

LeslieAnne Bird

Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC

threelittlebirdsmes@gmail.com

Performance Prep; It Takes So Much Time (...and it doesn't have to!)

Example Solution

FMEA 2024

Friday, January 12, 11:45 AM

My Situation - My Solution

- Third - Sixth Grade (third grade: Family Folk Dance Night, no 'concert')
- Choir, Beginning Band, Beginning Orchestra
- Fourth - Sixth Performed ONE time during the year
- Four Concerts TWO Winter/TWO Spring
- Winter #1 Choir, One 4th Grade, One 5th Grade, One 6th Grade
- Winter #2 Band & Orchestra, One 4th, One 5th Grade, One 6th Grade
- Spring #1 Choir, One 4th Grade, One 5th Grade, One 6th Grade
- Spring #2 Band & Orchestra, One 4th, One 5th Grade, One 6th Grade

How Do I Build on A Theme?

One of my ALL TIME favorite theme concerts centered TREES!

It was inspired by an Orff workshop by Maggie Hoffee

Fourth Grade

- I gathered all of my books about Trees
- They selected one to perform, in this case "The Giving Tree"
- They composed simple, layered ostinatos to represent the parts of the tree
- Some students were actors, (tree parts, children)
- Some students were the narrators who read the story
- Some children played the instruments

Fifth Grade

- I choose the song "The Trees" by Rush

- The children listened and drew “story boards” to represent the sections of the music.
- They converted the story boards into movement
- They made props
- Inspired by America’s Got Talent, they performed the movement as a shadow story to the music

Sixth Grade

- Composition Project
- We listed all the types of trees we could think of
- We set rhythms to the names of the trees
- In teams they created 8-measure ostinatos
- They were welcome to bring in anything made of wood from home and/or choose any instruments in the room made of wood to play their ostinatos
- They arranged the ostinatos into a larger form composition
- They titled and performed the piece with a student as the conductor

This is Just an Example

All of the projects were based on standards, skills and concepts that are in my long range plan for each grade level in the second half of the school year.

I let the CHILDREN create the content and I helped them polish things up for the final performance.

- The children are vested in the product so they WANT to come and show off
- The CHILDREN do the bulk of the work, I help organize and guide
- I have children LEAD as much as possible - My goal is to sit, watch and enjoy - it is not always possible and it is the goal
- I partnered with the art teacher who helped to make scenery in our theme in class
- The bulk of MY work was at the end, setting up the performance space, hanging the scenery and creating the program

Tips and Tricks

- I DO NOT like talking at concerts. I open my mouth and really awkward things come out 🤦🏻 My mind is often a few steps ahead...
 - If possible, I have students write a short intro to explain what the audience will see next
 - Reliable students (usually in the oldest grade) are selected to Emcee the event and fill in any gaps while performers enter and exit to keep the show moving

- When the Emcee's are not talking during a transition I include music to keep the audience focused (humming or singing what they just played, one or two students keeping a bass line going etc.)
- For longer transitions or stage resets I invite students who take instrument lessons to play in between to keep the audience engaged
- I **ALWAYS** have **TWO CHILDREN** (at least) on each part
- Students function as “ushers” distributing programs and directing folks to the coat rack and bathroom etc.
- Keep performance attire SIMPLE and EASY - usually all black for me, comfy and clean, soft soled shoes for safety

Stay Connected

Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC

threelittlebirdsmes.com

threelittlebirdmes@gmail.com

FaceBook: Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC

Instagram: @3littlebirdsmes

TikTok: @threelittlebirdsmes

Coaching, Consulting, Professional Development, Workshops and Trainings, Guest Artist Appearances, Community Musicking and MORE!

Please do not use these ideas in a presentation or workshop without permission. You may not sell or post the information or ideas for profit on Teachers Pay Teachers or any other platform. Thank you. 💜