



Steve Hill, 7, Springfield Road, Morley, LEEDS
LS27 9PN

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 113 252 3205; email:
steve.hill@stevehil.globalnet.co.uk

31st January, 2003.

To whom it may concern:

20,000 Drums Project - Samantha Skyring

I have been a teacher of African-style (djembe) hand-drumming since 1996, including teaching of specific rhythms taught by African drummers based in, or visiting, the UK. In addition, I am now a drumcircle facilitator ('Daftasadrum') and have completed two Facilitator Playshops in Hawaii with Arthur Hull.

All of us are aware of debt we owe to our African teachers, some of whom are cut off from their culture - like the late and lovely Musa Suma of Leeds who, because he could not get treatment for his diabetes in his home area, was virtually exiled here in England.

It came as a shock to realise that children *in* Africa, in Soweto, are similarly losing touch with their rhythmical roots - the ones we all take for granted and which we assume are strong all over your country.

I am delighted to support Samantha's application for funding for this inspiring and amazing project. I have already sponsored some drums, and am hoping personally to travel and take part. I also plan a synchronised event in my area.

That we should need to teach drumming to African children is a humbling thought, but I know that rhythm and drumming are universal, and vital for well-being. I also know from experience that there isn't anyone who wouldn't benefit from involvement in a drum circle. I've seen it lift, liberate and bond so many people because it involves everyone at their own level, and it gets in under the radar, to where it's needed most - even in the most damaged of people.

Please be generous - your outlay will be rewarded an hundredfold.

Steve Hill.