

Drama, Music

Abdullatif Touncara

Grade Level

K-6

Fee

\$400 or \$750 for back-to-back assemblies (fees negotiable if nearby schools co-schedule)

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room or gymnasium

Number of Students

room capacity

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

1

Edutainment

Abdullatif's performance of traditional African dance, drumming, rhythm, drama, song and storytelling is designed not only to entertain, but also to educate the audience. All performances include audience participation. The participation of the audience broadens the performance experience, which fosters the appreciation and understanding of the African art form and culture.

Abdulatif's assemblies include an anti-drug message and are appropriate for Red Ribbon Week. Themes in the assembly include: how to say no to drugs, how to have discipline and your own sense of values, and giving student the ability to say no. Through his drumming and rhythm, Abdullatif gives an example of how discipline is important to life.

Abdullatif Touncara is a multi-disciplined performing arts artist. He is available to conduct student workshops and in-services to teachers to utilize this holistic African life philosophy art form in their own classrooms to facilitate the learning process. Workshops for dance and drumming are available upon request.

RHAP

Availability

Merced County

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$30/session

Materials Fee

\$20

Materials Needed

none

WORKSHOP

Facilities

Classroom or outside area

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

45 min-1 hour

Number of Sessions

1 or more

Arturo Barajas

Share the culture of Mexico with Art Barajas as he leads students through an exploration of costumes, foods, music and lifestyle of our southern neighbors. Dressed in authentic Mexican horseman attire as a charro, Art explains the significance of all the parts of his costume, including the hat and jacket. He talks about his horsemanship and its long association with the development of Mexico. Art also brings Mexican instruments to the session and sings several authentic folk songs. The session ends with a fiesta as students break a piñata and share authentic pastries.

Art may bring a dancer, singer, writer or musician, depending on availability.

Arturo Barajas was born in Mexico and came to the United States at the age of 10. He grew up in the home of a Mexican baker with a large, extended family. He considers himself a true ambassador of Mexico and welcomes the opportunity to visit area classrooms for the purpose of education, understanding and sharing of the Mexican culture. Art currently works for the Merced County Human Services and also has fulfilled a lifelong dream of being a musician by being a part of a Mexican serenading group. Art is also a novice horseman.

HA

Availability

Merced County

Music

Grade Level

K-12

Fee

\$395/performance; \$595 for 2 back-to-back performances

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

2 6' tables

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

Multi-purpose room, gymnasium or auditorium

Number of Students

400 maximum

Length of Session

50 minutes

Number of Sessions

1/performance

Availability

Merced County

Rhythm Magic!

Michael Bayard

Michael Bayard brings Rhythm Magic, an exciting multicultural music assembly program, which uses drum and percussion instruments from around the world. Whether it's Africa, Mexico, South America, Asia or Europe, this program involves extensive interaction and student participation while emphasizing teamwork, harmony, communication, self-esteem and confidence. Integrating math, science, literacy, social studies and cultural appreciation, Rhythm Magic is engaging as well as fun.

Michael Bayard is a world-renowned percussionist who has inspired more than 300,000 students with his unforgettable musical programs. After graduating from the Julliard School of Music, Michael went on to become an international recording artist, a published author, composer and engaging speaker. Michael also has held the position of principal percussionist with the Sacramento Symphony for 18 years, performing with legendary artists such as Paul Simon, Kenny Rogers, Ray Charles, Henry Mancini and Frank Sinatra.

www.rhythmmagic.com

A S P

Music

Grade Level

K-3

Fee

\$315; \$420 for 2 consecutive assemblies

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

Multi-purpose room

Number of Students

capacity of room

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

1/performance

Availability

Merced County

Music with a Kiddie Beat!

Oklin Bloodworth

Oklin Bloodworth provides music, movement, dance and musical education to students and teachers in three separate assemblies. Let Go! Fun at the Zoo! encourages participants to dance, laugh, hop and sing with excitement and enthusiasm, as the embark on an interactive, educational and creative journey through the zoo. Like Me, Like You! will motivate and stimulate each child's mind with respect and appreciation of their classmates and most importantly, for themselves.

The Underwater Circus explores the nooks and crannies of the world's greatest oceans from top to bottom.

Behavior Counts is an interactive program that teaches children how to reach out to others. What we think becomes action; how we act becomes behavior; our behavior becomes our character; and our character becomes our destiny.

