



Strand: MUSIC
Grades: 3 - 4
Content: 45 minute broadcast + hands-on activity

Adventures of the Cycling Fox with Felipe Gomez

Overview

Felipe Gomez is an educator, award winning musician and adventurer. His interactive music program explores the importance of music in daily life. He will share his multi-media performance "The adventures of the Cycling Fox", a fusion of live music, spoken word, and projections of video animations. During on-air activities, students will learn to observe sound waves, patterns in music, rhythm and pitch. Felipe will also demonstrate body percussion. Students will use what they have learned to create their own musical scenes, giving sound to their thoughts and feelings.

Artist Bio

Felipe Gomez is an award winning musician, adventurer and public speaker. Felipe has taken the "touring musician" or "troubadour" concept to a whole new level by cycling across Canada with his 6 string bass and amp. With His project "The Bike and Bass tour", Felipe hopes to inspire people to explore Canada, experience the outdoors, and embrace the wide diversity of art, cultures, landscapes, and wildlife that Canada has to offer. His last album Dance of the Fox won a national award for BEST INTERNATIONAL RELEASE at The Indigenous Music Awards in Winnipeg, MB, in 2015. Felipe has performed at hundreds of venues, schools, and festivals across Canada, and internationally on three continents.

Curriculum Aims & Goals

Creative/Productive:

Students will collectively explore music and utilize the techniques practiced with the artist.

Critical/Responsive:

Felipe will demonstrate musical techniques. Students will respond by exploring their own sounds and translate them into compositions.

Cultural/Historical:

Felipe will perform "Adventures of the Cycling fox" and share original and recorded media with the students.

Pre-Broadcast Preparation

Students can stay at their desks for the broadcast but will need to stand up and move at some points.

You will need:

1. *Smart Board or projector*
2. *Speakers (good sound level is important for this lesson)*
3. *Paper*
4. *Colouring utensils*

Post-Broadcast Resources

Download links from the LIVE Arts website as instructed below.

Adventures of the Cycling Fox

Synopsis

This story begins in a remote little village in the boreal forest where all the animals of the community are busily preparing for The Annual Celebration of Solstice, the most important night of the year, when the Spirits of Music must be brought together to initiate the End of Winter and the Beginning of Spring. It is believed that if the Spirits of Music are not united on the night of Solstice, then Spring will not arrive, and a long, cold, and bitter Winter will remain.

The villagers of Music Grove are the official guardians of The Spirits of Music, which are four ancient musical artifacts believed to have been created to maintain the balance of the seasons. Such important talismans are closely guarded in separate compartments of the Original Tree, the oldest and largest tree in the forest. Legend says that the Original Tree and its ancient mystical powers created the forest that the villagers rely on for survival.

Two weeks before Solstice, while happily exploring in the woods and daydreaming about adventures, 12-year-old Cycling Fox inadvertently discovers a mysterious old and weathered wooden key with the symbol of the Spirits of Music engraved on it. He immediately knew that this must be the key to the Original Tree, but also knew that it was forbidden to open the door before Solstice. On his way to returning the key to the Guardians, against his own common sense, he was overcome with the irresistible temptation to have just one quick look inside...After all, what could possibly go wrong? He is about to find out...

Before he realizes it, Cycling Fox finds himself looking up at the Original Tree, while clutching the key in his paws. With shaking arms, he slowly brings the key towards the keyhole, but changes his mind, and starts to walk away in relief. Suddenly, the key forcefully shoots out of his hands and flies straight into the keyhole! To his surprise, horror, and amazement, the door of the Original Tree creaks open, and beckons him inside...

Suddenly, with no warning whatsoever, the winds build up and an unnaturally powerful blizzard sweeps around the Original Tree, and blasts through the open door. Cycling Fox is thrown to the ground inside the Tree, and quickly buried in a mountain of snow...but not before he saw the Spirits of Music being carried away by the wind into the river...floating away downstream in the icy water...

The unthinkable has happened. If these Spirits of Music are lost forever, then Spring will never come, and the Cycle of Life will be interrupted forever.

Cycling Fox is in a panic and laden with guilt. It is now up to him to save the day and rescue the Spirits of Music before the longest night of the year...Otherwise...

