

Wesli Workshops

1. Introduction

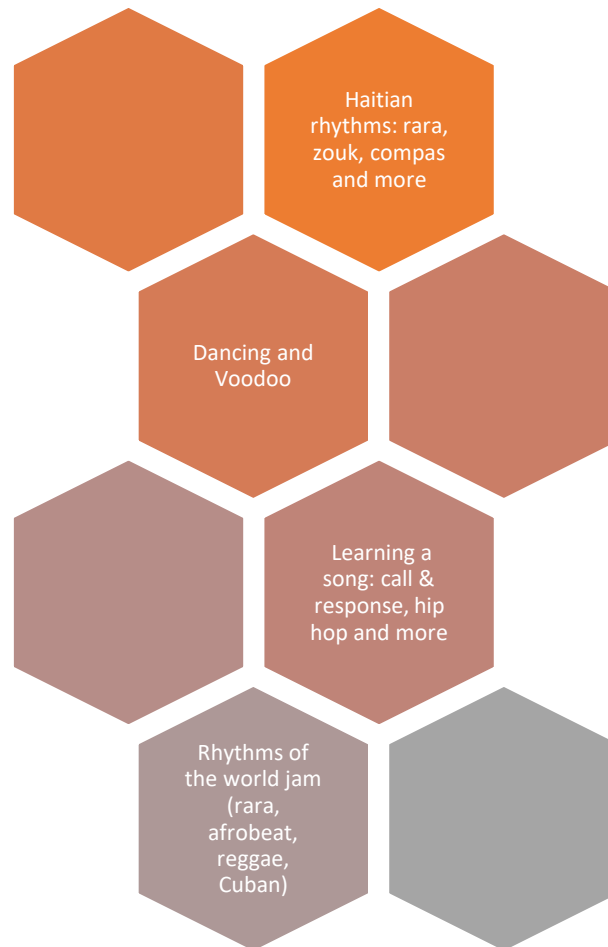
Wesli is a born troubadour and committed artist whose groove machine fuses afrobeat, reggae and Haitian rara into an energetic and irresistible performance. The multi-instrumentalist and producer-songwriter testifies on behalf of his people in a festive, original and enthralling musical universe, conquering hearts and minds. Wesli's workshops give participants an interactive insight into his music, his culture and rhythms from Haiti and around the world - a memorable experience.



Contact information

2. Contents

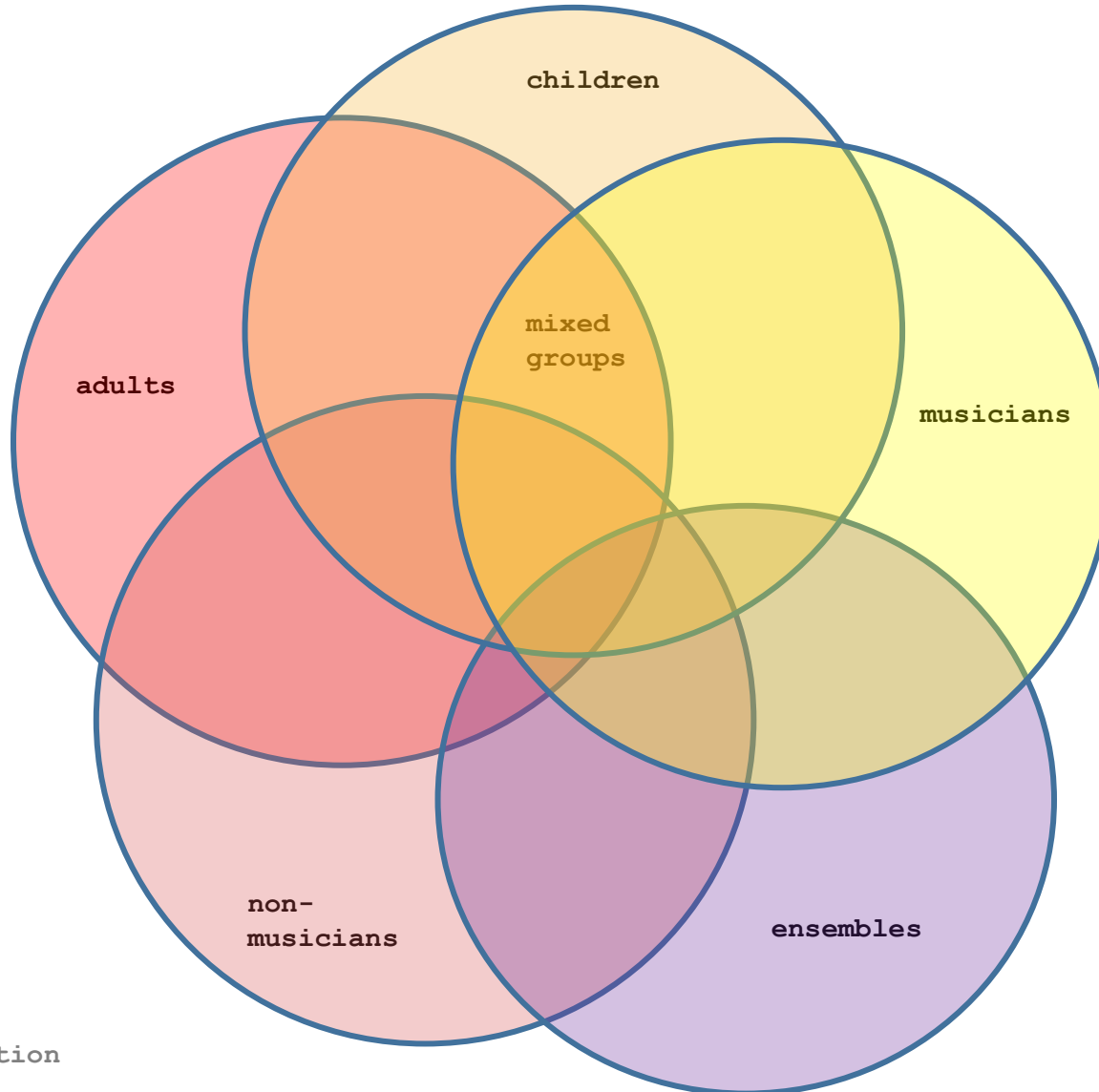
A prolific musician and composer with a rich musical background and a broad horizon, Wesli can offer a variety of different workshop topics, specializing in Haitian culture. Potential workshop elements, which can be combined with one another, are shown below.



