

MUSIC FROM ANYTHING!

WITH **BILLY JONAS**

An interdisciplinary program in making music and musical instruments from found, foraged and recyclable objects.

TEACHING GUIDE and CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENT

PROGRAM INCLUDES :

- * Workshops in instrument making, songwriting, and playing rhythms and music
- * A concert of fun, educational, participatory songs

DISCIPLINES COVERED:

- * **Music**—vocal, instrumental, percussion, ensemble, composing, performing, and improvising
- * **English**—language arts, creative writing, vocabulary
- * **Art**—instrument design, construction and decoration; sonic sculpture
- * **Environmental Studies**—ecology, recycling, natural resources, relationship and responsibility of individual to the natural world
- * **Physics**—sound waves, sound generation, acoustics

SKILLS AND ABILITIES DEVELOPED (using “Gardener’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences”):

- * **Logical/Mathematical**—rhythm, rhyme schemes, pattern recognition and manipulation
- * **Verbal/Linguistic**—songwriting, verbal improvising, new vocabulary, enunciation
- * **Visual/Spatial**—instrument design and construction, creation of visual ”musical scores”
- * **Bodily/Kinesthetic**—rhythm and movement coordination, hands-on building of instruments
- * **Musical**—singing, playing, composing, performing, improvising
- * **Interpersonal**—ensemble playing, group songwriting, cooperative building of instruments
- * **Intrapersonal**—conception and implementation of song and instrument ideas, creative self-expression

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. GOALS: to encourage any child's natural creative inclinations; to inspire creative exploration, self-expression, and cooperative group process. The doors of possibility will be thrown open!

2. FORMAT: "Music from Anything!" is an interdisciplinary educational program adaptable to any children in grades K-12. IT involves workshops in instrument making from recyclable objects, songwriting, and playing music, as well as a highly interactive concert. In addition to music, students learn about recycling and ecology. "Music from Anything!" is presented by Billy Jonas, a composer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Asheville, NC.

3. PRINCIPLES: "Music from Anything!" is based on the idea that *MUSIC IS POSSIBLE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, WITH ANYTHING AND ANYONE*. It is assumed that *EVERYONE IS A MUSICIAN*, regardless of training, experience, age and ability.

Each component of the program (interactive concert and workshops) strives to create a balance between a cognitive/analytic approach (question and answer time; planning time) and a hands-on/experiential approach (implementing plans; experimenting and creating). "Music from Anything!" strives to stimulate and celebrate each of the seven modes delineated in "Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences." This way each child's unique strengths and abilities are challenged and honored. Gardner's theory includes the following modes of learning and areas of natural affinity:

1. logical / mathematical;
2. verbal / linguistic;
3. visual / spatial;
4. bodily / kinesthetic;
5. musical;
6. interpersonal;
7. intrapersonal

II. BEFORE THE PROGRAM: PREPARATORY MATERIALS

1. WHO IS COMING? (an optional discussion)

In setting the stage for a successful program, it is helpful to discuss the upcoming concert and workshops with students. The items below should provide some answers to student's queries, or can be a guideline for a game of "Twenty Questions."

"SOMEONE'S COMING.... A SPECIAL VISITOR....SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHO IT IS AND WHAT THEY DO:

The person is.....a teacher; a musician; he sings; he plays many different instruments.

WHAT KIND OF INSTRUMENTS?

Instruments like his voice; a guitar.... And instruments made of recycled stuff, bottles; cans; buckets; frying pans; garden hoses; anything!

WHAT DOES HE SING?

He sings... songs; stories; poems; things he made up; things you'll make up!

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO HERE?

He will... play a concert; lead workshops in 1.instrument making from recyclable stuff that YOU bring to school (each person should bring in AT LEAST 3 recyclable containers—a cardboard one, a plastic one and a metal one – so everybody start bringing in stuff soon!); 2.songwriting; and 3.music making.

HOW ARE WE GONNA DO ALL THAT?

We start small and keep on going, one step at a time. We can do whatever we dream of!

2. REDUCE * REUSE * RECYCLE (an optional preparatory discussion)

These are three keys to creating a healthy, sustainable society and planet. See if the students can differentiate between them, and generate examples of both the problems and potential solutions.

