

GENERAL MUSIC SESSIONS

Classical Music in the Elementary Classroom – Playful Experiences for Children

Colleen Sprague Bretthauer

Looking for new ways to investigate classical music in the K-5 general music classroom? This session is for you! Using parachutes, cooprabands, rhythm sticks, and scarves, we will investigate form, steady beat, phrasing, tempo, expression, creativity and pretend play. Other activities will focus on Brain Gym movements, Laban weight and flow, locomotor skills and relaxing lullaby time. All participants will receive a handout of all activities, a discography and a bibliography.

Colleen Sprague Bretthauer



Colleen Sprague Bretthauer is a certified teacher of music pre-K-12 in the state of Connecticut. She is currently a K-5 general music/choral teacher at Hopewell School in Glastonbury, CT. Formerly she taught Music and Movement in Early Childhood at Capital Community College, Hartford, CT and was a Certification Level I teacher in Music Together. She began her career directing vocal groups at Rivier College and as a high school choral director at Enfield and Fermi High Schools, Enfield, CT. In addition to this, she spent the last 15 years as Coordinator of the Summer Music Institute at Central Connecticut State University. She holds a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire, Post-B.A. Certification in Music Education and a M.S.

from Central Connecticut State University. She has been in love with teaching people of all ages to sing, and continues to find joy in watching the faces of children as they make music.

Simple Lesson Plans for Rhythmic Understanding

Steve Owens

Using a 16 square grid, hand held percussion instruments and a sense of humor, Steve will demonstrate use of this infinitely malleable graphic on a Smart Board to teach basic rhythmic concepts from grades PreK-6. Use of transitional notation, conventional notation and Keetman's six rhythmic building blocks will be demonstrated. Concepts covered will include rests, dynamics, meter, timbre, form, and rhythmic complementarity. The childrens' creativity is the ultimate assessment of understanding. The lesson plans are technology enhanced - they can also be delivered without technology on a conventional whiteboard, as well as on competing products such as Polyvision. Plans will be provided in both print and electronic format. This session will be presented at two different times.

Steve Owens



Steve Owens is a National Board Certified Teacher - Music/Early Middle Childhood who teaches at the Calais and Sharon Elementary Schools in Vermont. He is an approved teacher trainer for Orff Schulwerk Levels 1 and 2, and president of the Northern Lights Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association, which covers Vermont and the Adirondacks. Steve holds a second Vermont endorsement as a Technology Integration Specialist. In 2010 he was the first music teacher selected to be a Classroom Fellow for the Teaching Ambassador Fellowship Initiative at the U.S. Department of Education.

Telling Folktales

Tim Jennings

Vermont's legendary folk storyteller conducts an entertaining, hands-on introduction to his ancient craft. Tim covers the traditional art of performing folk tales for children, and demonstrates a process for teaching school-children to perform for their peers in an educational setting. Theory and technique are painlessly woven into this playful, useful, unthreatening workshop.

Music and Storytelling

Jennings & Ponder

Folk storytelling and traditional music are deeply connected on multiple levels. Storyteller/musicians Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder explore these connections, demonstrate and discuss how they find, prepare, and present their material. In the process, they will perform selections from their award-winning storytelling recordings.

When Tim and Leanne tell stories together, their voices intertwine and overlap in a kind of narrative counterpoint, a compelling alloy of technique and soul. Their physical presence is natural and animated, and very expressive. Harp and concertina weave music into the tale-spinning. Sometimes there's an old family ballad or parlor song. Humor, suspense, pathos and exhilaration all play together, with elements of chautauqua, lyceum, and vaudeville.

TIM JENNINGS AND LEANNE PONDER

TIM JENNINGS has been a storyteller all his life, and has made his living that way since 1980. Before that he taught school, and ran the children's department in an independent bookstore. Tim occasionally acts in professional theater companies, and for many years his old-time music band "Sweet Corn Broadcasters" played concerts and contra dances in northern Vermont.

LEANNE PONDER was in the first group of writers recruited by the Vermont Arts Council to conduct poetry residencies in schools, in the early 70s, and has taught many thousands of schoolchildren to write strong poetry through that organization. Over the past 20 years, she has become an accomplished Celtic harper, founding and sustaining the music duo "Sheefra."



JENNINGS & PONDER has been touring for over 20 years, in Vermont, New England, across the country, and around the world. The act has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival, the International Storytelling Center, the Toronto Storytelling Festival, and the Hudson River Clearwater Revival. They are funded by the Vermont Arts Council.

The two also perform as the popular Celtic harp and concertina instrumental duo "Sheefra." Their music albums were acquired by the Irish Traditional Music Archive, in Dublin, and they recently contributed four cuts to the FolkSounds release, "English international," an album composed of archival English Concertina recordings.

They are married, and live in Montpelier with a greyhound dog and a marmalade cat.