

The Music Center's Study Guide
to the Performing Arts

Artsource®



MUSIC·CENTER
EDUCATION DIVISION



Artsource[®] is an effective tool for teachers to help their students grasp concepts across the curriculum...and you don't have to be a professional artist or specialist to make it happen!

"Even if you've never danced a single step, picked up a paint brush or played a note of music, you can use Artsource[®] in your classroom."

First Grade Teacher

"The essence of a story put into action really captures the class. They are amazed that a story can come from inside the brain. I now know the steps/processes to teach students to re-enact stories."

Second Grade Teacher

"Artsource[®] can be invaluable in implementing multi-culture education through the content and activities which broaden the understanding of other cultures and other historical time periods..."

Fourth Grade Teacher

"I showed the Artsource[®] animation video... ("Every Picture Tells a Story") to the class. The great thing about it was that new career options were illustrated via the tape and the students were able to see a creative process from start to finish."

Fifth Grade Teacher

"Artsource[®] makes curriculum connections and alleviates fear, making jazz accessible to students and teachers, both musical and non-musical."

Sixth Grade Teacher



Photo: Herbert Wigdall

**The Nutcracker,
"Waltz of the Flowers"**
Gerald Arpino & The Joffrey Ballet

The Artsource® study units in **dance**, **music** and **theatre** are designed to bring the expressive world of the arts into classrooms. The units feature:

- outstanding professional artists and companies
- diverse cultures and styles



Photo: Craig Schwartz

**It Was a Lover and His Lass, Come Again,
Vergene Bella & Gioto Al Canto Mio**
Diana Zaslave



Photo: Bonnie Torman

Voice of the Wood
Robert Faust and Eugene Friesen

- a sample of an artwork
- five universal themes to help connect disciplines and subjects:
 - Transformation
 - Enduring Values
 - Freedom & Oppression
 - The Power of Nature
 - The Human Family
- three fully developed lesson plans
- clear student outcomes, criteria for meaningful tasks and assessment questions
- arts glossaries and sample rubrics
- video and/or audio materials



- strategies for multiple learning modalities
- support for visual and performing arts content standards



Photo: John Kane



Photo: Courtesy of Friedson Enterprises

Dance

D11 African Roots In American Soil

Dr. Chuck Davis & The African American Dance Ensemble

AUDIO & VIDEO Dr. Chuck Davis journeys to Africa each year to research specific cultural groups. This enables him to choreograph African American interpretations of authentic material from Africa. The video includes "Lamban," a Griot or historian's dance from the Old Mali Empire circa 13th century, and "Isicathulo," a gum boot dance of the Shona, Ndebele and Zulu people in Southern Africa.

LESSONS An African folk tale told on the audio, chants, proverbs, Kwanzaa, and ways to develop leadership through dance.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Human Family

D15 Billy the Kid *excerpts*

Eugene Loring & The Joffrey Ballet

VIDEO George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein created a non-traditional American ballet style. They invited Eugene Loring to choreograph a ballet based on the outlaw, "Billy the Kid." The "Opening March" of the ballet shows pioneers traveling West, features motifs that portray their experience and music by Aaron Copland.

LESSONS How to create original dance motifs based on pioneer life, work, characters and legends, as well as motif writing.

THEMES Enduring Values

D22 Brother Sun, Sister Moon

& Yup'ik Moon Song
Chuna McIntyre

VIDEO Chuna McIntyre performs traditional Yup'ik dance and song accompanied by percussion on a hand drum. He uses authentic artifacts and masks to illuminate the customs and stories of this ancient southwest Alaskan tribe.

LESSONS Indian signs to tell a story, ways to interpret Nature Poems through creative movement, and how to design a dance costume for a cultural celebration.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values, The Power of Nature and The Human Family

D19 CRWDSPCR (*Crowdspace*) *excerpts*

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

VIDEO Merce Cunningham is recognized as one of the primary dance innovators of the twentieth century. He recounts four events that led to important discoveries in his work: 1) his initial collaboration with composer John Cage in the late 1940s, when they began to separate the music and the dance; 2) his use of 'chance' operations in his choreography; 3) his use of video and film as a medium to choreograph works specifically for the camera; 4) his use of dance computer software to create movement possibilities for his choreography.