Oklin Bloodworth has performed for children and promoted music in the classroom for over 10 years. As a musical educator and performer, he brings music, movement, dance and musical education to students and teachers. Oklin's music and talent has been performed at many concerts, school assemblies and teacher conferences in California and across the country.

ASP

Music

Grade Level

K-12

Fee

\$415/assembly or \$520 for two consecutive assemblies

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

sound system

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room

Number of Students

inquire with artist

Length of Session

50 minutes

Number of Sessions

2

Availability

inquire with artist

Evo Bluestein

Internationally-known folk musician Evo Bluestein presents programs that celebrate the cultural diversity of American people through music. Among the many folk music traditions included in his programs are: Mexican-American, Native American, African-American, Cajun, Appalachian, French, Irish and Southeast Asian. Evo performs with fiddle, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, accordion, autoharp, spoons, clogging and Jaw-harp. Song introductions educate as he entertains. Introduce your students to these exciting music traditions in an engaging concert-lecture format!

Evo Bluestein is an internationally know folk artist involved with mostly traditional forms of American music. He is a singer, adept at many instruments and a clogger. He has made many recordings including two children's collections, *A Horse Named Bill* and *Good Morning Blues*. Evo's folk music assemblies have been a highly acclaimed part of California's public schools enrichment programs for over 20 years.

<http://evobluestein.com>

HA

Music

Grade Level

K-12

Fee

\$30/session

Materials Fee

cost of tape, if desired

Materials Needed

extension cord

WORKSHOP

Facilities

open, clear space

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

1 hour, prefer >1 hour for grades 5 and up

Number of Sessions

varies, 3 or more suggested for performance

Availability

Merced County

Danzantes de Merced

Eve Delfin-Polk

Fiesta Folklórica

Explore the colorful world of Mexico! Eve will take students on an adventure in history, culture, costumes and music, and teach them authentic Mexican dance steps and choreography. An introduction to dance styles will be provided prior to dance lessons, which can culminate in a performance. Teachers will be offered a selection of various regional dances, such as Veracruz, Jalisco, Chihuahua and Zacatecas, and regional costume examples will be shared when possible. A video also is available to show the diverse dance and costume styles.

Tailored to grade level and students' ability, Eve's programs feature regional information and historical background on Mexican costuming and dance, as well as exposure to different influences in Mexican music. Find out why tradition calls for Mexican women to use fans (it's not just for looks!) and other interesting facts.

These workshops are designed to enhance social studies units and can be presented at any time during the year or thematically linked to such celebrations as Cinco de Mayo, 16 de Setiembre, Día de los Muertos and Christmas.

Eve Delfin-Polk has studied with various Mexican dance masters, including founder of the folklorico program at the University of Guadalajara. She has performed and taught dance all over California, both in classrooms and workshops, and has 10 years of extensive instruction with the Ballet Folklórico de Carlos Moreno in Oakland. A graduate of Merced College, Eve continued her education at the University of California, Merced. She also is Central California's representative of Danzantes Unidos, a statewide folklorico association.

HAP

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$710/session-or 2 for \$860, 3 for \$1,010

Materials Fee

None

Materials Needed

None

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

18'x18' space

Number of Students

350

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

Availability

inquire with artist

Ranka's Marionette Theatre

Ranka Gatu

Musical Revue from Rock to Opera is a beautiful and entertaining extravaganza covering a wide range of musical genres. From rock music to classical opera, this show also includes Ranka's popular puppet-making demonstration, which shows students how to create their own wonderful puppets with easy-to-find, recyclable materials.

Ranka Gatu studied puppetry at Stockholm's Marionette Theatre in Sweden and at the Academy of Theatre and Puppetry Arts in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Performing for over 750,000 students in assemblies internationally, Ranka also has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Open House at the Hollywood Bowl.

<http://rankastheatre.com/>
AHR

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$67/session

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

WORKSHOP

Facilities

classroom

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

Availability

M-F before 11am

Merced County

Sky Hawk Haynes Productions

Sky Hawk Haynes

A Talk with a Native American Indian

In a hands-on visit, Sky Hawk visits the classroom and shares the culture of the Native American Indian with the students. Students are seated in a circle and Sky Hawk relays facts about Indian languages, symbolism and dances, and includes their importance as competitive events between tribes as well as religious rituals. Pieces of authentic Indian costumes are passed around and students are encouraged to touch and feel the history of the India. Sky Hawk demonstrates 2-3 dances and invites the students to participate. The session ends with a question and answer period.

The workshop comes in four individual sessions, conveniently designed for flexibility. Each session component of this workshop is available at the rate of \$67. Teachers can book three components in one by requesting "The Indian Way" at \$190.

