

Program Name: Missouri Cultural History

Artist: Cathy Barton-Para, Dave Para, and Mike Fraser

Special Requirements:

Projection screen; darkened performance space; two students to help load/unload equipment; 15 minutes set up time prior to performance and 15 minutes after; three chairs; glasses of water; electrical outlet; extension cord; 2 microphones with a PA system if the school feels a sound system is necessary (audiences of 200+)

Special Points of Interest:

Count Basie played in silent-film theaters in Kansas City, Missouri before joining Walter Page's Blue Devils.

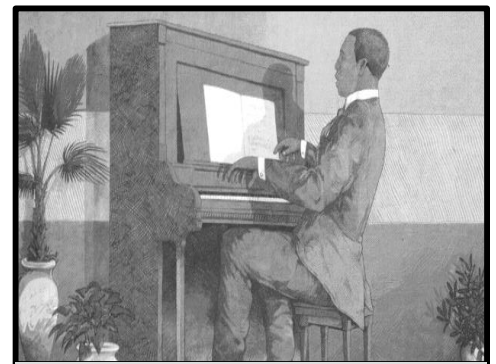
Performance Description

This program, a companion to the Missouri Cultural History Workshop, is designed to introduce students to visual and performing artists native to Missouri. Barton, Para, and Fraser use songs, slides, and stories to present the work of famous musicians and painters from Missouri. Historical anecdotes pertaining to the times and personalities of the artists are shared with the students.

The trio highlights information about the nature of folk music in the oral tradition and its roots in country music and the students are invited to participate. The trio shows slides of Scott Joplin, Count Basie, and Charlie Parker and connects this music to the urban migration in America and rural folk

traditions contributing to the popular musical forms of jazz and ragtime.

In addition, the trio shows slides of paintings by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton and demonstrate what these artworks reveal about life in mid-nineteenth century Missouri.



Scott Joplin at the Piano

Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Become familiar with regional cultural heritage and the works of selected Missouri artists
- Understand folk culture as the root of popular forms of music

History:

- Understands the broadly defined areas of state and local historical events

Music

- Identifies (by genre or style) music from various historical periods and cultures



Dave Para and Cathy Barton-Para are vocal and instrumental musicians, storytellers, song writers and folklorists. Cathy holds a degree in Humanities and a master's degree in Folk Studies, and has written radio scripts and book and record reviews. She is a two-time winner of the Tennessee banjo championships and has appeared on *Hee Haw* and the *Grand Ole Opry*. Cathy and her husband, musician Dave Para, have also appeared in festivals and concerts throughout the

United States and Europe.

Michael Fraser has worked in education since 1977. The first seven years were in public schools, however the majority of his teaching experiences have been as an education consultant in the Ozark Region for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Michael is a folk musician and storyteller and focuses on bridging the gap between art and science.

List of Resources:

Books:

[Paintbox on the Frontier: The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham.](#)

by Alberta Wilson Constant Ty Crowell Co; (May 1, 1974)

ASIN: 0690608446

[Shifra Stein's a Kids Guide to Kansas City](#)

by Shifra Stein Harrow Books;

(June 1, 1989)

ASIN: 0916455025

[Maverick With a Paintbrush: Thomas Hart Benton](#)

by Wilma Yeo Doubleday; (October 1977)

ASIN: 0385080174

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Vocabulary

Folk Music: old songs and tunes passed down, usually orally, over a long period of time. There are several different types of folk songs, including: ballads, spirituals, dance tunes, play party songs, work songs, and the blues.

Jazz: a distinctive form of American music that evolved in the late 19th c. from African American music mingling with European folk music, vaudeville, spirituals, work songs, and the blues.

Missouri: the name comes from a relatively small Indian tribe closely related to the Otoes. The main villages of this tribe were once near the Grand River in what is now Van Meter State Park near Marshall, MO.

Osage: the dominant tribe of Indians in what is now the State of Missouri.

Ragtime: one of the earliest forms of jazz with a quick, syncopated rhythm.

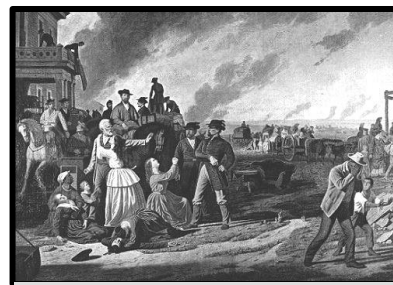
Post-Performance Activities

1. Encourage students to research with a partner a famous Missourian. Tell them to use the information they learn to perform a mock interview with one student playing the part of the interviewer and the other playing the part of the famous person. After practicing their questions and answers, students may perform for the class and perhaps dress the part.

2. Discuss with students the importance of George Caleb Bingham's art work as an actual account of what went on in Missouri in the mid-19th century. Show the class one of Bingham's paintings of life on the Missouri river or one depicting the political atmosphere of the times, (e.g. "*Order 11*".) Ask students to describe what is happening in the painting and to

compare this scene to a similar event of today.

3. Ask students to research encyclopedias, newspapers, etc. to learn about types of music popular in Missouri today and long ago. Some musical forms include big band, bluegrass, folk music, ragtime, opera, symphonic music, and rock and roll.



George Caleb Bingham's *Order 11*