

The Abaca Duo

Andrew Schulman, 8-String Guitar; Wendy Sayvetz, Vocalist/Guitarist

Company: Abaca Productions (abacaproductions.com)

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Type of Program: Performances; Music; High School & K-8*

* (K-8: grades 3 - 8 as the concept may be too advanced for K, 1, and 2)

The difference between the High School and K-8 program is the repertoire selection – see below. Otherwise, it is basically the same program though of course discussion/questions will be geared and adapted to the specific age group as appropriate.

“A Wonderful World of Songs” (What’s in a Classic?)

SYNOPSIS/OUTLINE

Introduction (6 minutes): 8-Guitarist, Andrew Schulman and Vocalist/Guitarist, Wendy Sayvetz introduce themselves and their instruments, and then engage the students in a brief discussion of...

- What does the word “classic” mean? (timeless, universal appeal, etc.)
- What is a classic piece of music i.e. what’s in it? What are some of the key elements? (a distinctive tune/melody that is easy to remember and recreate; a similarly distinctive rhythm; is connected somehow to a larger idea/concept/human experience that touches people deeply)

Program (36 minutes - 6 minutes average per piece): For each of the following pieces – Solo Guitar alternating with Vocal/Guitars – Andrew and Wendy give a very brief and entertaining background followed by performance of small excerpts to demonstrate: melody, harmony, rhythm, tempo, timbre, and other basic fundamentals of music. Students will be asked to think about and share with the group...

- What is distinctive – what stands out or grabs you – about this piece?
- Does it have elements of being a classic? If so, what are they?

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High School Repertoire/Program

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Here Comes the Sun (Solo Guitar) | (George Harrison) |
| 2. Mr. Bojangles (Vocal/Guitars) | (Jerry Jeff Walker) |
| 3. The Girl from Ipanema (Solo Guitar) | (Antonio Carlos Jobim) |
| 4. What a Wonderful World (Vocal/Guitars) | (Bob Thiele/George Weiss) |
| 5. Summertime (Solo Guitar) | (G.&I.Gershwin/D.B.Heyward) |
| 6. Guantanamera (Vocal/Guitars) | (Jose Marti/traditional) |

K- 8 Repertoire/Program

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Here Comes the Sun (Solo Guitar) | (George Harrison) |
| 2. This Land is Your Land (Vocal/Guitars) | (Woody Guthrie) |
| 3. The Entertainer (Solo Guitar) | (Scott Joplin) |
| 4. What a Wonderful World (Vocal/Guitars) | (Bob Thiele/George Weiss) |
| 5. Over the Rainbow (Solo Guitar) | (E.Y. Harburg/B. Lane) |
| 6. My Favorite Things (Vocal/Guitars) | (Rodgers/Hammerstein) |

Wrap-Up (3 minutes): Andrew and Wendy discuss with the students...

- What do these pieces have in common despite their differences?
- There are "classics" in ALL types of music, this was just a tiny sampling.
- What's in a classic?
- What do classics, specifically musical classics, do for people? What role do they play in our society and culture as a whole?

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SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS

- 1.** Students will know the meaning and value of a “classic” piece of music.
- 2.** Students will understand the fundamental elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, tempo, timbre and the vital role they play in creating a piece of music.
- 3.** Students will understand the common characteristics shared by musical classics regardless of style, genre, or when they were written.
- 4.** Students will be able to hear and appreciate the commonality/connection between diverse types of classic music.
- 5.** Students will be able to respond to content and substance in a piece of classic music regardless of its form/style/genre.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abaca Duo’s purpose as artists and arts educators is to touch and connect people of all ages and backgrounds with the timeless inspiration of classic music from a wide and diverse range of styles and genres.