

“Lewis and Clark” at The Sheldon Concert Hall Handbook for Teachers

WELCOME

We look forward to welcoming you and your students for the presentation of “Lewis and Clark” at The Sheldon Concert Hall. We hope that the perfect acoustics and intimacy of the hall will make this an important and memorable experience.

ARRIVAL AND PARKING

We urge you to arrive at The Sheldon Concert Hall half an hour before the start of “Lewis and Clark.” This will allow you to be seated in time for the performance and will allow a little extra time in case you encounter traffic on the way. Seating will be on a first come-first serve basis as schools arrive. To accommodate school schedules, we will start promptly at show time.

The Sheldon is located at 3648 Washington Boulevard, just around the corner from the Fox Theatre. A map is enclosed. Parking for school buses will be available on Washington near The Sheldon. Please enter by the steps leading up to the concert hall front door. If you have a disabled student, please call The Sheldon (314-533-9900) to make arrangement to use our new street level entrance and elevator to the concert hall.

CONCERT MANNERS

Please coach your students on good concert manners before coming to The Sheldon Concert Hall. Good audiences love to listen to music and they love to show their appreciation with applause, usually at the end of an entire piece and occasionally after a good solo by one of the musicians. Urge your students to take in and enjoy the great music being performed.

Food and drink are prohibited in the Sheldon Concert Hall.

Any device (telephone, alarm watch or toy) that makes noise is a distraction for both the musicians on stage and your fellow audience members and should not be brought into the hall.

DEFINITIONS

Folk music

Folk music is the music sung and played by the common folk or people of a particular community or country. The original composer of a folksong is often unknown. Folk music is often not written down, but passed on orally from one musician to another and one generation to another, often being changed as it's passed along. There are many kinds of folksongs, often dealing with daily life – work songs, love songs, cradle songs, drinking songs, patriotic songs, dancing numbers and frolic tunes, mourning songs and epic tales.

Ballad

A ballad is a song that tells a story. Some ballads deal with legendary characters, miraculous happenings or gruesome deeds, while others tell romantic tales or chronicle an historical event.

Work song

Workers, to coordinate their efforts and to keep their spirits up in the face of hard physical labor, sing work songs. African-American slaves sang work songs as they ploughed and harvested the land of the South, cut down trees and split the logs, worked the mules along muddy rivers and hoisted cotton bales onto Mississippi steamboats. Work songs have been sung by sailors and other workers for centuries.

Jig

A lively dance, often in 6/8 or 2/4 time

Sea Chantey

A song sung by sailors to accompany work or for fun.

Clogging

An American percussive folkdance that originated in the southern Appalachian mountains. It has strong ties to the stepdancing in the British Isles and has been influenced by both traditional American Indian dances and “buck and wing” dancing by African American slaves.

INSTRUMENTS used in “Lewis and Clark”

(The names of the instruments and definitions can be jumbled and used as a matching exercise for your students.)

Fiddle

The name for a violin when played by folk, country, bluegrass and other acoustic musicians. The violin has four strings and is a member of a family of bowed string instruments that also includes the viola, cello and double bass.

Guitar

A plucked or strummed string instrument originally brought to Spain by the Moors in the Middle Ages. This instrument, usually with six strings and occasionally with twelve strings, became popular with both blues and folk singers to accompany their singing.

Drum

A percussion instrument common to many cultures, consisting of an animal skin, or synthetic equivalent, stretched over a wooden frame and struck by the hand or a beater.

Spoons

Two spoons, often made of animal horn or steel, that are held together and struck against the body for percussive sounds.

Fiddle Sticks

Small thin sticks struck against the strings of a fiddle, creating a light percussive sound.

Sounded Horn

A tin horn used by boatmen and hunters to communicate when out of sight.

Basket Rattle

A small basket filled with seeds and shaken as a percussion instrument.

Hoof Rattle

Deer or goat hooves strung on rawhide or rope and used as a rattle.

Wood Clacker

Small circular pieces of wood on a stick and shaken as a percussion instrument.

ACTIVITIES

Ask your students to trace the path of the Corps of Discovery and to name the states that now encompass these lands - Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Although they found that there was not an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean, the Corps did travel most of the way on rivers. Name the rivers that the Corps traveled - Ohio River (Meriwether Lewis traveled from Pittsburgh to Louisville where he met Clark), Mississippi River, Missouri River, Columbia River and Yellowstone River (on the return route, Clark took a part of the party down the Yellowstone to the Missouri while Lewis explored the Marias River).

Members of the Corps used music to entertain themselves and to entertain the Indians. Several instances of music are recorded in their journals:

“The two Chiefs much pleased with ther treatment & the Cherfulness of the party, who Danced to amuse them.”

William Clark November 27, 1804

“the fiddle was plyed and they danced very merrily until 9 in the evening when a heavy shower of rain put an end to that part of the amusement tho’ they continued their mirth with songs and festive jokes and were extremely merry until late at night.”

Meriwether Lewis July 4, 1805

“a little before sun set the Chimnahpoms arrived; they were about 100 men and a few women; they joined the Wallahwallahs ... and formed a half circle around out camp where they waited patiently to see our party dance. the fiddle was played and the men amused themselves with dancing ... we then requested the Indians to dance which they very cheerfully complied with; they continued their dance until 10 at night ... Some of the men who were esteemed most brave entered the space ... and danced ... they were much gratified in seeing some of our party join them in their dance.”

