

Teacher's Curriculum for Songs of the American Spirit

The AJW's mission is to perform for and with public school students in order to encourage their participation in band, orchestra, and choir programs; to uphold and promote the American jazz tradition; and to enhance quality of life for all ages through live performances employing area musicians and collaborations with nonprofit organizations and student ensembles in central Texas.

This year's season is devoted to Depression-era popular song, with a female vocalist. Songs like *Pennies from Heaven*, *Bye Bye Blackbird*, *I've Got the World on a String*, and others will be presented.

Workshop Logistics:

You will be contacted by your workshop clinician about two weeks prior to your scheduled assembly. Ideally, workshops should take place during the assembly week. They are aimed at grade levels three and higher, with a budget of **three class periods per campus**. Classes may be combined, but a maximum of fifty students in the room at one time is preferred. Workshops are designed to take place in the music classroom. They are intended as an opportunity for some of your students to get acquainted with jazz concepts and history before the full group performs on your campus, but the workshop is not required for students to enjoy the assembly performance.

Necessary Equipment:

Our clinician will need a CD player and a laptop or desktop with PowerPoint viewing capability from flash drive that we provide. Optional, but recommended: TV with Internet access for YouTube clips.

Assembly Performance Logistics:

The AJW will set up on the floor this year, if possible. The group is a quintet consisting of vocalist, sax/flute, keyboard, bass, and drums. The band will need four chairs and electric piano if available. Otherwise, we can bring our own electric piano. Also, we will use the projector/screen in your cafetorium and a laptop to project lyrics for a singalong to *Bye Bye Blackbird*.

The following is intended to help you prepare your students for the Austin Jazz Workshop experience on your campus. It is divided into three parts: **Classroom Prep** (done by you before the clinician's visit), **Workshop Experience** (done by the AJW clinician in your classroom), and **Performance Experience** (done by the full group during the assembly).

Classroom Prep for *Bye Bye Blackbird*: Sheet music and practice recordings for both tunes are available by emailed request to ausjazz@gmail.com. Students can sing and/or play recorders on these numbers.

Workshop Experience for *Bye Bye Blackbird*: The clinician will lead your classes in singing this song, and play along with them as they play recorder, if they are ready.

Performance Experience for *Bye Bye Blackbird*: Recorder students who are ready will be brought up to perform with the band. The audience will be led in song with lyrics projected.

Other workshop components:

Terms for this year: *Swing, Improvisation, Standards, Bridge*. The clinician will

demonstrate the concepts of swing and improvisation for students, and talk about what constitutes a 'standard' composition, and the importance of the bridge and song form in *Bye Bye Blackbird*.

Question/Answer: The clinician will leave some time for questions at the end of the presentation. Generally during this portion, the clinician will encourage students to become involved in band, orchestra, and choir programs in middle school.

Video Selection: If time permits, the clinician will direct the class to relevant YouTube clips of some of the songs to be presented. TV and Internet access will be necessary for this to occur.

Participation in AJW Jazz Jubilee or AJW @ Texas Community Music Festival.

Austin ISD teachers who are interested in having students from your school participate in either of these two annual events are welcome to download the *AISD Jazz Jubilee 2018 Letter of Intent* to register or gain more information.

Questions? Contact Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255 or ausjazz@gmail.com.