Session 1: Preserving Indian Cultures

This session invites students to explore the language, history and clothing of the Native American.

Session 2: Indian Crafts

Students will bead, tie and feather in the traditional Indian way. Students will also create their own symbols modeled after traditional Indian symbols. Each student will finish the session by making ceremonial shaker and a peace-on-Earth feather.

Session 3: Indian Music, Songs and Dance

This session is the culmination of the cultural study. Students will apply what they have learned about the Indian beliefs and demeanor in performing several dances. All students participate as they use their ceremonial shakers to sing and dance in a traditional Indian ceremony.

Session 4: Indian Storytelling

Students will hear traditional storytelling by Sky Hawk during this session; stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Examples of stories include: The Thunderbird Story, Why are Eagle Feathers Black on the Ends? and The Boy's Dream.

Sky Hawk Haynes is an employee of the Merced City School District. He attended Merced City Schools. Cal learned the dances from his father and older brother and has performed both professionally and at pow wows throughout California.

RHAP

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$300 for first;
\$200 for second

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room, microphone

Number of Students

facility capacity

Length of Session

Number of Sessions

30 minutes

Availability

M-F before 11am

Merced County

Sky Hawk Haynes Productions

Sky Hawk Haynes

Day of the Indian

Sky Hawk, a Native American (Cherokee, Choctaw), offers students the unique opportunity to see American Indian dances as they are done in modern pow wows. Throughout the Eagle, Rabbit and Snake dances, Sky Hawk weaves the history and stories of his people. Each authentic costume has a story that lends special meaning to the dance being performed. The intricate footwork displayed in each of the dances and the fast pace of the hoop dance are testaments to both the skill involved and the practice required for perfecting the performance.

In the spirit of the assembly, Students are encouraged to dress like Native American Indians. Teachers also are encouraged to have students bring noisemakers, shakers or coffee can drums to participate in certain parts of the performance.

Sky Hawk shares his messages during the assembly such as: nutrition and a better balanced life; Let's make healthy choices together; and Let's Be Leaders. This assembly is also a perfect tie-in for Red Ribbon Week with his message of no alcohol, no tobacco, no drugs. He shares a pledge to Red Ribbon Week with all students. Sky Hawk finishes the program with traditional rap songs such as "No Drugs in your Body," "Bump the Drugs" and "We are Success. We will Succeed."

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RHA

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$190

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

one/child: soda can, paper to cover it, 36in piece of yarn, pencil and/or markers

WORKSHOP

Facilities

classroom

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

3

Availability

M-F before 11am

Merced County

Sky Hawk Haynes Productions

Sky Hawk Haynes

The Indian Way

This three-session workshop is an in-depth exploration of the Indian culture that will stress the preservation of all cultures. Please choose three out of the four sessions. Each session is a hands-on study of three cultural components.

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RHAP

Music

Grade Level

K-5 or 6-12

Fee

\$30

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

Metronome, small drums, mallets, sticks, recorders, various bells, silver spoons, pots pans, wood blocks, vocal chords

WORKSHOP

Facilities

classroom

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

2 hours

Number of Sessions

4

Availability

Merced County

Amber Kirby

The Fun of Awful Sound and Great Silence, or The Sound Laboratory

Sound and rhythm surround us! There is a beat in our walk. There are tonal inflections in our sighs of sadness and shrieks of joy, our body is an instrument. We begin our sessions in a synergy circle where each student will take turns matching the sounds of their class mate's voice. Next we will listen to a metronome and then all try to become one. Session 2, the students will learn a game called "machine", this game will incorporate sound and movement. This session will also include "word opera", where the class will learn to collaborate using the sounds of syllabi. Session 3, will explore sound and emotion. What is the sound of sad? What is the sound of happy? What instrument might we play to make the sounds of being in love? What about confusion, anger, surprise, bliss and apathy? The students will be encouraged to utilize the array of instruments, noise makers, and especially the sounds of their own body (vocal chords, hand clapping stomping, etc.), but no words. Session 4, the class will partner up to make a presentation for the whole group. Each group may use any resource from what we learned from the past sessions. This class will foster self confidence. It will also help each student find their own unique voice. Other skills learned: team work, basic rhythm, basic tonal harmony and performance.

