

Study Guide for Teachers

"CARNIVAL TRIO" *Music of the Caribbean*



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning
Connecticut

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In their "Caribbean Steel Drum" program, Carnival Trio introduces students to the steel drum or "pan." Using visual aids and student help, the musicians demonstrate the basic steps in making a steel drum.

In the second half of the program, Carnival Trio involves the students in "Carnival Fun", like the Carnival celebration in Trinidad parallel to New Orleans Mardi Gras). Students can participate in a variety of ways, from performing in the "Carnival Band", to joining in the Limbo or the other dances led by David Gaskin of Carnival Trio.



INSTRUMENTATION

Bass pans: Lowest of the pans, made from full size five gallon oil drums. There are five drums in a set of bass pans.

Cello pans: Second lowest pans. Cellos come in sets of three pans and add notes to the chords in the harmony of the song.

Double second pans: Similar to guitar pans. There are two to a set and play melody, harmony or counter melody.

Guitar pan: the second highest pans. Two pans to a set of guitars. They play the chords or harmony of the song.

Tenor pan: The highest pitched pan, the lead pan in a steel drum.

OBJECTIVES

- To play the different instruments in the band alone and with others.
- To listen, analyze and describe Caribbean music.
- Evaluate the music and music performance.
- Understand the music in relation to history and culture.
- Understand the dances of the Caribbean and perform them with others.

VOCABULARY and TERMS

Carnival: Major festival in Trinidad and Tobago in January and February. The major days of Carnival are Carnival Monday and Tuesday right before the end of the Carnival on Ash Wednesday.

Caribbean: The set of islands of which Trinidad and Tobago are a part: also, the sea surrounding the Caribbean Islands.

Pan: Common name for the steel drum.

Panyard: Place where steel drum bands practice.

Port of Spain: The capital of Trinidad and Tobago

Trinibagonian: Someone from Trinidad and Tobago



BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Find Trinidad on a map and discuss where it is located in relation to our country.

Listen to music from the islands and have the students name the instruments they are familiar with.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Students can create their own carnival and band with real instruments or makeshift percussion instruments using anything at hand, as the early Carnival revelers did.

How does the family of steel pans relate to other families of instruments?

- Strings
- Drums

Write a letter to the performers about what the students liked about the music and describe how it made them feel.

CURRICULAR LINKS

Connecticut State Department of Education

Source: The CT Framework - K-12 Curricular Goals and Standards - Music

- ✚ Standard 6: Analysis
Students will identify the sounds of a variety of instruments, including many orchestra and band instruments, and instruments from various cultures, as well as children's voices and male and female adult voices.
- ✚ Standard 7: Evaluation
Students will evaluate a performance, composition, arrangement or improvisation by comparing it to similar or exemplary models.
- ✚ Standard 9: History and Cultures
Students will describe distinguishing characteristics of representative music genres and styles from a variety of cultures.



RESOURCES

Teachers:

The Essential Trinidad and Tobago:

<http://anansi.mit.edu/tnt>

Discover Trinidad and Tobago:

<http://anansi.mit.edu/DiscoverTT/>

Trinidad Guardian:

<http://www.guardian.co.tt/>

Steel Pan Drum Page

<http://www.mcs.net>

Links to the World of Pan

<http://www.oberlin.edu/~cconsort/links.html>

Flags of the World

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/flagsoftheworld.html>

Students:

Steel Drums And Ice Skates. By Dirk McLean. Illustrated by Ho Che Anderson. Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books, 1996. 32pp, Grades 1 - 4 / Ages 6 - 9.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Carnival Trio is made up of David Gaskin (steel drum and vocals), John Romagnoli (drums) and Peter Falbo (electric bass) and other visiting members.

Originally from Trinidad, David Gaskin came to the United States under the auspices of the organization Pan Trinibago. He has taught in conjunction with Sesame Street and The Model City. David has released several recordings and performs widely in New York City and different parts of the U. S. and the Caribbean.

John Romagnoli played with Gary U.S. Bond as a teenager, and traveled to Jamaica in the 70's to study the rhythm of the Caribbean.

Peter Falbo was born and raised in New York, and has worked as a professional musician in New York City for 28 years. Peter is versed in many musical styles, including R & B, jazz, country, and many kinds of ethnic music with a special fondness for Caribbean music.

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