

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Peter and the Wolf Meets Looney Tunes

Artist: Dave Hepler and Will Gould

Inside this guide:

Performance
Description

Educational

Artist Bio

Vocabulary

List of Resources

Post-Performance
Activities

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Performance Description

Using characters borrowed from the Warner Brothers' classic Looney Tunes cartoons, this talented duo present *Peter and the Wolf* in a jazzed up version of Prokofiev's musical themes. Using just piano and voice, Hepler and Gould (along with Elmer, Bugs, Daffy, and others) bring new life to this classic Russian folktale.

The performance begins with an introduction of the artists and their art forms. Students will then learn about Theodore Seuss Geisel and watch a performance of Dr. Seuss' *Gerald McBoing Boing*, the story of a boy who speaks only in sound effects and seeks acceptance.

Hepler and Gould will then teach students about Sergei Prokofiev's intention of introducing parts

of the orchestra through the musical themes assigned to each character. The 'toon characters of Hepler and Gould's lively version of *Peter and the Wolf* will be introduced one by one, and students are encouraged to visualize the story as they listen to the musical tale.

The performance will conclude with a question and answer session.



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Appreciate the mechanics of radio theater
- Identify Prokofiev's work not only as an orchestral introductory piece, but as a narrative text that has often had connections with animation

Standards addressed:

- Can talk about characters and their actions in stories
- Knows character traits that help individuals to succeed.
- Understands how descriptions, dialogue, and actions are used to discover, articulate and justify character motivation

Special Points of Interest:

Gerald McBoing Boing won the 1950 Academy Award for Best Short.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

A tuned acoustic piano with piano bench; podium or music stand; P.A. system and two microphones with stands set up 30 minutes prior to performance.

Artist Bio: Dave Hepler and Will Gould

Dave Hepler began music lessons at the age of eight and, starting with some formal education on piano and trumpet, his professional solo piano career developed in the 1980s. He released five CDs between 1993 and 2005. In 1997, Hepler joined the Young Audiences (YA) of Indiana roster as a performing artist, where he currently presents on creativity, jazz music, and improvisation. He has worked with Will since 1999.

Will Gould is a native of Indiana and has been acting since 1971, appearing in more than 40 stage productions. He has been with YA Indiana since 1987 and is an advocate for the arts-in-education. He is often a featured storyteller at Borders Books, as well as a provider of cartoon character voices for cartoons for Perennial Pictures. He has participated in The Bonderman Playwriting Festival since 1985, appeared at The Lilly

Theatre/Children's Museum in Indianapolis, worked with the Muppets, and also taught at the Orchard School in Indianapolis.



Dave Hepler & Will Gould

Vocabulary

Character: A person portrayed in an artistic piece, such as a drama or novel

Forté: Italian word for "strongly, loudly"; used as a direction in music

Melodic phrase: a succession of notes forming a distinctive sequence

Orchestra: a group of musicians who perform instrumental music using mostly stringed

instruments

Piano: Italian word for "quiet"; in a soft or quiet manner; used as a direction in music

Score: the complete written music showing all of the individual parts of a large piece (as a symphony)

Sound Effects: an effect that imitates a sound called for in the script of a play

Post-Performance Activities

1. Have you ever felt like Gerald? Left out of life, like you are different? How did it make you feel?
2. Watch the Disney version of *Peter & the Wolf* or the cartoon version of Chuck Jones' *Peter & the Wolf*.
3. Listen to other versions of *Peter & the Wolf*.
4. Did the Warner Brothers characters Will Gould and Dave Hepler pick the story? How?



List of Resources

MUSIC

Composed by Prokofiev, Sergei, Britten, Benjamin.
Conducted by Maazel, Lorin.
Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf; Britten: Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra Op34, Deutsche Grammophon, 1990

BOOKS

Prokofiev, Sergei. *Peter and the Wolf*. Illustrated by Bono. Performed by Gavin Friday and The Friday-Seezer Ensemble. Publisher: Bloomsbury USA, Book and CD edition, 2003

Prokofiev, Sergei. *Peter and the Wolf: Symphonic Tale for Children* Hal Leonard, 1999