LESSONS Techniques for creating a dance with 'chance' procedures, investigating technology and dance, and composing music and dance pieces independently, then performing them simultaneously.

THEMES Transformation and Enduring Values



Photo: Martha Swape

D18 Dholak Choram, Lai Haraoba & Vasanta Rasa Lila

Ranganiketan Manipuri Cultural Arts Troupe

AUDIO & VIDEO Shows ways to communicate through expressive hand gestures and spell-binding music played on unique instruments which have derived from the ancient culture of Manipur, India. This cultural heritage has been preserved intact for thousands of years and passed from one generation to the next via master artists and teachers.

LESSONS explore social studies.

THEMES Enduring Values and Transformation

D04 Eagle Dance & Hoop Dance excerpts
American Indian Dance Theatre

VIDEO A theatrically-staged presentation of Native American dance and music that maintains the integrity of different cultural traditions.

LESSONS with traditional stories central to both the "Eagle" and "Hoop" dances.

THEME The Power of Nature and Transformation

D17 Firebird
Arthur Mitchell & Dance Theatre of Harlem

VIDEO & SLIDES Arthur Mitchell, the first black male dancer with the New York City Ballet, tells his own 'story' and shows the power of an individual to overcome adversity, transcend social attitudes and fulfill a vision in the DTH ballet company.

LESSONS Create and interpret mythical creatures in dance, write a cinquain poem, create and dance scenes from the "Firebird" folk tale.

THEMES Transformation and Freedom & Oppression

D14 Impressions #2 (Vincent Van Gogh)
Bella Lewitzky & The Lewitzky Dance Company

VIDEO This choreography is part of a suite. It is based on Bella Lewitzky's responses to selected paintings by Vincent van Gogh, including "Starry Night."

LESSONS focus on an interdisciplinary approach which involves creative movement, language and visual images.

THEMES The Power of Nature and Transformation



Photo: Don Peardie

D24 Lamentation & Satyric Festival Song
Martha Graham - Introduced and performed by Janet Eilber

VIDEO Martha Graham is considered to be one of the most important innovators of the twentieth century. "Lamentation" was inspired by sculpture and represents the essence of grief. In contrast, "Satyric Festival Song" displays the opposite emotions, laughter, teasing and humor.

LESSONS include how to express emotions through postures and creative dance, ways to work with the breath and movement, and how to dance poems that express public and private worlds.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Human Family

D12 Los Mitos, Danza De La Reata & Jarabe De Amor Ranchero
Amalia Hernández & Ballet Folklórico de México

AUDIO & VIDEO Ballet Folklórico de México captures the heart and spirit of the Mexican people and their traditions through the pageantry and ritual of the indigenous cultures before the arrival of the Spaniards. The company also depicts the influence of the Spanish and European cultures in creating a 'Mestizo' style.

LESSONS are multidisciplinary, built around the

THEMES of The Human Family and Transformation.

D16 Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder
Donald McKayle & Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

AUDIO & VIDEO "What is beautiful about mankind are the differences, and that is a thing to celebrate," proclaims choreographer Donald McKayle. He was the first black male selected to join the Martha Graham Dance Company for their historic tour of Asia sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

LESSONS are grounded in such

THEMES as rhythms of work, leading and following and Freedom and Oppression

Dance



Photo: Craig Schwartz

D01 Revelations

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

AUDIO & VIDEO "Revelations" celebrates the human spirit and the ability to overcome adversity. The artistic vision of Alvin Ailey profoundly captures the essence of his black experience in America and expresses his African-American cultural heritage.

LESSONS explore contrasting gestures and emotions, creation of a 'signature dance' related to each person's name, and response through dance to Langston Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."

