurs over a two-year period in which four global musical ensembles conduct week-long intensive residencies in selected communities through the Midwest. The residencies consist of school concerts, workshops, and outreach activities, and culminate in a public concert.

## **Arts Midwest World Fest Residency at a Glance**

In each residency, Arts Midwest program director Ken Carlson works with local state arts agencies and community leaders to ensure that the residencies are tailored to the specific needs of the communities. Through workshops, performances, and shared social functions, the musical ensembles strive to establish personal relationships with the students, their teachers, families, school administrators, and other members of the general public — thereby expanding local knowledge and appreciation for the artist's culture.

Residencies typically consist of reduced-cost public and free school concerts; free school workshops with college, high school, middle school, and elementary students; and free community activities that range from family workshops in public libraries, to master classes with local musicians, to community dinners.

Arts Midwest World Fest school workshops engage students in learning about global music, allow students to connect personally with musicians, educate students about the musicians' country and culture, and allow participants an opportunity to explore and share their own culture. The workshops are unique to each ensemble, and usually range in focus from musical technicality and hands-on creation of instruments, to student and artist dialogues regarding the ensemble's music and culture.

To extend the cultural experience to the classroom, Arts Midwest provides participating communities with study guides that help students and teachers better understand and appreciate the customs and traditions of the visiting ensembles. We hope that studying other cultures will spark a lasting curiosity in both teachers and students that will result in further exploration of the diverse and fascinating cultures of the world.

## **Arts Midwest World Fest Communities**

Most communities we choose for the program are moderate in size, with populations generally ranging from 6,000 to 40,000. We have learned that these communities have the best opportunities for embracing the ensembles and the program, and the community-wide impact is strongest.

Communities for the 2009-2011 cycle:

- Sandusky, Ohio
- Terre Haute, IN
- Marquette, MI
- Bloomington, IL
- Aberdeen, SD
- Alexandria, MN
- Knoxville, IA
- Valley City, ND
- Hartford, WI

## **Arts Midwest World Fest Ensembles for the 2009-2011 Cycle**

### **Agatsuma, Japan**

Experience the ancient Japanese art of Tsugaru-Shamisen brought to life by a master: Agatsuma. Marvel as he infuses the traditional sound of the long-necked, three-stringed shamisen with contemporary musical influences of blues, rock, dance music, folk, flamenco, and funk. Agatsuma's music brings people together, fusing different cultures, different centuries, and different musical traditions. Agatsuma and the shamisen: a magical, musical bridge not to be missed.

### **Beauty and Melody, The People's Republic of China**

The captivating music of Beauty and Melody, an all-female ensemble from China's Sichuan Province, will take you on a journey—from ancient Chinese dynasties to the hip and contemporary culture of today. Their instruments, costumes, songs, and personalities merge to charm you with their unique performance worthy of their name. Having toured the world—including performing at the United Nations in 2005—Beauty and Melody now bring their music to the Midwest.

### **The Israeli Ethnic Ensemble, Israel**

The Israeli Ethnic Ensemble brings the cultural mosaic of Israel alive, in your community! Savor their melodic mixture of Eastern European, Balkan, gypsy, Sephardic, and Yemenite influences, ranging from rollicking and joyous to moving and mournful. Always vibrant, always passionate, the Israeli Ethnic Ensemble performs from the heart—and will touch yours. Experience the music and mystery of Israel.

### **Mauvais Sort, Canada**

Accordion, violin, guitar, bass, mandolin, drums, percussion, feet, and voice come together in energetic fashion in the French Canadian ensemble, Mauvais Sort. The group combines talent and enthusiasm with a love for music to capture the hearts of its audience with their accessible music. Blending bygone tunes with contemporary melodies, legends of yesteryear with anecdotes of their own making, Mauvais Sort delivers the global to the local.