Amber Kirby a successful ARTREE artist, took a year of fine art instruction in high school and attended California State Summer School for the Arts as a creative writer but collaborated with visual artist. She also took an art history classes in college. For the last two and a half years she has aided and guided developmentally Disabled adults in art instruction at the Enrichment Center. She is a self taught artist and loves guiding others. She spent six and a half years in theater, has been involved in over 25 productions, was thespian president of troupe 594, won second place in the national improve awards, and has actually walked through the dusty thresholds of Shakespeare's home in Stratford upon Avon.

Music

Grade Level

K-12

Fee

\$30/session

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

WORKSHOP

Facilities

classroom

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

45 min-1 hour

K-3 45 minutes

Number of Sessions

1 or more

South Pacific Dance Company

Becky Manandic

Polynesia includes the islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand, Samoa and other island groups in the South Pacific. Artist Becky Manandic will introduce students to the culture of the islands through music and dance. Students will see traditional costumes, authentic instruments and learn dances and songs. The workshop is flexible and may include several sessions. Folktales may be included as part of the workshop.

Becky Manandic is the director of Te Mau Ta'ata Anuanua, a cultural group dedicated to educating the public and promoting the dance, music and culture of Polynesian Islands. She is from Ewa Beach, Oahu, where she performed at major resorts. She has appeared on local TV as well as the nationally televised Mike Douglas Show. She also owns the South Pacific Dance Company, a dance school and Kiki Raina Polynesian Revue, a professional Luau show.

RHAP

Availability

Merced County

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$300; \$50 for additional consecutive assemblies

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room, cafeteria or gym

Number of Students

room capacity

Length of Session

45-50 minutes

Number of Sessions

1

Availability

Merced County

David Rainwater

David Rainwater

Musical Treasures from the Gold Rush Era and America's Frontier Days

This multi-faceted show covers three key areas: California gold rush history, the roots of American folk music and a demonstration and explanation of the origins of the primary folk instruments. History through music and comedy is fun. This assembly can make a difference and can be seen in the eyes of the young audiences that it pleases. Participation is encouraged as the audience enjoys American classics such as Oh Susanna!, The days of 49, Skip to My Lou and many others.

David Rainwater has been a folk musician for 40 years. He has played every kind of venue including bluegrass and folk festivals, weddings, fiddle competitions, fairs, museums and many more. David says, "fiddling has always been part of the fabric of American life and is as old as horse racing, trout fishing and as downhome as apple pie!"

huckleberryfiddler.com

RHA

Music

Grade Level

see listing

Fee

2-day minimum

\$350 or \$550 for two consecutive

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room or gymnasium

Number of Students

350 maximum

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

1/program

Availability

Merced County

Paul Tracey

Assembly Selections in Songs, Stories and International Folklore

K-6 The Wandering Minstrel

This program is designed to encourage youngsters to read books, motivate themselves to get on with life and learn everything they can while they are still young. Illustrating the theme is Paul's life as a wandering minstrel with musical instruments, songs and stories.

K-12 The Great Briton

Raised in England, Paul arrives in his kilt, tells tales of Scottish fairies and Irish mermaids, plays the Highland bagpipes, penny whistle, flute and Celtic harp. This is a fine concert of songs and stories from the British Isles.

K-12 About Africa

This lively introduction to the cultures of East, Central and Southern Africa includes songs, stories, languages, costumes, dances and especially the music and musical instruments.

K-8 A Word to the Wise

Using proverbs, sayings and quotes from historical figures of various cultures featured in lifesize cut-outs, Tracey reveals clues to living that have worked for him. Honest, sane advice is made palatable by catchy songs like Common Sense and The Golden Rule.

K-6 Our Little Blue Planet

Our Little Blue Planet is a musical, global awareness program.

Tracey brings an enormous, inflatable world, which helps to take his audience on an imaginative journey from our location in space to an understanding of where we are on Earth, our special environment, endangered species, the value of trees, recycling and other timely issues.

K-6 Song Savvy

This explores the secret life of a songwriter. This fun program gives an inside look at a songwriter's creative and thinking process.

Play On: The Fun Side of Music!

It's filled with new songs and unusual instruments including pan pipes, bagpipes, nose flutes, boom whackers, homegrown and homemade gourd lute, which also houses a Theremin--the only instrument that can be played without touching it, a musical saw with string quintet backing and a new kind of didgeridoo. The audience participates, playing and singing. A good time is had by all!

Paul Tracey is an Englishman who was born in Africa. He has traveled the world, performed on Broadway in his own musical revue, written songs for the Muppets and appeared several times on the Tonight Show as well as on Ed Sullivan. He is a singer-songwriter, storyteller, instrumentalist, husband and father of three children. His own father, Dr. Hugh Tracey, founded the International Library of African Music.