William Clark April 28, 1806

Do your students make music in their daily lives?
If so, how and when?

The Corps left Camp Dubois near St. Louis on May 14, 1804. They returned to St. Louis over two years and three months later on September 23, 1806. Ask your students how long it takes to drive today from St. Louis to Portland, Oregon. How long is an airplane flight from St. Louis to the West Coast?

The Corps met nearly fifty tribes of American Indians on their trip. How many tribes can your students name?

Alsea Indians	Cowlitz Indians	Shoshone Indians (Snake)
Amahami Indians	Crow Indians (Absaroka)	Siletz Indians
Arikara Indians (Sahnish)	Flathead Indians (Salish)	Siuslaw Indians
Assiniboin Indians	Hidatsa Indians	Skilloot Indians
Atsina Indians (Gros Ventre)	Kickapoo Indians	Tenino Indians
Bannock Indians	Klickitat Indians	Teton Sioux Indians
Blackfeet Indians	Kootenai Indians	Tillamook Indians
Cathlamet Indians	Mandan Indians	Umatilla Indians
Cayuse Indians	Minitari Indians	Umpqua Indians
Chehalis Indians	Missouri Indians	Wahkiakum Indians
Cheyenne Indians	Multnomah Indians	Walla Walla Indians
Chinook Indians	Nez Perce Indians	Wanapum Indians
Clackamas Indians	Omaha Indians	Wasco Indians
Clatskamas Indians	Oto Indians	Wishram Indians
Clatskanie Indians	Palouse Indians	Yakima Indians
Clatsop Indians	Pawnee Indians	Yankton Sioux Indians
	Quinault Indians	

MUSICAL SELECTIONS IN “LEWIS AND CLARK”

Bonaparte’s Retreat - a traditional fiddle tune

Endearing Young Charms - an air published in England in 1775, this waltz is a favorite of fiddlers.

Back on the River - original song written by Annie Scheumbauer, for sing-along

Whiskey Before Breakfast - Irish fiddle tune

Possum Tail

Soldiers Joy - possibly the best known fiddle tune in history. Early versions can be traced to Scotland in 1781. In England it is also known as “The King’s Head” and some oldtimers in Missouri call it “Payday in the Army.”

Yankee Doodle

Song of Sacagawea - original song written by Annie Scheumbauer

Shenandoah - long-time favorite folk song

Pass on By - song about mosquitoes and grizzly bears written by John Higgins

Over the Waterfall - fiddle tune

Blow the Man Down - sea chantey

Travellin’ Home - original song written by Annie Scheumbauer

Back on the River

by Annie Scheumbauer
© 2003

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As we step off from this shore We're
set-ting off to ex-plore This new land and the won-ders that lie a-
head. To fol-low the riv-er we've been sent By
or-der of the Pres-i-dent As it makes its way
towards the o-ccean's shore.

CHORUS

Back on the riv-er we go, we go,
Back on the riv-er we go. We
camp out ev-'ry night and can't wait til morn-ing's light When it's
back on the riv-er a-gain.

Back on the River / Spirit of Discovery Annie Scheumbauer © 2003

As we step off from this shore
We're setting off to explore
This new land and the wonders that lie ahead
To follow the river we've been sent
By order of the President
As it makes its way towards ocean's shore

Chorus:

Back on the river we go, we go
Back on the river we go
We camp out every night and can't wait till morning's light
When it's back on the river we go

As we travel on our way
We make notes every day
About the plants and animals that we see
Watching the heavens every night
Plotting our course by the stars so bright
Drawing maps of the places where we've been

Chorus

The sounds of nature fill our day
As we row on our way
Keepin' time with the oars' splashing sound
The song of birds fill the air
The buzz of mosquitoes everywhere
And the wind whistlin' through the trees

Chorus

We're not sure what lies ahead
By our dreams we are led
To adventures round the next bend
We're driven you see
By this spirit of discovery
To blaze the trail for travelers yet to come

Chorus (End: repeat 3x as fade away)

THE MUSICIANS

John Higgins currently performs with the folk and bluegrass group “The Flying Mules.” He has played guitar for 35 years and toured throughout the United States. He is an avid student of guitar history and builds custom guitars.

Annie Scheumbauer is a singer and guitarist who performs with the Folk Trio for Young Audiences. She is also a painter and art teacher at Ursiline Academy, a clog dancer, and a composer who has written three songs for the “Lewis and Clark” program. Her painted backdrops are used behind the musicians on The Sheldon stage.

Michael Banvard, fiddle

Michael Banvard plays fiddle for contra dances and concerts, having started playing after arriving in St. Louis 8 years ago. He's played banjo, mandolin, guitar, upright and electric bass, lute, and viola da gamba over the course of not-quite-growing up. Recently, he won the 1st Annual Fiddle Contest at The Folk School of St. Louis. Banvard is a member of the Local 6 of IATSE, the Stagehands Union.

Credits:

The tin “sounded horn” used in our program was made by Ken Berkel at Berkel Sheet Metal.

The drum was made of wood and animal skin by John Higgins.

The hat, like that worn by Pierre Cruzatte, was hand knit by Dana St. John.

The hand-painted silk backdrops were created by Annie Scheumbauer.

Original music was written by Annie Scheumbauer and John Higgins.