Incorporating Folk Music into a Public School String Program

A PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROJECT
AMANDA HAYDEN
As a string music education major, I am interested in finding ways to incorporate other styles of learning into the classroom. Teaching traditional folk music by rote enhances ear training, rhythmic awareness, understanding of musical form, and the importance of music within a culture. Creating this curriculum will help better educate my future string students by providing them with the opportunity to increase these skills in an unique way.
Crane Fiddle Group

Photo by Amanda Stockwell
Contradance, December 2008

Photos by Amanda Stockwell
Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp

Photo by George Touchstone
Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

Photo by George Touchstone
Bruce Molsky visits SUNY Potsdam
April 6-7th 2009

www.highstreetconcerts.com
## Elementary String Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Skills</th>
<th>Folk Music Addition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Posture</td>
<td>• Sing back activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Right and Left Hand Technique</td>
<td>• Play back activity (open strings &amp; rhythm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pizzicato</td>
<td>• Listening for “same vs. different”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Open string bowing</td>
<td>• Accompaniment vs. melody (back beats)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• String crossings between 2 strings</td>
<td>• Improvisation in D major (ex. Cripple Creek)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reading music in D and G major finger patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quarter notes, half notes, whole notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quarter rests, half rests, whole rests</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Middle School String Program

## Foundation Skills
- Reading music in the keys of C, F, A
- Bow techniques – marcato, spiccato, double stops, slurring
- Sight reading activities
- Beginning vibrato
- Shifting
- Balance between sections in orchestral repertoire

## Folk Music Addition
- Guided listening – take home CDs, identifying difference between styles, genres, tempos, and form.
- Improvisation in small groups
- Folk music in culture – focus on certain countries
# High School String Program

**Foundation Skills**

- Minor and modal scales
- Music Theory
- Orchestral and solo repertoire that includes advanced meters, bowing techniques and keys
- Chamber music opportunities (quartet)
- Continuous attention on proper technique
- Exploring other repertoire (classical, romantic, modern compositions, jazz)

**Folk music addition**

- Student generated folk music arrangements
- Special events – contra dance, festivals, camps, guest artists, open jam sessions
- Minor or modal folk songs (ex. Swedish Walking Tunes)
Special Thanks

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM,
DR. REBECCA GERBER, BONNIE LAWRENCE,
BRUCE MOLSKY, BETH ROBINSON,
FRIENDS & FAMILY