

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

The Musics of Mexico

Artist: Marimba Sol de Chiapas

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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In 1988, Marimba Sol de Chiapas was formed to authentically replicate the performance practice and spirit of the marimba heard throughout Mesoamerica.

This unique ensemble has won praise for their numerous tours of Latin America.

A professional resident ensemble at the UMKC Conservatory of Music, Marimba Sol de Chiapas is now pleased to bring your students this performance.

During this performance, students will be taken on a musical tour of four of Mexico's best-known regional musical styles: Norteño, Mariachi, Jarocho, and Marimba.

Through a multi-media presentation, the program incorporates pre-recorded music, a dazzling slide show, and audience interaction with live musical performances.

Students will learn about the authentic instrumentation associated with the various regional styles. Maps are used throughout the performance to highlight geographic relationships between the regions and the neighboring countries.

This performance will help correct stereotypical misconceptions about the culture and music of a very warm and friendly people.



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Listen to live music representing four of Mexico's best-known regional musical styles: Norteño, Mariachi, Jarocho, and Marimba.
- Compare the marimba to the piano.

Behavioral:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflect its values and beliefs

Music:

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

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Stage or similar space, minimum 16' x 8'; electrical power supply; wide access for musical instruments; stage and floor surface clean 30 minutes before performance; prefer space with lighting control for slide presentation

Artist Bio: Marimba Sol de Chiapas

A professional resident ensemble at UMKC's Conservatory of Music, Marimba Sol de Chiapas maintains an active international schedule of performances, recordings, multi-cultural workshops, and well over fifty years combined in-school presentation experience.

John Currey, the music director and an arranger for Marimba Sol de Chiapas, has over 10 years experience as an in-school presenter and clinician. He has toured extensively throughout the US, Mexico, and Western Europe.

James Schank is a member of the St. Joseph Symphony and is an active teacher/performer in the Kansas City area.

James Clanton has served as principal percussionist with the Canterbury Choral Society, the Oklahoma Opera and Musical Theater Company, and has performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Brian Fronzaglia is currently pursuing a doctorate in percussion performance at the UMKC Conservatory, while serving as Percussion Specialist with

Shawnee Mission South High School in Shawnee Mission, KS.



Marimba Sol de Chiapas

Vocabulary

Adiós: (Spanish) Good bye.

¿Cómo estás?: (Spanish) How are you?

Estados Unidos Mexicanos: The United States of Mexico

Hola: (Spanish) Hello, Hi.

Las maderas que cantan: (Spanish) *the wood that sings.* A poetic phrase that is often heard in Chiapas, Mexico's

southernmost state and home to the marimba tradition.

Mariachi: A street band in Mexico.

marimba: A large wooden percussion instrument with resonators, resembling a xylophone.

Mucho gusto: (Spanish) It's a pleasure to meet you.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Visit the library or use the Internet to explore the world of Marimba music. How does Latin-Marimba music compare to African-Marimba music? Can you hear the influences one style has had on the other?
2. Take a map and locate the regions visited in this performance. Compare the art and music to that region to that of the surrounding areas. Can you trace the influences the native cultures have had on the contemporary?
3. Listen to music played on a Mexican marimba and then to music played on a North American marimba. Can you hear a difference? Mexican marimbas use *telas* (vibrating membranes) at the bottom of the resonators. These *telas* create a buzzing sound not heard in North American marimbas which use steel resonators.

List of Resources

MUSIC

Best of the Baja Marimba Band,
Baja Marimba Band, Collector's Choice
ASIN: B00005MHV8

Chiapas, Marimba Yajalon,
Heart of Wood Project

Echoes of Chiapas, Marimba Yajalon,
Heart of Wood Project

Huapango, Marimba Yajalon,
Heart of Wood Project

BOOKS

Musical Instrument Design: Practical Information for Instrument Making
by Bart Hopkin
See Sharp Press; (August 1, 1996)
ISBN: 1884365086