THEMES Freedom & Oppression, Transformation and The Human Family

D23 Sarve Kashmir & Interlace

Anna Djanbazian

VIDEO Anna Djanbazian's Persian-Armenian heritage, love of design and nature influence her themes and choreography. "Sarve Kashmir" reflects the style of Persian dance usually performed in homes, on the street or in courtyards. The barefoot performers portray a group of women selling bread on the street. "Interlace" is a traditional Armenian dance based on the structural designs seen in Armenian churches from the 4th–17th century.

LESSONS The 'Persian Cinderella' story from the time of Marco Polo, Star Map dances, and movement studies based on architectural forms.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values and The Human Family

D27 Stamping Ground excerpts

Jirí Kylián & Nederlands Dans Theater

VIDEO These excerpts from an extraordinary suite of dances by Jirí Kylián were inspired by Aboriginal culture. Kylián did not imitate the dances, but rather collaborated with experienced dancers from the Nederlands Dans Theater, to explore animal qualities. The Nederlands Dans Theater Artsource® Video shows excerpts of Aboriginal dancing, as well as the process of creating "Stamping Ground."

LESSONS include mirroring, conversations, animal studies, and creation myths.

THEMES Enduring Values, The Power of Nature and The Human Family

D02 Suite of Appalachian Music & Dance

AMAN International Folk Ensemble

AUDIO & VIDEO AMAN International Folk Ensemble focused on a wide range of dance forms and music found in a far-reaching geographical area of the Appalachians, reflecting both European and African influence.

LESSONS feature Big Circle Dancing – moving in/around a circle, working with partners and creating a dance with 'big circles,' 'small circles,' partners and/or solos.

THEME Enduring Values, The Human Family

D03 Suite of French Canadian Dances

AMAN International Folk Ensemble

AUDIO & VIDEO AMAN International Folk Ensemble preserved and presented the traditional dance, music and folklore of many ethnic groups, particularly those of North American immigrants. Unit focuses on Yves and France Moreau who choreographed this suite of dances to represent both rural and urban traditions. The video features a kaleidoscope of French Canadian dances.

LESSONS Learn "Les Saluts," dance a reel, and perform a French Canadian quadrille.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Human Family

D26 Tête en l'Air excerpts

Diavolo

VIDEO Diavolo's original material includes architecture, geometric shapes, mechanical functionality and landscapes. "Tête en l'Air" was inspired by a large wooden staircase. It features dancers streaming down, under, and even through it via a series of ingenious trap doors. As "citizens of the world" they portray a sense of bewilderment and wonder as they explore endless possibilities.

LESSONS focus on collaboration, working with different types of structures and ways that ordinary objects can be transformed into ideas to be explored.

THEMES The Human Family and Transformation.

Photo: John McCoy





Photo: Joris Jan Bos



Photo: Courtesy of Lily Cai

D28 **The Brass Ring** *excerpt*
Pilobolus Dance Theatre

VIDEO Pilobolus Dance Theatre is unlike traditional dance companies. Its daring lifts, counterbalances, swinging sculptures and contact designs are created through an improvisational, collaborative process. "The Brass Ring" premiered at the 2000 Olympic Games. This excerpt is most appropriate for grades 5-12.

LESSONS feature physics and architectural concepts with application to dance, and give step by step strategies for successfully guiding students through experiences that enable them to collaborate in improvisation and composition. Sculptural studies use weight and physics principles. Many examples of Literacy connections.

THEMES Transformation and The Human Family

D09 **The Flying Goddess & The Fan Dance**
Lily Cai

VIDEO Lily Cai, a Chinese-American, preserves her traditional Chinese culture by performing ancient court dances. Two classical dances show contrasts between different dynasties.

LESSONS include the concept of 'classical circles,' the Chinese Ribbon Dance and animal-mime dances, as well as "The Sun Rises," a series of pictures found on an ancient cave wall.

THEMES Enduring Values and Transformation

D21 **The Green Table** *excerpts*
Kurt Jooss & The Joffrey Ballet

VIDEO "The Green Table" premiered in Paris in 1923, and is now regarded as one of the most important dance works of the twentieth century. It is a compassionate and humanistic dance drama that depicts the indecencies and inhumanities of warfare and features the powerful leaders who make the decisions that impact all people.

LESSONS include mask-making, ways to create dance motifs and express different emotions through gesture and dance.

