

RoundTrips and Jazz St. Louis Present Jazz From the Inside

Date: January 9, 2009

Times: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. CDT

Grade Levels: 8-12

Cost: NO CHARGE

Abstract:

Interact with The Bad Plus as they perform samples of their unique style of jazz music. Explore the creative process of composition and performance. Consider the concepts of technique, theme and improvisation. Ask about training, instrumentation and building a career as a professional musician. And enjoy the music!

Program Description:

What does it mean to be a professional musician? How do you put a music group together and stay together? What are the struggles, the excitements, the ups, the downs? What's the process used to compose your own music and to create unique cover versions of other musicians' work? How do you determine what techniques and instrumentations work best? Join The Bad Plus as they perform samples of their unique style of jazz music. Explore the creative process of composition and performance. Consider the concepts of technique, theme and improvisation. Ask about training, instrumentation and building a career as a professional musician. Learn about the cultural significance of jazz and enjoy the music! Cost for the program is FREE.

Program Objectives:

1. The participant will explore the nature of the creative process and how to apply that process to their interests in music and other aspects of their life.
2. The participant will learn about techniques and instrumentation used in jazz music and hear and see examples of those techniques and instrumentations in practice.
3. The participant will gain a greater understanding of the impact and influence of jazz music in American culture and what it means to be a professional jazz musician.

Program Format:

The videoconference program will consist of the following segments.

1. Welcome and Introduction—Student groups and experts will be introduced and welcomed to the program.
2. Music Performance and Discussion—The musicians of The Bad Plus will play examples of their composition and answer student questions as we discuss the following major topics:
 - a. The Creative Process—How was the concept for the group created? How do they compose their original compositions and unique covers of other musicians' works?
 - b. Technique, Theme and Improvisation—How are these three concepts integrated into jazz music?

c. Training, Instrumentation and Building a Career—What does it mean to be a professional musician? How does one get there? How does one stay there?

3. Closing Segment--Including summary of topics discussed and final questions from students.

Featured National Standards (Music Education):

- Content Standard 6 – Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- Content Standard 7 – Evaluating music and music performances
- Content Standard 8 – Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Content Standard 9 – Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Featured State Standards (Missouri):

Schools from across the country are invited to join in the program. Missouri state standards are provided for Missouri schools since partial funding for this program comes from various Missouri organizations.

Missouri Show-Me Performance (Process) Standards

- 1.5 comprehend and evaluate written, visual and oral presentations and works
- 1.9 identify, analyze and compare the institutions, traditions and art forms of past and present societies
- 1.10 apply acquired information, ideas and skills to different contexts as students, workers, citizens and consumers
- 2.3 exchange information, questions and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others
- 2.4 present perceptions and ideas regarding works of the arts, humanities and sciences
- 2.7 use technological tools to exchange information and ideas

Missouri Show-Me Knowledge (Content) Standards

- SS2 continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States and the World
- SS5 the major elements of geographical study and analysis (such as location, place, movement, regions) and their relationships to changes in society and environment
- SS6 relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions
- CA 5 comprehending and evaluating the content and artistic aspects of oral and visual presentations (such as story-telling, debates, lectures, multi-media productions)
- CA6 participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas
- CA7 identifying and evaluating relationships between language and culture
- FA1 process and techniques for the production, exhibition or performance of one or more of the visual or performed arts
- FA2 the principles and elements of different art forms
- FA3 the vocabulary to explain perceptions about and evaluations of works in dance, music, theater and visual arts
- FA4 interrelationships of visual and performing arts and the relationships of the arts to other disciplines

- FA5 visual and performing arts in historical and cultural contexts

Participant Preparation:

1. Participants should come to the program with an interest in music and learning more about the work of jazz musicians.
2. Participants should utilize preparatory materials provided for the program and other resources of their own to better understand the context of the program's subject and to think in advance of questions they wish to ask the artist. Any questions determined in advance, can be e-mailed to us prior to the program at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us.
3. Participants should have pencil and paper ready to use during the program to jot down ideas and additional questions as they come to mind.

Pre-Program Activity Suggestions:

1. Have students learn more about the jazz musicians joining us by learning more about their career and listening to examples of their music at their website <http://thebadplus.com>. Use what you learn here to develop questions you want to ask the musicians during the program.
2. A pre-program interview with the musicians will also be available on the web and via podcast before the program. It can be accessed at <http://www.jazzstl.org>. While there you can listen to interviews with other jazz musicians as well and learn more about the world of jazz music. Use what you learn here to develop questions you want to ask during the program.
3. Learn more about the history and influence of jazz music in America and find student activities and teacher resources at the following websites:
 1. The PBS website <http://www.pbs.org/jazz/> accompanying acclaimed documentarian Ken Burn's aptly named documentary series "Jazz."
 2. The National Endowment for the Arts website, NEA Jazz in the Schools, at <http://www.neajazzintheschools.org/home.php>.
 3. Jazz at Lincoln Center's Hall of Fame website at <http://www.jalc.org/halloffame/>.

Post-Program Activity Suggestions:

1. Utilizing one or more ideas that inspired them during the program, have students vary their musical technique while playing some of their more accomplished pieces. How would they choose to "jazz" it up? What works and doesn't work as they improvise and modify?
2. Have students continue to learn more about jazz music and major artists in jazz history by exploring any of the websites listed in Pre-Program Activity #3.
3. Have students choose their own jazz musician to learn more about and demonstrate their learning through either a written report, review of samples of the musician's music, an article for

the school paper, class presentation, website exhibit, multimedia presentation, etc.

Podcast Link:

<http://jazzstl.org/community/audio/podcasts>