



PROGRAM GUIDE

This information is intended to prepare teachers and students for a Young Audiences performance.

MO PHILLIPS

Song Writing Mania!

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

In this performance Mo begins by playing some of original songs as a way of introducing his approach to the art form. Mo shows the audience different styles, both with and without a guitar. Mo then briefly discusses how he got into song writing and the effect it had on not only his communication with the world, but with himself as well, and the empowerment that art can provide.

Mo then takes questions from the audience (limited it to 5) about the art form and his experience in the field. Finally Mo and the audience write a short song together using subjects based on either fun facts about the school or elements of the curriculum. Then, using the lyrics Mo changes the musical elements to fit different genres based on audience suggestions.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mo Phillips is a local dad who has been writing and performing songs for over twenty years all over the world, focusing almost exclusively on music for families over the last 4 years.

Mo began writing songs with preschoolers in 2005 and soon thereafter created the Rock 'n' Roll Kindy program, a song writing and band making experience that began in preschools and quickly evolved into an afterschool program and library performance.

Mo currently performs original family music weekly all over the Portland metro area and SW Washington, and on the Oregon coast as well. Mo also teaches K-2 Music at Sunnyside Environmental School in PPS as well as at local private music schools and preschools. This is Mo's third year doing performances and residencies with Young Audiences.

ABOUT THE ART FORM

Music in human form evolved right along with language over the last 60,000 years. The art of song writing evolved as a communication tool as a way to convey emotion through music. The central aim of song writing is to illicit and emotional response from an audience using music, whatever audience that may be.

Mo explores the art form through three primary elements of a song: the mood, the melody, and the subject. Exploring mood allows the students to consider the emotive qualities of sound. To put simply, how can one use a guitar to scare the audience's pants off? How can one use the same instrument to make an audience feel deep sadness or great joy? Exploring melody allows the audience to consider musical elements such as pitch,

rhythm and tempo. And finally subject gets the audience into lyrical expression and rhyming, which for a large group is often the most enjoyable aspect of song writing.

VOCABULARY

Mood— The feeling evoked by a certain piece of music

Melody— A series of notes strung together as a single entity using a combination of pitch and rhythm

Pitch— The “highness” or “lowness” of a sound

Rhythm— The pattern of sound and silence

Tempo— The pace and speed of the music

Lyrics— The words of a song

Subject— What the song is about