

LENS

OZIER MUHAMMAD



"When I first came to the church and saw the drum set near the altar, I knew this was the church for me."

ALESSANDRA BELLONI

Sounds From Uncommon Spaces

Walking through the streets of New York City, you hear all sorts of sounds: cars, feet, voices and even music.

At times, it is enchanting, melodious and beautiful; or it can be dissonant, awful and nerve-racking. And sometimes, it is a mystery where the sounds are coming from.

You might walk by a building or a subway grate and hear drabs and drabs of sound and wonder: Is this a rehearsal? Where am I? Where are

they?

Over the next 12 weeks, photographs in this space will explore the uncommon places where local musicians work on their craft. Whether the musicians settle on their locations out of necessity or out of choice, you will be drawn into their world and experience their sound, with audio clips available on the Lens visual journalism blog, at nytimes.com/lens.

Alessandra Belloni, above, is a

member of First Presbyterian Church of Edgewater, N.J., also known as the Church on the Edge, where she practices drumming in the sanctuary on Tuesdays. Ms. Belloni said she is a percussionist who happens to sing, too. Many of her songs are a mix of chants, prayers and folk songs from her childhood growing up in Rome. She also is an artist in residence at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine.

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