

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Carnival Kaleidoscope

Artist: The Traditional Music Society

Performance Description

Inside this guide:

Performance Description
Educational
Artist Bio
Vocabulary
List of Resources
Post-Performance Activities

Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

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The Traditional Music Society takes students on a journey to the biggest musical parade in the world: Carnival! An annual celebration held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is a tradition in Brazil that coincides with Mardi Gras.

Brazil, the most culturally diverse country in the world, has a population well represented by every major continent, except Australia. This diversity is reflected in its music which includes drums and bells from Africa, snares from Portugal, tambourines



from Turkey, and rattles and whistles from the Amazon.

All of these influences have created a unique sound and cultural melting pot expressed through an exciting and invigorating musical style called *Samba*. *Samba* is the national rhythm and dance of Brazil. This unique sound reaches its apex during Carnival. Performing this program are Bird Fleming, Pablo La Rosa, Patrick Conway, Jaisson Taylor and Gary Helm.

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Be able to distinguish between different kinds of sounds and tones.
- Be exposed to music from another culture that has influenced our own

Geography:

- Knows how places and regions serve as cultural symbols

Dance:

- Knows folk dances from various cultures.

Special Points of Interest:

The word *carnival* comes from Latin, "Carne Vale" or "Farewell to the Flesh".

Special REQUIREMENTS:

35' x 35' performance area; dressing area; PA system with five microphones on boom stands; large world map (or map of South America); area clean and clear of students 30 minutes before performance

Artist Bio: Bird Fleming/The Traditional Music Society

Bird Fleming developed his interest in music and drumming in his fifth grade band class. Since his parents could not afford a drum set, he played the bongos. By the age of 20, Bird was proficient in a variety of African and Afro-Cuban instruments. His career then led to him San Francisco where he performed and studied traditional hand drumming.

After moving to Kansas City in 1981, Bird began per-

forming traditional music in schools, community centers, and universities throughout the metropolitan area. He formed The Traditional Music Society, an arts organization devoted to multi-cultural arts education. This organization, composed of musicians and dancers sharing a similar background in folk music, has developed programs that teach students about different cultures through music and dance.



Bird Fleming, The Traditional Music Society

Vocabulary

Ago-go: a double-headed bell.

Apito: Brazilian samba whistle.

Carnival: a pre-spring Brazilian celebration with music, dance, and big parades, lasting 4 days and 4 nights.

Escola de samba (Portuguese:) literally translates as “samba school,” but refers to the big marching bands comprised of 1,000 to 4,000 people.

Ganza: large shaker shaped like a tube.

Kaleidoscope: a tube you turn to see changing patterns made by mirrors and colored glass.

Samba: the national rhythm and dance of Brazil, brought there by African slaves.

Surdo: large bass drum played with one mallet.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Discuss what you saw and heard. What kinds of tones are bright tones (bells?) What kind are dark tones (bass Drums?) Use your voices and vowels sounds to explore the sound of bright (e-e-e) and dark (uh) tones.
2. You are going to Brazil for a Carnival. What will you pack?
3. Color or draw a map of Brazil using bright colors to suggest its colorful people and traditions.
4. Plan a Carnival parade route thru your playground that uses a circle, square, and triangle shape. Take the class through their paces in 2 X 2 formation.
5. Divide into small groups of 4. Each group submits two themes for an imaginary classroom carnival. Vote on the class theme.



List of Resources

BOOKS

[The Brazilian Sound: Samba, Bossa Nova, and the Popular Music of Brazil](#)

by Chris McGowan, Ricardo Pessanha
Temple University Press; New edition
(February 25, 1998) ISBN: 1566395453

[Musica Brasileira: A History of Popular Music and the People of Brazil](#)

by Claus Schreiner, Mark Weinstein
Marion Boyars Publishers;
(November 1, 2002) ISBN: 0714530662

[The Mystery of Samba : Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil](#)

by Hermano Vianna,
John Charles Chasteen
University of North Carolina Press;
(February 1, 1999) ISBN: 0807847666