

## **Marvin R. Sparks, Jr.**

Marvin R. Sparks, Jr has worked throughout the United States as a percussionist, drummer, educator, consultant, writer, and producer. Mr. Sparks has presented throughout the country at high schools, colleges and various music education conferences including **JEN** (*Jazz Education Network*), **TJEA** (*Texas Jazz Education Association*), **IAJE** (*International Association of Jazz Education*), **TMEA** (*Texas Music Educators Association*), **TBA** (*Texas Bandmasters Association*), **Midwest Band and Orchestra Convention** and **PASIC** (*Percussive Arts Society International Convention*) as a director, panelist, soloist, and performer.

In 2015, Sparks presented at the “Third Annual History Day “The Civil Rights Movement” on “The Music and Musicians of the Civil Rights Movement” at Lone Star College-Kingwood. In 2014, Professor Sparks presented at the 2014 National Meeting for ADP/TDC (National Conference on Civic Engagement for AASCU) in Louisville, KY.

Professor Sparks has served on the faculties of **Eastern Illinois University** (*Lecturer*), **U of Missouri-St. Louis** (*Director of Percussion/Jazz Studies*), **U of Houston** (*Director of Percussion*), and **Texas Southern University** (*Jazz Studies*). Many of his former students are leading pioneers in the music industry as educators and performers including Terreon Gully (*Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, Joe Locke*), Taku Hirano (*Cirque Du Soleil-Michael Jackson tour, Fleetwood Mac*), Eric Harland (*SF Jazz Collective, Voyager*), Kendrick Scott (*Terrance Blanchard, Oracle*), and Mark Colenburg (*Robert Glasper*). Mr. Sparks is featured on [www.Drummerworld.com](http://www.Drummerworld.com) (*International website featuring the great drummers from around the world*). Mr. Sparks holds a Bachelors of Music (Performance) from the **University of Illinois-CU** and a Masters of Art (Performance) from **Eastern Illinois University**.

As a **performer**, Marvin Sparks has recorded and performed live in various genres of the music industry including:

**Orchestral:** Houston Latin American Philharmonic Symphony (present), Chicago Civic Orchestra, Texas Master Chorale Orchestra;

**Broadway Musicals:** Motown-The Musical (National Tour), The Color Purple (National Tour), Ragtime (National Tour), The Wiz (National Tour), Titanic (National Tour), Will Rodgers Follies, King and I ((National Tour)); Ensemble Theater-Houston (various productions);

**Jazz/Blues Artists:** Calvin Owens, Max Roach, Joe Henderson, Sandip Burman, Roy Ayers, Ernie Watts, Ndugu Chancler, Billy Harper;

**R&B:** Maxx Traxx/Third Rail, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Roy Ayers, Jerry Butler;

**Christian/Gospel:** Della Reese, James Cleveland, Mattie Moss Clark, First Baptist Church-Houston, Lakewood Church, First Presbyterian Church-Kingwood, Strawbridge United Methodist Church-Kingwood, Metropolitan CME Church-Houston, Christ Universal Temple-Chicago, First Methodist Church-Downtown and Calvary Christian Fellowship-Kingwood (present).

Sparks has recorded over 200 commercials for Radio and TV as a composer, performer, and producer. He is an educational consultant for Evans Drumheads, Sabian Cymbals, Vic Firth Mallets and Sticks, and the Latin Percussion Music Group.

At Lone Star College-Kingwood Professor Sparks teaches Music Appreciation, American Music, Private Percussion Lessons, the College Success Course and has performed with the Kingwood Big Band. Mr. Sparks is a board member of LHMAS (Lake Houston Musical Arts Society). Professor Sparks was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award from the Lone Star College System in 2014.

For more information visit Sparks Educational and Professional Services Inc. (Consulting for Educational Programs in the Arts): ([www.sparksedproserv.com](http://www.sparksedproserv.com))