The World Music in Schools program is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council.

Student-Interactive Assemblies & Workshops

Our World Music in the Schools program promotes awareness, skills, and knowledge of the many rich performing arts traditions of the world through student-interactive assemblies and one-time programs featuring participatory music, dance, and singing in pre-K–12 San Diego area schools.

Assemblies and workshops can be arranged by grade level or for your entire school. Programs are tailored to fit your schedule, resources, and goals.

A World Music in the Schools assembly or workshop will teach your students:

- To listen, observe, and participate
- Terms in new languages
- Concepts and skills in rhythm and melody

Students will also gain knowledge of:

- World geography and history
- Specific world cultures, languages, and traditions

Ensembles & Presenters Available:

Cajuína: Brazilian Rhythm Adventure
Stefanie Schmitz will lead students on a journey through Brazil with high-energy interactive songs in Portuguese, fun traditional dances, and infectious rhythms accompanied by her Brazilian band Cajuína. This assembly can range from a solo presentation up to a full band with Carnaval dancers.

Gamelan Merdu Kumala: Balinese Gamelan
Balinese (Indonesian) gamelan offers a unique sonic and visual experience, with its shimmering rhythmic sounds of bronze keys and reverberant gongs. Student participation in the voice orchestra (called Keçak) will bring students together, learning to interlock their sounds and movement with one other.

Máirtín de Cógáin: Irish Music & Storytelling
Máirtín de Cógáin offers a high energy extravaganza of Irish music and storytelling. With his bodhrán (drum) in hand he will get students dancing the céilí dances (Irish social dances) he learned in his kitchen as a boy.

Nomsa & Friends: South African Music & Dance
This group shares South African folk, freedom, and original songs sung in several South African languages to pulsating rhythms. This program offers exposure to African culture, call and response singing, and movement activities such as body percussion and traditional and contemporary dances.

Son Jarocho: Music and Culture of Southern Mexico
Students will engage in a cultural journey with Cristina Juárez through Southern Mexico, with traditional music that incorporates indigenous, African, and Spanish roots. Students will have fun singing themed songs and basic rhythms as well as dancing on the wooden platform called tarima.

Zimbeat: Zimbabwean Ensemble
Hypnotic interlocking melodies, Shona-language singing, and spirited African rhythms are featured in the captivating music of traditional and contemporary Zimbabwe. Zimbeat performs as an mbira (thumb piano) group, a marimba ensemble, and as an afro-pop electric band.

BOOKING & INFORMATION:
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Ali Paris Ensemble: A journey into Middle Eastern Music
A joyous, interactive presentation of the music and dance of the Middle East, exploring the geography and traditions of these countries. Ali and his ensemble will guide students through the modern and ancient lands of the Middle East, sharing the importance of intercultural understanding and promoting an appreciation of diverse cultures.

Clinton Davis: Roots of American Music
The banjo and the fiddle together represent an iconic sound of America. Clinton Davis’ duo will perform on both, sharing stories of the people who brought these instruments to America, and illuminating the musical ideas that traveled with them.

Ballet Djelia Kadi: West African Drumming and Dance
Dramane Kone, a griot from Burkina Faso, presents rhythms from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, and the Ivory Coast with his high-energy drum and dance troupe. Students will clap, dance, and sing along to traditional rhythms in this interactive assembly.

Claudia Lyra: Brazil for Children
Claudia Lyra brings a captivating interactive performance of traditional children’s folktales from Brazil. She incorporates dynamic elements such as songs in Portuguese, body music and rhythms, creative movement, and a Brazilian art form called Capoeira.

Dornob Collective: Persian Classical and Folk Music
Students experience first-hand the entrancing music of the Middle East through fun, interactive songs and story-telling. Available as a solo, duo, or trio presentation, up to a full ensemble with dancer.

Kembang Sunda: Sundanese Gamelan
A student-interactive performance featuring different tunings and genres of gamelan music from West Java, Indonesia. This presentation can include a traditional puppet play called Wayang Golek.

Natasha Kozaily: Story & Song from the Cayman Islands
In this lively and fun presentation, students will discover the culture and heritage of the Cayman Islands and the surrounding island nations, igniting their imagination through traditional storytelling and folk songs!

Odissi: Indian Classical Dance
This assembly will present dances and the building blocks of Odissi, a dance form originating in the East Indian state of Odisha, and one of the eight recognized classical dance forms of India. Students will have an opportunity to learn warm-ups, footwork patterns, and hand gestures from this tradition.

Pakaraguian Kulintang: Music & Dance from the Southern Philippines
Students will experience a live presentation of traditional Filipino Kulintang (gong) compositions, dance performances, and participate in interactive hands-on opportunities with authentic instruments and traditional clothing.

Tzidia: Traditional Music & Singing of the Balkans and Eastern Europe
Students learn to count and then clap, snap, or bounce in time to unusual rhythms. They’ll feel the thrill of singing along in a Slavic language, and discover their own personal drone voice as they experience folk music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi: Klezmer, Yiddish, & Sephardic Music & Culture
Hot Pstromi presents high-energy songs from Jewish cultures of Eastern Europe, Spain, Morocco and the Middle East. Students learn about history, culture, and music, and clap out rhythms and sing along with simple humorous lyrics. They will learn about the Jewish food that everyone around the world knows as the “bagel” through a Yiddish song. Programs can be tailored to emphasize Jewish holidays occurring in the fall, winter and spring.