THEMES Enduring Values, Freedom & Oppression and The Human Family

D05 **The Nutcracker, "Waltz of the Flowers"** *excerpt*

Gerald Arpino & The Joffrey Ballet

AUDIO & VIDEO "The Nutcracker," a traditional holiday treasure, was inspired by the musical score of Tchaikovsky and based on a delightful story by E.T.A. Hoffman. The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago's production is an American interpretation emphasizing its international cultural heritage.

LESSONS celebrate toys coming to life through dance, dioramas and dream collages. Listen to the story of "The Nutcracker" on audio.

THEMES Transformation and Enduring Values

D25 **The Sleeping Beauty** *excerpts*
American Ballet Theatre (ABT)

VIDEO Recognized as a living national treasure, American Ballet Theatre was founded in 1940. The aim was to develop a repertoire of the best ballets from the past and to encourage the creation of new work. "The Sleeping Beauty" serves as the inspiration for this unit. On video, view a pas de deux danced by "Sleeping Beauty" and her prince.

LESSONS feature ballet terms, clear structure and steps for guiding students through the process of adapting a story and organizing it so it can be told through dance, and includes five points of story structure related to the narrative ballet.

THEMES Enduring Values and Transformation



Photo: Roy Round

D10 **Woolloomooloo Cuddle**
Remy Charlip

AUDIO & VIDEO Remy Charlip shows how our perception of what dance is can be changed by the way we view the ordinary events of our lives. He has evolved unique approaches to creating dances, including his imaginary "Radio Dance" and "Air Mail Dances."

LESSONS focus on techniques for imaginative dance-making in visual and movement media.

THEME Transformation



Photo: Courtesy of Eugene Friesen

M03 Bonampak

Xochimoki – Jim Berenholtz & Mazatl Galindo

AUDIO Xochimoki creates original music using Pre-Colombian instruments of the Aztec, Maya and other Mesoamerican cultures combined with a few contemporary acoustic and electronic instruments. Xochimoki performs their “Bonampak,” an original work using ancient murals to provide images for them to reconstruct lost or unavailable instruments.

LESSONS Stories in music, world drums, and how to compose ‘future music,’ plus a glossary of instrument descriptions.

THEME The Human Family

M25 Brandenburg Concertos, Nos. 3 & 4

by **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**
Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra

AUDIO Greg Maldonado and the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra look to the past to make old music new again. They strive to recapture the sound that was in the composer’s head when the music was created. J.S. Bach’s six “Brandenburg Concertos” are amongst the most popular works in the Baroque repertoire.

LESSONS Design letters of one’s name in Baroque artistic style, listen to the concertos, identify the themes and instruments, and learn about King Louis XIV and the history of ballet.

THEME Enduring Values

M21 Cajun Medley: Valse, Parlez-Nous À Boire & Tit Galop Pour Mamou

John Zeretzke & AMAN International Folk Ensemble

AUDIO Violinist John Zeretzke is on a never-ending quest for new ideas and idioms of music. His expertise in violin styles includes Cajun, Greek, Hungarian, Romanian, Appalachian, Eastern European, Gypsy, Asian, jazz, classical and country. This suite captures the unique spirit of the Cajun culture, indigenous to the State of Louisiana.

LESSONS Guiding students in listening skills, folk music of the American South and tracing the evolution of southern American styles of music from their origins to present-day.

THEME The Human Family

M24 Cello Man excerpts

Eugene Friesen

VIDEO Eugene Friesen weaves a spell through stories, songs, masks and inventive techniques on cello and electric cello. His original music features a variety of styles: blues, contemporary, folk, electronic and pop. Cello Man transforms himself with masks and costumes, integrating his character with his music.

LESSONS Explore the concepts of sound vibration, duet improvisation and how to write a story with a musical instrument as a main character.

