

Incorporating Folk Music into a Public School String Program



A PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROJECT
AMANDA HAYDEN



Goal of Project:



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



Photo by Amanda Stockwell



Photos by Amanda Stockwell

Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp



Photo by George Touchstone

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason



Photo by George Touchstone



Photo by George Touchstone



Photo by George Touchstone



Photo by George Touchstone

Big Hoedown



Photo by George Touchstone

Bruce Molsky
visits SUNY Potsdam
April 6-7th 2009







The Dance Flurry – Saratoga, NY





Elementary String Program



Foundation Skills

- Posture
- Right and Left Hand Technique
- Pizzicato
- Open string bowing
- String crossings between 2 strings
- Reading music in D and G major finger patterns
- Quarter notes, half notes, whole notes
- Quarter rests, half rests, whole rests

Folk Music Addition

- Sing back activity
- Play back activity (open strings & rhythm)
- Listening for “same vs. different”
- Accompaniment vs. melody (back beats)
- Improvisation in D major (ex. Cripple Creek)

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,
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BRUCE MOLSKY, BETH ROBINSON,
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