

January 25, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our elementary school has a morning listening program that surveys the history of American popular music. We begin with the earliest roots of American music and move chronologically up to present day. Each week we focus on one period of time and choose a piece of music from that period to listen to each day as a class. We use the music to examine the historical characteristics of each time period and demonstrate how music is both an influence on and influenced by cultural and political events. In this manner, we use music to directly connect history and culture to art.

American popular music has drawn heavily from the African-American experience throughout our nation's history. As a professional musician André Floyd has extensive knowledge of jazz and blues. We invited him to participate in our listening program and he taught the section of music from the Civil War to the height of jazz and blues up to WWII. He was able to turn history lessons into stories that engaged the children and captured their interest. André supplemented his lessons with historical recordings of music and even a few live performances of his own. At the end of his sessions, the children were able to identify historically influential artists and how they linked to important historic events in American history. By creating a multi-sensory learning experience, the students were better able to learn and retain information.

I would highly recommend André Floyd as a specialist who can bring education to life through music, make learning fun, and elevate students' learning experience. Do not hesitate to call me for further assistance.

Sincerely,



David Cummings
Upper Elementary Teacher