

Bluegrass in the Schools Set

This program is very flexible for age groups and content. The objectives can be arranged to fit any appropriate class setting and environment.

“Bluegrass In the Schools”

Perform, “Rocky Island” (Public Domain)

This will allow the listener to begin to identify and show interest in the music and instruments.

1. Introduce the word “Bluegrass” (Demonstrate a brief history and where the word came from, how it has become a genre of music in the USA).

2. Introduce the story of the “Father of Bluegrass”

3. “Blue Moon of Kentucky” (Bill Monroe tune)

4. Build a band

Introduce the bass (straight beats, walking beats and slap bass techniques)

Play bass “tap” game

Introduce the mandolin (mandolin tune and tremolo techniques)

Play mandolin “chop” game

Introduce the guitar

The guitar plays the G run and a melody sample

Play “Can you hear the G run game”

Introduce the banjo

Play, “Foggy Mountain Breakdown” (Flatt and Scruggs) Sample of 5 part Harmony

Sing samples of “a capella and Bluegrass Harmonies

Introduce the Fiddle or Violin

Play various bow styles and sounds.

Play the “Orange Blossom Special” (Chubby Weise)

Demonstrate that the instruments can be played in different styles

a. Swing Tune, “Dancin’ By The River” (Chris Gantry)

b. Pop Tune, “Man In the Mirror” or “Country

Roads” (whichever seems appropriate). Questions and answer time. At the end teach them how to “buck dance” to “Angeline the Baker, [Stephen Foster]

This program can be also created to just introduce “American Roots Music and Instruments” by using a similar curriculum, but perhaps different songs and demonstrations with the instruments. We believe in our presentation to be interactive, friendly and fun! If the age group is young, you should really focus on the instruments and fun examples that they can relate to. The older student can be focused on styles, sounds, technique and listening skills. At any given moment this educational program can focus on American music and how it relates to their culture as well.