



## Michael Toolles



A little bit about percussionist/drummer Michael Toolles.

During my high school years I had the privilege of performing in the All West Tennessee honor bands as well as the Memphis Youth Symphony. From high school I went on to the University of Memphis and studied percussion under [Dr. Frank Schaffer](#) and drum set with [Brian Fullen](#).

While at the University of Memphis I had the great chop building experience of marching with the Mighty Sound of the South, the University of Memphis marching band.

From there I started playing and recording around Memphis. Some of my early projects were with Tom Spolen, [Paul Taylor](#), [Steve Selvidge](#) and [Holly Jean Cosner](#). Somewhere around 1994 I stated playing with [Seven Four Slide](#). [Seven Four Slide](#) is what brought me to Chicago in 1998, but not before recording our first full-length cd and performing with [Jeff Buckley](#) before his untimely death.

In 1998 Seven Four Slide moved to Chicago and around 2001 disbanded. Since then I've had the pleasure of performing in some fun projects with great Chicago musicians [Jellyeye Drum Theater](#), [Tom Sharpe](#), [Yves Francois et Rocambu Jazz](#), [Spyder Monkey](#), [The Chicago Clarinet Ensemble](#) and hip hop artist [Mic One](#).

One of the things I enjoy most is bringing music from different cultures around the world to kids in Chicago and the surrounding area. I am very fortunate to get to do this through [Urban Gateways](#) along with Ashley Munstermann and John Knecht in a show titled the [Birthplace of Rhythm](#). [Urban Gateways](#) places the [Birthplace of Rhythm](#) in schools throughout the Chicagoland area and we bring drums, rhythms and songs from places such as West Africa, Turkey, Northern Europe, Brazil, Cuba, Japan, Australia, Tahiti and the United States.

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