



Blues in the Schools

Lesson Plan Overviews

Our programs are ideal for grades three and up.

THE OPENER

This 50-60-minute program is ideal in a large classroom or auditorium setting and offers an exciting, interactive look at the blues, covering history, social and cultural impact and influence, and music education. An emcee will lead a guitar player, washboard player, and harmonica player, in bringing presentation content to life.

The program offers an introduction to blues music... where it comes from, why it's called the blues, its place in Southern culture, and how it began traveling to other areas and gave birth to jazz and rock 'n' roll. It also introduces students to other key topics, such as:

- Typical blues instruments and their importance in a band
- Blues song structure and how to write your own blues song
- Rhythm training

Giveaways:

16-page Blues Booklet

Coupon for free blues music downloads

Coupon for free music lesson at the Lesson Factory



THE TOUR

This program is our most extensive and, because of its individual classroom format, is filled with interactive learning and up-close demonstrations. Up to three hours long depending on the number of classrooms you wish involved, our presenter teams visit each classroom for 20 minutes and introduce a different facet of the blues each time. So if you have three classrooms, we would send three teams of educators/musicians and rotate them throughout the hour in 20-minute increments. If you have six classrooms, we would do the same over a two-hour period so that each classroom gets an introduction to six different facets of the blues as well as at least six different instruments. During the final period, all classrooms (or even the whole school) would assemble for a mini concert that shows them how all the instruments work together in a band.

Current teaching modules include:

Introduction to the blues... where it comes from, why it's called the blues, its place in Southern culture, and how it began traveling to other areas. We include this brief introduction in each first session of the day.

Musical Expression. Musicians demonstrate how music imitates life and expresses feeling and how musicians talk to each other through their music.

Blues Had A Baby. A look at how blues gave way to jazz, rock 'n' roll, and other important musical forms. We will demonstrate how riffs, lyrics, and styles moved from the blues to other forms as well as show how music developed as it moved from the country to the big cities and became electrified.

Rhythm. We will demonstrate how it all began with drums in Africa as a form of communication and how it developed to become the blues and a whole different way to communicate. Students learn about the natural rhythm they have within already and how they can identify it in everyday life and turn it into music.

Songwriting. We introduce typical blues song structure, the concept of "Call and Response" and help students write their own songs. We also encourage students to



sing a verse at the concert at the end of the day.

Singing the Blues. Proper breathing, vocalization, and expression all come together in this segment. Students learn how to project their voices, warm them up, and sing some verses.

Harmonica. Students get their own harmonicas and learn one of the most famous blues riffs so they can play along at the concert later on. They also learn how harmonicas mimic life, like trains, and how to play a simple train rhythm and whistle.

Juke Joint Jump. How to jump and jive to the boogie-woogie! This fun, high-energy workshop gets kids moving and grooving to the music that was born in juke joints throughout the South.

Giveaways: 16-page Blues Booklet; Harmonica (with harmonica workshop); Coupon for free blues music downloads; Coupon for a free music lesson

THE HEADLINER

This 1-1.5-hour program centers around a national touring act, introducing kids to blues in a live concert format. This program is ideal for larger groups of students in an auditorium or outdoor setting. It begins with a brief introduction to the blues... where it comes from, why it's called the blues, and makes the connection between blues and the birth of jazz and rock 'n' roll. The kids then see the blues come to life with a live concert, often with a full band, which offers an additional opportunity to introduce typical instruments in a blues band. After the music, kids will have the chance to ask questions and even get autographs using the autograph page in their Blues Booklets.

This program is dependent on national touring acts already coming through the area and their availability to do school programs either before or after their scheduled performances.

Giveaways: 16-page Blues Booklet; Artist biographies; Coupon for free blues music downloads; Coupon for a free music lesson