

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Penelope Popocatepetl and the Three Babirusas

Artist: Brookside Brass Trio

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Performance Description

The Brookside Brass Trio demonstrates in this performance ways that music can tell a story. During this engaging program, students are introduced to brass instruments as the trio tells the exciting tale of Penelope and Papa Popocatepetl's adventure with three thieving Babirusas.

This story is told in the form of a play with two Acts. As an introduction, a member of the trio will introduce the show, teach students how to say Penelope Popocatepetl's name, and coach the students on their part of the show. The members of the trio perform the roles of Bob Babirusa,



Betty-Bob Babirusa, and Bob-Bobba-Do-Bob Babirusa. Together, the three musicians perform the music and narrate the story.

When the three Babirusas steal Penelope's popcorn, poor Penelope and her father are left without food. Unfortunately, the Babirusas eat the popcorn without popping it first and explode as a result.

Later, the three Babirusas heal their wounds and replace

Penelope's popcorn as they mend their greedy "Babirusa" way. They also learn the power of the word "please", all while winning the hearts of the children they entertain.

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Be shown how music can be used to tell a story
- See how communication and etiquette lead to better relationships
- Identify the sounds of trombone, trumpet, and French horn

Language Arts:

- Can talk about characters and their actions in stories

Music:

- Identifies the sounds of a variety of instruments and voices

Special Points of Interest:

This performance is designed for students grades K-3.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Three chairs

Artist Bio: Brookside Brass Trio

Stephanie Cox (trombonist and musical director) received a B.M. in Trombone Performance from UMKC in 1984. She has studied with members of the Chicago Symphony and at the Aspen Music Festival. Stephanie is principal trombonist for the St. Joseph Symphony and the Northland Symphony. She is Instructor of Trombone at Washburn University in Topeka, KS and works as a freelance musician throughout the Kansas City area.

Bill Brower (horn) studied at the University of Kansas and the Conservatory of Music at UMKC where he received a Masters degree in Horn Per-

formance. He is currently Instructor of Horn at Washburn and Baker Universities. In addition to freelancing in the Kansas City area, Bill serves as hornist for the Washburn University Woodwind Quintet.

Barry Springer (trumpet) moved to Kansas City after spending three years as soloist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra. While completing a Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance at UMKC, he was a Concerto-Aria Competition winner in 1987. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies from Indiana University. Barry is a freelance musician and private music instructor.



Brookside Brass

Vocabulary

Accompaniment: background music that goes along with the melody or solo.

Character: A person portrayed in an artistic piece, such as a drama or novel.

Classical music (specific): music written by composers during the classical period of music between 1750 and 1827 (i.e. Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, etc.)

Composer: the creator of a piece of music who writes musical ideas down on paper so other musicians can play them.

Conflict: Opposition between characters or forces in a work of drama or fiction, especially opposition that moti-

vates or shapes the action of the plot.

Improvised solo: music played by one person that is made up on the spot.

Jazz: American music developed out of Ragtime and Blues, characterized by improvisation, accented rhythms, melodic variations, and a lively spirit.

Mute: device placed in the bell of a brass instrument to soften or change the sound.

Solo: a piece or part of a piece performed by one musician, with or without accompaniment.

List of Resources

BOOKS

Musical Instruments: Brass

by Wendy Lynch

Heinemann Educational Books - Library Division (August 22, 2002)
ISBN: 0431129061

Carnival of the Animals: By Saint-Saens
(Classical Music for Kids)

by Barrie Carson Turner, Sue Williams
Henry Holt & Company;
Book & CD edition (April 1, 1999)
ISBN: 0805061800

Busy Buzzing Bumblebees and Other
Tongue Twisters (I Can Read Book)

by Alvin Schwartz, Paul Meisel
HarperTrophy; Revised edition
(May 1, 1992) ISBN: 0064440362

Post-Performance Activities

1. Discuss alliteration. Is anyone's first and last name an example of alliteration? (Example: Barbara Baker) As a class, make up sentences Using alliteration. Choose a letter and start throwing words on the board that begin with that letter. (Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers) Homework: write three alliterative sentences with at least 5 different words starting with the same letter.
2. Interview two adults about the kind of music they like. Why do they like it? How does it make them feel? When do they hear it? (On the radio, recording, or live concert?) Do they ever use music to accompany another activity (like cooking or cleaning or entertaining)? What activities?
3. Estimate how long you think a French horn would be if it were un-curved. [17 feet!] Now, have a class contest estimating how long 17 feet is.
4. As a class, listen to a recording of *Peter and the Wolf* by Sergei Prokofiev. In this symphonic work, different instruments are used to depict different characters. Discuss how music is used to express feelings or tell a story. Have students seen a movie, cartoon, or television program in which music helps the story along?