THEME Transformation



Photo: Courtesy of Xochimolki

M15 Every Picture Tells a Story

John Ramirez, Storyboard Artist, & Paul Tracey

AUDIO & VIDEO Every Picture Tells a Story shows the process of working with a creative team as they take an idea and develop it into a storyboard sequence. The project begins with a musical composition, Turbo Power, featured on the audio recording (along with two other pieces). In the video you see a telescoped version of the full creative team process illustrated by both live action sequences, leading to the final storyboard accompanied by the music.

LESSONS feature flip books, designing an idea into a four-frame comic strip and creating a storyboard inspired by one of the musical scores.

THEMES Enduring Values and Transformation



Photo: Courtesy of Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra

M29 I Be Serious 'Bout Dem Blues

The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra (CHJO)

AUDIO CHJO is a living link to the rich history of jazz – especially its unique melding of African, European and American influences. Unit helps students to identify the different instruments used in jazz and how musicians play together within a structure that features improvisation.

LESSONS Create simple improvised duets, gain an appreciation for jazz, recognize a twelve-bar blues structure and learn to play a basic swing rhythm.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values and The Human Family

M20 It Was a Lover and His Lass, Come Again, Vergene Bella & Gioto Al Canto Mio

Diana Zaslove

AUDIO The Renaissance was a time when composers began to emphasize the expressiveness of the human voice as a solo instrument, often paired with the lute. Unit celebrates music of the Renaissance and features two English songs, one composed by Thomas Morley with words by William Shakespeare from his play “As You Like It,” and two Italian songs. Poetry and music are combined for the purpose of expressing a variety of emotions, especially aspects of love.

LESSONS Dance to a song, play a Renaissance tune on recorder, bring a sonnet to life, (Middle School), write a sonnet and set it to music (High School). Make connections to history, language and visual art.

THEME Enduring Values

M13 Japanese Festival Sounds – Asobi

Johnny Mori & Kinnara Taiko

VIDEO Originating in ancient India as part of religious and ceremonial events/celebrations, Taiko drumming found its way to Korea, China and Japan. The Japanese Festival Sounds/Kinnara Taiko musical group blends the traditional art of Taiko drumming with a modern Japanese-American style to communicate cultural fusion through contemporary compositions for the Taiko drums. Johnny Mori states, “As we express ourselves we create new traditions.”

LESSONS focus on rhythmic patterns (five basic taiko drum strokes and syllables), percussion sounds and fusion.

THEMES Transformation and Enduring Values



Photo: Craig Schwartz

MUSIC



Photo: Craig Schwartz

M26 **Joropo Azul & Zayante** *Alfredo Rolando Ortiz*

AUDIO Alfredo Rolando Ortiz was born in Cuba, but found his passion for the harp in the mountains of Venezuela. His music, rooted in the folk and classical traditions of Latin America, has won international acclaim. It is said that the harp began with the sounds of the hunting bow many thousands of years ago and is the ancestor of such instruments as the guitar and the piano.

LESSONS Create rhythmic patterns, listen for pattern and tone color, build a simple tuned instrument, make connections to other curriculum areas.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Human Family

M12 **Korean Classical Music and Dance** *Don Kim*

VIDEO & AUDIO The Korean Classical Music and Dance Company's repertoire includes folk as well as ancient formal court music and dance. Students learn about the history of Korean music and see dancers in colorful costumes perform a variety of dances. Two Korean songs reflecting the spirit of the people are featured on audio.

LESSONS build understanding for music composed in the pentatonic scale, teach a Korean song, and create beautiful movement to Korean music.

THEME Enduring Values

M14 **Malegueña Salerosa** *Natividad Cano & Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano*

AUDIO Mariachi music is a traditional style of Mexican music and singing in which the musicians often stroll among patrons as they play. The instruments include violins, guitars, vihuelas, trumpets, harp and guitarron. "Malegueña Salerosa" is a Mariachi repertoire piece, an example of the Mexican 'singing style' which was influenced by 19th century Italian opera.

LESSONS Learn a Mexican folk song, learn rhythm and meter of a Mariachi song, and compare with "El Salón Mexico" by Aaron Copland.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Human Family

M28 **Ocean Dream** excerpt *Paul Winter*

AUDIO Winter creates melodies on his saxophone that relate to the beautiful wild songs, cries and howls of animals. Unit features the sound of the sea and the magical voice of the Humpback whale.