<http://www.paultracey.org>

RHSA

Music

Grade Level

K-8

Fee

\$350 or \$550 for two consecutive

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

ASSEMBLY

Facilities

multipurpose room or gymnasium

Number of Students

350 maximum

Length of Session

45 minutes

Number of Sessions

1

Availability

Merced County

Paul Tracey

Your Character Counts

This assembly is a dynamic introduction to the universal concepts of good character. It's a valuable reminder to children that the choices we make today turn us into the people we will be tomorrow. It is an icebreaker for an extended program on values that can be conducted in the classroom. Helpful teacher materials are provided. Paul has tackled this serious subject by creating eight delightful new songs with catchy choruses, and so impressed the Character Counts Coalition that they are now working together. The assembly program is nondenominational, crosses many ethnic groups and promotes values that all American communities can agree upon.

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<http://www.paultracey.org>

RA

Music

Grade Level

K-12

Fee

\$30/session

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

WORKSHOP

Facilities

classroom

Number of Students

one class

Length of Session

1 hour

Number of Sessions

1

Lynn Valerio

Encouraging students to go beyond their expectations, Lynn Valerio uses music to unleash the potential in her pupils. Whether it's teaching site reading, music history or theory, she is gifted in making learning fun and exciting. Incorporating games such as "musical math" or Freeze play," Lynn reaches beyond the normally accepted confines of music by linking it to mathematics, literature and language arts. It is her desire to reach her students by instilling a positive sense of community and belonging through music.

Lynn Valerio received her BA in history with a minor in music from California State University, Stanislaus. Her professional training consists of 12 years in the Women's Army Corp 14th Army Band as well as playing with various local groups such as Gustine City Band, the Mo Band of Stanislaus County, the Merced College Night Band and Summer Band, and the Hilmar Community Band. She also is a professional singer, having studied at the Thomas Carter Studios in Stuttgart, Germany.

AMH

Availability

Merced County

Music

Grade Level

5-12

Fee

\$30/session

Materials Fee

none

Materials Needed

none

WORKSHOP
Facilities

classroom or multipurpose room

Number of Students

20

Length of Session

3 hours

Number of Sessions

1-5

Availability

Merced County

Chaskinakuy – Andean Village Music

Francy Vidal & Edmond Badoux Vidal & Badoux

In the Quechua language, Chaskinakuy (Cha-ski-NOCK-wee) means to give and receive from hand to hand among many. In this spirit, Andean music specialists Edmond Badoux and Francy Vidal of the duo Chaskinakuy introduce students to an ancient culture whose music lives today in high mountain villages of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, northern Chile and Argentina. Still playing its vital role among these communities, music serves to recall and reinforce the bonds that individuals share with one another, with the ancestors, and with the natural world. Flutes and panpipes of bamboo, bone, and feathers, goatskin drums, a trumpet 10 feet long, and a harp played upside down are just some of up to 30 traditional instruments the duo plays seamlessly through a 50-minute program, capturing the sounds of the Andes and the imaginations of young audiences. Since 1985, Chaskinakuy has brought its popular Music of the Andes assembly program to over 700 schools nationwide. Interactive, fast-moving, and fun, the program adapts easily to grade levels K-12 and is available both in English and in a Spanish/English format. Students will clap, dance, and play along as they broaden their understanding of Latin American culture, history, and geography. A pre-visit Teacher's Guide and follow-up activities for the students are provided.

Francy Vidal & Edmond Badoux Vidal & Badoux have toured extensively across the U. S., in Canada, and in Switzerland, appearing for audiences of all ages in concert, festival, and educational programs. Mr. Badoux and Ms. Vidal have provided resource materials for book publishers Macmillan and Schirmer and are currently featured in the 2002 and 2005 Schirmer Books CD and college textbook entitled, *Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples*.

<http://www.chaskinakuy.com>

AH

Music

Grade Level
K-12

Fee
\$400/Single; 2 Back-to-Back:
\$310/each; 3-4/Same day: \$275/each;
2-Day residency w/Call for price
quote; 3-HOUR PANPIPES
MAKING & PLAYING \$450

Materials Fee
none

Materials Needed
2-3 microphones w/ stands, table

ASSEMBLY

Facilities
multipurpose room
Number of Students
500
Length of Session
50 minutes
Number of Sessions
1-4

Availability
Merced County

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