

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Missouri Cultural History

Artist: Cathy Barton-Para, Dave Para, and Bob Dyer

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more information on
this and other
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Performance Description

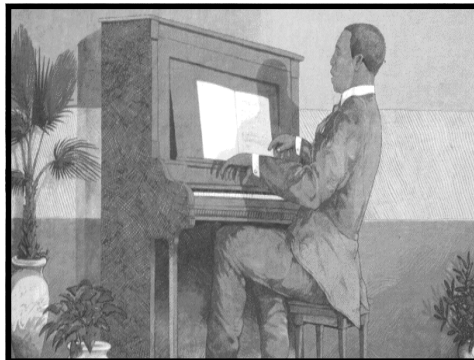
This program, a companion to the Missouri Cultural History Workshop, is designed to introduce students to visual and performing artists native to Missouri. Barton, Para, and Dyer use songs, slides, and stories to present the work of famous musicians and painters from Missouri. Historical anecdotes pertaining to the times and personalities of the

artists are shared with the students. The trio highlights information about the nature of folk music in the oral tradition and its roots in

country music and the students are invited to participate. The trio shows slides of Scott Joplin, Count Basie, and Charlie Parker and connects this music to the urban migration in America and rural folk traditions contributing to the popular musical forms of jazz and ragtime.

In addition, the trio shows slides of paintings by George Caleb

Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton and demonstrate what these artworks reveal about life in mid-nineteenth century Missouri.



Scott Joplin at the Piano

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Become familiar with regional cultural heritage and the works of selected Missouri artists
- Understand folk culture as the root of popular forms of music

History:

- Understands the broadly defined areas of state and local historical events

Music

- Identifies (by genre or style) music from various historical periods and cultures

Special Points of Interest:

Count Basie played in silent-film theaters in Kansas City, Missouri before joining Walter Page's Blue Devils.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Computer with data projector and screen; darkened performance space; two students to help load/unload equipment; 15 minutes set up time prior to performance; three chairs; glasses of water; electrical outlet; extension cord

Artist Bio: Cathy Barton-Para, Dave Para, and Bob Dyer

Dave Para and Cathy Barton-Para are vocal and instrumental musicians, storytellers, song writers and folklorists. Cathy holds a degree in Humanities and a master's degree in Folk Studies, and has written radio scripts and book and record reviews. She is a two-time winner of the Tennessee banjo championships and has appeared on *Hee Haw* and the *Grand Ole Opry*. Cathy and her husband, musician

Dave Para, have also appeared in festivals and concerts throughout the United States and Europe.

Bob Dyer is a free lance writer and guitarist who was born and reared in Boonville, Missouri. He has taught at the Kemper Academy and the University of Missouri, where he earned a master's degree in English. Bob performs in concerts and conducts workshops around the state and is noted

for his achievements as a published poet, historian, filmmaker, re-



Dave Para, Cathy Barton-Para, and Bob Dyer

Vocabulary

Folk Music: old songs and tunes passed down, usually orally, over a long period of time. There are several different types of folk songs, including: ballads, spirituals, dance tunes, play party songs, work songs, and the blues.

Jazz: a distinctive form of American music that evolved in the late 19th c. from African American music mingling with European folk music, vaudeville, spirituals, work songs, and the blues.

Missouri: The name comes from

a relatively small Indian tribe closely related to the Otoes. The main villages of this tribe were once near the Grand River in what is now Van Meter State Park near Marshall, MO.

Osage: The dominant tribe of Indians in what is now the State of Missouri.

Ragtime: one of the earliest forms of jazz with a quick, syncopated rhythm.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Encourage students to research with a partner a famous Missourian. Tell them to use the information they learn to perform a mock interview with one student playing the part of the interviewer and the other playing the part of the famous person. After practicing their questions and answers, students may perform for the class and perhaps dress the part.
2. Discuss with students the importance of George Caleb Bingham's art work as an actual account of what went on

3. in Missouri in the mid-19th century. Show the class one of Bingham's paintings of life on the Missouri river or one depicting the political atmosphere of the times, (e.g. "Order 11".) Ask students to describe what is happening in the painting and to compare this scene to a similar event of today.
3. Ask students to research encyclopedias, newspapers, etc. to learn about types of music popular in Missouri today and long ago. Some musical forms include big band, bluegrass, folk

music, ragtime, opera, symphonic music, and rock and roll.



George Caleb Bingham's *Order 11*

List of Resources

BOOKS

[Paintbox on the Frontier: The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham.](#)
by Alberta Wilson Constant
Ty Crowell Co; (May 1, 1974)
ASIN: 0690608446

[Shifra Stein's a Kids Guide to Kansas City](#)
by Shifra Stein Harrow Books;
(June 1, 1989) ASIN: 0916455025

[Maverick With a Paintbrush: Thomas Hart Benton](#)
by Wilma Yeo Doubleday;
(October 1977) ASIN: 0385080174