



Sample Project

Music

Music in Relation to History and Culture

Grade Level(s): 6 to 8

VAPA Standards (Music) Addressed:

Content Standard 1:

Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

Content Standard 3:

Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

Content Standard 4:

Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines

Content Standard 7

Evaluating music and music performances

Content Standard 9

Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Content Area Connections:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies



The cakewalk as performed by vaudeville stars Ada and George Walker.

Project Description:

The ArtsBridge Scholar provides students with activities representing a diverse sampling of music genres; these range from spirituals to rap. Students are expected to take a significant level of responsibility for their own learning as they progress through project materials. Representative classroom activities using scholar designed lessons incorporate: vocal and movement activities (with an emphasis on improvisational skills), America's first dance fad – the cakewalk, spirituals for Afro-American History Month, and a ballroom dancing activity that is used as part of a final ArtsBridge presentation.

Project Outcomes:

This project meets the needs of the students, the host teacher, and the Scholar by providing each with new insights into the learning process. Students are challenged to take risks as they experience a variety of musical lessons that have broad connections to other subject matter areas. They are asked to draw upon personal life experiences (through arts related improvisational techniques) that demand use of higher-level cognitive skills. The ArtsBridge Scholar analyzes project activities in order to discover effective pedagogical practices.