This story will follow Cycling Fox as he faces his fears and embarks on a daring journey in search of the Spirits of Music. Along the way, he learns as much about himself as he does about nature's diverse landscapes, while facing challenges, braving the elements, and encountering new friends. Will Cycling Fox find all the Spirits in time for Solstice?

Teacher Guide

Curriculum outcomes reached:

CP3.5 Demonstrate basic skills in use of voice and a variety of sound objects and instruments (traditional and/or homemade) using the environment (e.g., natural, constructed, imagined) as inspiration.)

CP3.6 Create and perform music (vocal and instrumental) that demonstrates knowledge of:

- form (repeated or contrasting phrases: call/response, question/answer, rounds)
- rhythm (interplay of beat, tempo, and patterns of duration)
- pitch (combining pitch and rhythm to form melody)
- dynamics (levels of loud/soft)
- texture (combining and layering sounds)
- tone colour (differentiate).

CR3.2 Respond to arts expressions that use the environment (e.g., natural, constructed, imagined) as inspiration.

CP4.5 Demonstrate increased skills and abilities in the use of voice and instruments (traditional and/or homemade) and develop compositions using Saskatchewan as inspiration.

CP4.6 Create and perform music (voice and instrumental) that demonstrates knowledge of:

- form (round, call/response, verse/chorus, rondo)
- rhythm, beat, and meter (i.e., triplets, 3/4 metre, syncopation; expressive use of tempo and dynamics)
- pitch, melody, and pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, sol, la, do)
- harmony and texture (e.g., layers of sound and patterns, partner songs)
- timbre (e.g., instrument classifications).

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CR4.2 Respond thoughtfully to a variety of contemporary Saskatchewan arts expressions.

CH4.1 Investigate and share discoveries about the arts in Saskatchewan through collaborative inquiry.

ACTIVITY #1 - Introduction all grades (5 minutes)

1. Talk about the LIVE Arts-LIVE Stream presentation of “Adventures of the Cycling Fox” (watch it if you haven’t, if you missed the LIVE broadcast, please email liveartsaskatchewan@gmail.com to access the archived broadcasts)
2. What is the Cycling Fox’s mission?
3. Which was your favourite character and why?
4. What elements of music do you remember?
5. Using your own words how do you describe the elements of music?

ACTIVITY #2 - Rhythm, Tempo and Beat Exercise – Instruction (5 minutes)

Tell your students that you are going to play two songs from “Adventures of the Cycling Fox”.

1. Listen to track 1, “Solstice”.
 - Ask students, if they remember what part of the show was this song for?
 - Instruct them to close their eyes, listen to the music playing again.
 - Clap with one finger to the beat of the music as they listen.
2. Listen to track 2, “Hurry up”
 - Ask students, if they remember what part of the show was this song for?
 - Instruct them to close their eyes, listen to the music playing.
 - Clap with one finger to the beat of the music as they listen.

Note: It’s important to mention that the following the beat should be done just with one finger for now. When students are feeling more confident following the rhythm, you can invite them to clap with two fingers all the way till five.

ACTIVITY #3 - Modeling - Guided Practice/Interactive (15 minutes)

Direct your students to stand up, and divide the class in two groups.

1. Play track 1 “Solstice’ and tell them to clap to the beat, after that invite them to use their feet to follow the beat instead of the hands, do this back and forward, saying feet – hands; hands – feet; etc.
2. Repeat the same, this time using track 2 “Hurry up”.
3. Play track 1 “Solstice” from “Adventures of the Cycling “ and divide the class in two, one class will chant the melody and the other half will play the Rhythm, make this back and forward.
4. Repeat the same, this time using track 2 “Hurry up”.

ACTIVITY #4 - Independent Working Time (10 minutes)

Instruct your students to draw about how they felt.

- Potential guiding questions include: How did “Solstice” make you feel compared to the “Hurry up” song?
- Why do you think the upbeat song makes you feel one way? What about the slow song?
- Encourage them to use comparison.

Review and Closing (5 minutes)

Ask students how the music makes them feel? Talk to the students how they can use music to evoke their feelings.

1. What kind of music would do you listen if you want to feel happy?
2. How can you use music and sound as an arts expression?
3. What kind of volume would do you use if you want to feel calm?
4. You can follow this lesson plan inviting the students to bring examples of songs they enjoy in the future.