

HOW WE EDUCATE THRU MUSIC

We begin, back in the 1600's, a time when women were unacceptable on stage for the public's view. The vocally talented, would join convents to sing in choirs, as an avenue for their artistic thirsts.

We speak of a fine composer musician of the Romantic Era, Clara Schumann who if it weren't for the illness of her famous husband Robert, would never have had a chance to perform publicly to large audiences. When Robert fell ill, Clara came out and played his works. Once she gained public acceptance, she was able to incorporate her own compositions for which she is now known.

As we delve into the 1900's performers such as the Andrew's Sisters broke their own grounds, by becoming one of the first female groups to perform here and abroad for our troops during WWII. We try to have the children imagine what life would be like without television, computer, telephones etc., and how important radio and music during that long world war would be. It was not only a favorite source of entertainment, but company to the families awaiting an end to the war.

From there we sing a medley of songs performed by female groups, including various African American trios of the 50's and 60's, changing costume to help the audience identify the change in style for each of the eras. We culminate by bringing them a current pop group, one they're all familiar with (2007 a Salute to American Idol), teaching them the differences in music, fashion, and lyrics from the 1930's to today. All of this is done with a coordinating slide show, which helps the children better visualize.

We begin our Latin medley, by quickly highlighting Eva Perron and her political participation in Argentina, which segues appropriately to the Madonna, Gloria Estefan, Selena, portion of the show. Each with a brief history of their difficulties and successes as latin-americans, helping the audience connect with self esteem issues. (We select a group to come up and play latin percussion instruments to the sounds of a familiar latin American performer).

Our Billie Holiday music and bio, is precluded by Marion Anderson one of the first African American women in opera. We like to have the audience understand that during that time, around the 1930's people were still very much segregated by color, and actually protested one of Marion's performances in Washington DC. Eleanor Roosevelt came to her defense and played a major role in Marion's decision to become active in politics in her later years. Both Billie Holiday and Marion Anderson were instrumental in paving the way for black female musicians that later followed. They remain heroines in black history today.

Some of the earlier roots to American folk music came from our Scottish-Irish ancestors., migrating from Canada to Louisiana.. they brought with them a distinct style of melodic music, which remains evident in todays country songs. Patsy Cline, a first solo female artist in a "male dominated" country field, paved the way for many of the singers we know and love today like Shania Twain and Leanne Rhimes-- (at this point the kids participate in a Cotton Eyed Joe line dance).

All of the women we introduce during our show broke barriers in their areas of music, and traveled paths none had before. Every area of music we cover during the show, connects to an era or event which has impacted our lives today.

We end our show with an original rap piece saluting all females, scientists, athletes, politicians, all who have fought the odds against them and won!! ..