Contact information

3. Participants

Wesli's workshops can be tailored to the requirements of diverse groups.



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4. About Wesli

Wesli: "You want to say something useful to society, not just entertain people... I connect the frustrations I felt in Haiti, the political and cultural issues, to express my hope, a better situation for Haitians and for all African diasporic people. That's what I want to share."

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wesli (Wesley Louissaint) built his first guitar out of an old NGO- provided oil can and nylon shoe lace when he was just eight years old. Coming from a family of 8 children where music was a daily food for the soul, it became second nature to him, a unique and vital way out of the violence and misery found in the surrounding ghetto. Wesli's musical journey started in the gospel choir of his local church and then he adopted the guitar as his main instrument.

Ever since, Wesli has worked relentlessly, perfecting his art, his only hope for a better life. Very early, he took part in serious projects such as the afro-roots Jazz 4ever quartet and SoKute. He performed in many of Haiti's concert halls and traveled abroad with Kreyol Mizik company. Be it in an acoustic formation (guitar, voice and percussion) or with his big band, Wesli consistently delivers a rich, festive and uniquely engaging sound. He conquers the heart of his audience through complex musical arrangements and universal messages of hope, truth and peace. Critics have crowned him "the most formidable creature in world music Montreal presently has to offer the rest of the planet" (Alain Brunet, La Presse).

Critical success:

JUNO Winner, World Music (2019)

FELIX winner, Musique du Monde (2019)

Prix de l'Académie Charles-Cros, France (2019)

Nomination, World Music solo album, CFMAs (2020)

SOCAN "Hagood Hardy" Award for World Music, 2016

CBC Revelation Award and Galaxy Rising Star 2011

Babel Med Music Award France 2010

Co-writer of "Nap chante pou Ayiti", a song in aid of the earthquake victims in Haiti, 2010

Latest album: Rapadou Kréole (2018) and previous Immigrand (2015)

critically acclaimed Wesli's albums comprise original compositions featuring brass and percussion, which are filled with groovy rhythms, reggae songs and committed afrobeats, along with more traditional Haitian sounds: Troubadour, Vaudou, Rara... Radio Radio can be heard in the song « Kalito Rara ». This is the second time that the Montreal based artist collaborates with these Acadian rappers. Plus: Nomadic Massive, Socalled, Dramatik, Vox Sambou, Sara Renelik, Malika Tirolien, Sergio Popu and Rachel Therrien ...