LESSONS awaken perception of the sounds of nature and animals, teach how to create music with others in small communities, and guide the creation of a multi-layered presentation using music and the spoken word.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Power of Nature

M07 **Rag Man & Losing You** *Chic Street Man*

AUDIO Chic Street Man has created a unique vocal style which is all his - a potpourri of blues, reggae, folk, pop and jazz. "Rag Man" dramatizes the type of worker who personally advertises his wares or work by calling out and singing. Chic uses his guitar, singing and speaking voice to tell the tale of the "Rag Man," reflecting memories from his childhood.

LESSONS reveal game-song traditions, story songs and the Blues as a musical vehicle for speaking about one's life.

THEME Enduring Values and The Human Family

M23 **Shapes!** *California E.A.R.-Unit Performed by Amy Knoles, Robin Lorentz & Dorothy Stone*

VIDEO The California E.A.R. Unit highlights the music of modern composers who create complex works. "Shapes!" is an improvisational piece based on graphic notation composed of any type of symbols a composer chooses, replacing traditional notation. The performer is asked to interpret these symbols. This type of music also requires the imagination of the listener.

LESSONS show students how to create their own musical piece using a variety of shapes, create and perform a structured improvisation and interpret and perform an abstract piece of music using different styles of graphic notation.

THEME Transformation



Photo: Skyline Displays

M31 Sh-boom & The Lion Sleeps Tonight
The Alley Cats

AUDIO By bringing their own contemporary style to the tunes from the 50s and 60s, The Alley Cats breathe new life into everyone's favorite doo-wop classics. During the Fifties young people sang together on street corners. Their songs and style became hits of the day – and doo-wop was born. Doo-wop is a type of rhythm and blues using nonsense syllables with lyrics in intricate, harmonic arrangements.

LESSONS guide students to work with rhythmic patterns, nonsense patten and creating their own songs in this style.

THEME Enduring Values

M02 Short Ride In a Fast Machine
John Adams & The Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra

VIDEO Composer John Adams calls "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" a fanfare for a large symphony orchestra. When composing the piece Adams had a mental image of "moving through space at tremendous speeds, while in some kind of vehicle skirting through a field of meteors."

The video captures John Adams rehearsing with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra as they prepare his piece for performance. In a minimalist style, the composition brings a new view of music.

LESSONS focus on musical stories and instrument families of the orchestra.

THEME Transformation



Photo: Craig Schwartz



Photo: Courtesy of Chic Street Man

M01 Tagonggo
Eleanor Academia-Magda & World Kulintang Institute

VIDEO Kulintang music is an ancient art form from the Southern Philippines. The musical piece "Tagonggo" represents a style which can be traced back to the third century A.D. It is considered to be very powerful. Kulintang music is passed down from generation to generation through an oral tradition.

LESSONS honor ancient traditions.

THEME Enduring Values

M11 That Ole' House is Ha'nted
Dr. Jester Hairston

VIDEO Jester Hairston celebrated his 90th birthday by conducting an international choir of 25,000 voices in Estonia during the summer of 1991. A grandson of slaves, Hairston recalled with great relish the evenings in his Pennsylvania hometown when his relatives would spin tales, especially ghost stories. Remembering those evenings, he wrote "That Ole' House is Ha'nted," based on some of the tales he heard as a child.

LESSONS feature the stories people tell through music and words.

THEME The Human Family

M27 Vocalworks Radio Hour
Vocalworks

AUDIO The Vocalworks Radio Hour takes students back to an era before television. The 30s and 40s were a time when imagination was key to bringing music, drama and comedy to life.

Includes songs such as "Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got that Swing)," composed by Duke Ellington, and an excerpt from "Fireside Chat" with FDR.

LESSONS focus on the sounds of swing, the relationship between poetry and music and how to script a radio show based on a significant event.