REDUCE: Cutting down on the amount of things we buy and use; identifying things we buy or use that we don't really need (like extensive packaging) and cutting back on wasteful practices.

REUSE: Keeping things from entering the "waste stream" by finding new and creative uses for old stuff; make a planter from an old shoe; make collages from magazines etc.

RECYCLE: Both "reducing" and "reusing" are forms of recycling. But it is important to distinguish the process of "industrial recycling," or the process of mechanically and chemically breaking down used materials into a raw form, so that they can be remanufactured. Examples: turning old newspapers back into new newspapers; turning old bottles and cans into new ones.

VOCABULARY: reduce reuse recycle sustainable waste stream landfill industrial mechanical chemical manufacture technology raw material byproduct

3. WHERE DO THINGS COME FROM? (optional exercises and vocabulary)

All the different materials we will use to make our instruments ultimately come from the same place – the ground! Encourage students to discuss the origins and uses of these materials: plastic, cardboard, wood, metal, glass and cloth (as well as any others they can think of!).

EXERCISE: For younger students, generate a list of the materials that our houses and possessions are made of. For older students, create a “Resource Tree” – a flow chart of where our materials come from and the stages involved in getting them to their present state.

For example: PLASTIC materials come from...stores, which get them from a truck/train/boat/plane, which got them from a factory, which got them from chemists, who got them from petrochemicals, which come from oil, which come from oil wells (in Texas, Alaska, Saudi Arabia, etc.), which come from decomposed dinosaurs, which come from THE GROUND!

VOCABULARY: natural resource petrochemicals petroleum refinery iron ore decompose erosion compost silicon fiber purveyor manufacture industrial factory mines miners extract process technology technique invention innovation invent create

NOTE: EXERCISES AND VOCABULARY ARE OPTIONAL, and will be touched on during the program if they are not covered beforehand.

4. THINGS TO BRING: Materials for making instruments from recyclable objects.

EACH STUDENT is encouraged to bring AT LEAST 3 RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS:

- * 3 CARDBOARD BOXES (ANY SIZE)
- * 3 METAL CANS (RINSED)
- * 3 PLASTIC CONTAINERS (MILK JUG, SODA BOTTLE, ETC. RINSED)

Students may bring more than one of each, as well as any additional items with musical or sonic potential. NO GLASS for the workshops....thanks!

ADDITIONAL ITEMS that are good to have:

- * rubber bands, balloons, pencils, newspapers/magazines

ESSENTIAL CRAFT MATERIALS that teachers should supply:

- * beans or rice or small stones for making shakers (1 lb. per 10 students)
- * masking tape (3 rolls per 10 students)
- * decorating materials (crayons, markers, scissors, construction paper)

ADDITIONAL CRAFT ITEMS – optional but helpful

- * “duck” tape, hammer, a few big nails for poking holes, pliers, glue gun

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. THE CONCERT: Participation is the mane of the game! In sing-a-longs and bang-a-longs, everyone is invited to become part of an audience orchestra. Simple hand signals are used to tune –up and conduct the participants, using instruments they have created, or find (shoes, clothes and voices!). Themes of planet-care, recycling, creativity, self-discovery, and community are covered.

TIME: 40 minutes to an hour, depending on the age group.

2. INSTRUMENT MAKING from recyclable objects: with a few examples, students will invent and make their original instrument or musical sculpture out of plastic, metal, and cardboard containers that they bring. Teachers should provide masking tape and shaker materials (see the “Things to Bring” list on previous page).

TIME: 1 class period.

3. SONGWRITING: Anything goes! From nonsense songs to autobiographies and family histories, both written and improvised. Depending on time, we will discuss different types and forms of songs, as well as the poetical/lyrical devices used (verse, chorus, rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia etc.). Material can be tailored for ANY age group from K-12.

TIME: 1 class period.

4. MUSIC PLAYING: No matter what the ability or previous training, everyone comes out a musician! We will explore rhythm, polyrhythm, unison, call and response, harmony, dynamics, conducting, composing, and improvising.

TIME: 1 class period.

NOTE: ALL WORKSHOPS CAN BE COMBINED IN ONE CLASS PERIOD, IN FORESHORTENED VERSIONS.