

## Young Audiences of Massachusetts Educational Materials

### About the Performance

Voci Angelica Trio presents an interactive educational program, “Passages”, for elementary and middle school children. Students learn about geography, the early history of human emigration, and the diverse cultures, languages and music of six continents. Voci Angelica performs its own arrangements of world folk music re-imagined for two voices, cello and percussion. Audiences become part of the experience: answering questions in a quiz-show format, creating body percussion to rhythmically infectious songs, and learning ancient dances.

**Instruments:** Cello, Djembe, Claves, Cuatro, Maracas, Shell Shaker, Tambourine Stick, Finger Cymbals, Doumbek

### LEARNING GOALS:

1. to reinforce geography studies through music
2. to show the history of early human migration
3. to promote cultural understanding through the music and languages of every continent inhabited by humans

### PRE-ACTIVITY SUMMARY: 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>

**CURRICULUM LINKS:** Geography, Social Studies,

**LEARNING GOAL:** to be able to identify the seven continents, compare and contrast differences between continents

**MATERIALS/PREPARATION:** map of the world, paper, pencils, crayons/colored pencils

**TIME:** 60 minutes

**Step 1:** Have the class name the seven continents. Ask students to define “continent.” Guide them to think about the vastness of North America and name the countries that comprise it. Discuss the differences in the countries of North America (cultures, land, climate, etc.).

**Step 2: Divide** the class into groups. Assign each group a continent other than North America.

**Step 3: Discuss** the continent. Locate the continent on a map or globe (Where is it in relation to North America? Is it bigger than North America? How many countries are there and how it is different from North America)

**Step 4: Create** a chart on the board or on a large piece of paper to compare the two continents. Discuss the differences between the two continents.

**Step 5:** Have students draw or color maps of the continent they were assigned from stencils or free hand. Ask students to draw something on their map that is symbolic of that continent.

## **POST-ACTIVITY SUMMARY: Making Percussion Instruments**

**LEARNING GOALS:** To create percussion instruments. To create layers of sound using percussion instruments.

**MATERIALS/PREPARATION:** Coffee cans, beans, rubber bands, fabric, soda bottles and caps, paper towel rolls, paper clips, wooden sticks (for tapping), water

**TIME:** 45 minutes

**TIPS FOR THE TEACHER:** \* *Percussion instruments:* musical instruments sounded by striking, shaking or scraping. \* Collect coffee cans, soup cans, paper towel rolls, etc. in the weeks preceding this lesson.

### **STEP 1:**

**Discuss** percussion instruments and instruments of African influence, including those that the artists used in their performance. How do these instruments make sound?

### **STEP 2:**

**Ask** students to think of everyday materials that they could use to create instruments. Collect the materials. Discuss how students might vary the sounds of the instruments (amount of beans, different sizes of cans, etc.).

### **STEP 3:**

Have each student make a percussion instrument from everyday materials. Encourage students to experiment with different sounds before making their final instruments.

### **STEP 4:**

Give students time to practice playing their instruments by themselves and with partners.

### **STEP 5:**

Have students play different rhythms with their instruments and create layers of sound by playing them with each other.

### **ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:**

Re-imagining the boundaries of traditional folk music, Voci Angelica Trio's riveting arrangements of global songs from every continent leave audiences mesmerized.

Shimmering vocal harmonies intertwine with lush cello lines and vibrant percussion to create a musical fusion that transcends cultural divisions.

What started as a side project building on its members' diverse ethnic backgrounds has become a musical mission. More than just a performance group, Voci Angelica Trio is a humanitarian force promoting social justice and cultural understanding. "We believe that one of the best ways to pursue peace is to sing one another's songs," says trio member Jodi Hitzhusen. Meena Malik adds, "We see ourselves as musical ambassadors, using our performances to raise public awareness of diverse cultures and the issues they face."

The name “Voci Angelica” is Latin for “voices of angels.” Latin is a root language from which many others grew, just as the Trio believes that every culture is rooted in common desires. Aristides Rivas concludes, “Music goes beyond language, religion, and politics. It connects us to our humanity.”