THEME Enduring Values



Photo: Richard Hines



Photo: John McCoy

T heatre

T12 **A Slice of Rice** *excerpts*
Nobuko Miyamoto & Great Leap

AUDIO & VIDEO Nobuko Miyamoto shares her story, "Joanne Is My Middle Name," to dramatize the dilemma of being a third generation Japanese American searching for a way to belong. This unit is all about discovering ourselves through the telling of personal stories.

LESSONS include dance, theatre and research in the process of expressing a "personal history story."

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values and The Human Family

T13 **Classic Journeys or Tableaux of Contents** *featuring The Heroic Climb of Itsy-Bitsy Spider*
David Novak

AUDIO David Novak draws his stories from classic myths, fables and well-known nursery rhymes. He plays with the story's form to find messages suggested by its symbols and images.

LESSONS include the process of storyboarding, creating 'living photographs' (tableaux) of story scenes as well as technique of constructing 'A Story String' to recall a personal story.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values, and The Power of Nature

T16 **Let Them Eat Books** *excerpt*
Carl Weintraub / We Tell Stories

VIDEO "Let Them Eat Books" is a story theatre performance featuring "The Two Skyscrapers Who Decided to Have a Child" by Carl Sandburg. The unit includes an original story script for "The Two Skyscrapers."

LESSONS highlight the essential elements of 'We Tell Stories' creative process and the art of improvisation and storytelling: building basic theatre skills and trust in partner and group work, and turning a story into a play.

THEMES Transformation and Enduring Values

T01 **Life Cycle**
The Chameleons - Keith Berger & Sharon Diskin

VIDEO "Life Cycle" follows the relationship of two characters, female and male, from infancy through childhood, adolescence, courtship, marriage, parenthood, middle-age, old age, death and finally, rebirth. The Chameleons use pantomime techniques to project a spectrum of human emotions.

LESSONS are full of mime/theatre techniques including creating imaginary objects, 'clay motion,' and playwriting.

THEMES Transformation and The Human Family

T19 **Negro Love Song**
by Paul Laurence Dunbar
Joanna Featherstone

VIDEO Joanna Featherstone specializes in presenting the work of African American poets, from 1760 to modern times. She features 'dialect poetry' that was expressive of early African American language and was frequently used by both black and white early American writers.

LESSONS teach how to write poetic epistles, recite poems with expression, and scan well-known poems to identify the rhyming pattern.

THEMES Freedom & Oppression and The Human Family



Photo: Robert Casile



Photo: Craig Schwartz © 1990

T14 **On The Day You Were Born** excerpts
Sandy Spieler & Debra Frasier

VIDEO & SLIDES "On the Day You Were Born" is a play created by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre based on a book by Debra Frasier. Puppetry, paper cut-out illustrations, poetry and music blend to celebrate the natural miracles of the earth and extend a jubilant welcome to each member of The Human Family.

LESSONS focus on creative drama techniques combined with writing and illustrating a book about the day you were born.

THEMES The Power of Nature and The Human Family

T21 **Prather's Poetry Jam** excerpt featuring
Casey at the Bat
David Prather

VIDEO features "Casey at the Bat," an excerpt from Prather's Poetry Jam show. Prather dramatizes the poem, speaking the heroic, rhythmic language and bringing the vivid characters of the story poem to life. He says, "Life is full of poetry, and poetry is full of life!"

LESSONS Create a soundscape, improvisation and narration, and movement jam using original movement based on language encountered in poetry.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values and The Human Family

T10 **Simply Maria, or the American Dream** excerpts
Josefina López & Playwrights Project

VIDEO When she was a teenager, Josefina López was greatly moved by a play she saw. Inspired to become a playwright, she wrote a play about a young Hispanic girl's struggle to find her own sense of self and freedom. The girl does this by challenging the traditional part of her heritage and traveling a road which helps her find her own truth.

LESSONS focus on making up stories, writing dialogue, and character development.

THEMES Transformation, Freedom & Oppression and The Human Family

T08 **Songs and Stories of My People**
Geri Keams

AUDIO Geri Keams learned from her grandmother the importance of passing on stories of the 'Old Ones.' "The Quillwork Girl" communicates the experiences of Native American tradition and culture in ways that are educational, entertaining and memorable.

LESSONS feature sand painting, Indian legends and song-poem compositions.

THEMES Transformation and Enduring Values

T11 **The Boy Who Wanted to Talk to Whales** excerpts
Robert Minden & The Robert Minden Ensemble

AUDIO & VIDEO "The Boy Who Wanted to Talk to Whales" is a contemporary folk tale about the adventure of a boy compelled by a powerful dream to talk to the great whales. The story, a simple folk tale about man and nature, expresses a desire to connect with the landscape, soundscape and species of our world.

LESSONS Sound discovery, a sound scavenger hunt, and verbal and nonverbal communication.

THEME Transformation and The Power of Nature

T05 **The Little Theatre of the Deaf** excerpts
David Hayes & The National Theatre of the Deaf

VIDEO The performance style of "The Little Theatre of the Deaf," described as "Poetry for the eye and heart," uses expressive body movement, the spoken word and American Sign Language to bring literature to life.

LESSONS include practicing creative drama techniques, partnering to narrate and 'sign' a story, and 'signing' a Haiku poem.

THEMES Transformation and The Human Family



Photo: Kelly Zalkoski



Photo: Courtesy of Faustwerk Mask Theater



Photo: Allen Nomura

T18 **The Long Haired Girl**

Eth-Noh-Tec with Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo & Nancy Wang

VIDEO "The Long Haired Girl," is a legend from China. A synthesis of music, movement and words, this performance fuses Eastern and Western motifs. The performers share narration and transition between different characters within the story, embellishing with rhythmic dialogue, poses and comic facial gestures.

LESSONS emphasize the elements of a story as well as techniques for animated telling with physical interpretations.

THEMES Transformation, Enduring Values and The Human Family

T04 **The Mask Messenger** excerpts

Robert Faust & Faustwerk Mask Theater

VIDEO "The Mask Messenger" offers insights into the artistic, psychological, and historical aspects of masks. Robert Faust demonstrates power by putting on a variety of masks and assuming the character expressed in each face.

LESSONS include two-sided mask-making, body language and mask metaphors.

THEMES Transformation and The Human Family

T02 **The Story of Babar,**

The Little Elephant excerpt

The Children's Theatre Company

VIDEO The challenge of bringing a book off the page and onto the stage lies in transforming a two-dimensional artwork into a three-dimensional form. Jon Cranney and his creative team combined their skills in a cooperative problem-solving process to bring this classic tale to the stage.

LESSONS focus on the process of transforming a literary work into a theatrical one.

THEMES Transformation and The Power of Nature



Photo: Courtesy of The Children's Theatre Company

T17 **The Tale of Beatrix Potter, Peter Rabbit & Friends**

Judith Helton

AUDIO Actress Judith Helton brings historical characters to life with her portrayals of women of accomplishment and artistic talent.

The Tale of Beatrix Potter illuminates the life of the author/illustrator who gave us such beloved stories as "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." The audio features Ms. Helton as Beatrix Potter being interviewed during an English tea time, followed by Judith speaking as the actress rather than the character, telling us how she creates her work.

LESSONS "Picture letters," life-study drawings and how to create an original story based on first-hand observations.

THEMES Enduring Values and The Power of Nature



Photo: Courtesy of Judith Helton Americana Unlimited

T20 **Voice of the Wood** excerpts

Robert Faust and Eugene Friesen

VIDEO "Voice of the Wood" is a play adapted from the exquisite children's book by Claude Clément, and performed by Robert Faust and Eugene Friesen. A two-character piece utilizing masks and music, the story begins with a luthier (a maker of stringed instruments) who crafts his cello masterpiece from the wood of an ancient tree in his yard. The night of Carnival, he challenges the musicians of Venice to make his cello 'sing.' The play tells the story of his quest to discover the touch that will unlock the "Voice of the Wood."

LESSONS show how to create a Toy Theatre and design 'stock characters' to tell a story in the Italian theatre style of Commedia dell'Arte.

THEMES Transformation and The Power of Nature

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District Arts Coordinator



Photo: Craig Schwartz



Photo: Craig Schwartz



Photo: Ken Howard

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