

ATLANTA PERCUSSION TRIO

Holidays in Steel

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Percussion is the name given to any instrument whose sound is created by striking. The percussion family of instruments is the largest and most diverse family. Percussion instruments are some of the oldest and newest instruments known to man. Some percussion instruments are melodic in nature (i.e. xylophone, marimba, bells), some are characteristically rhythmic (i.e. drums, tambourines, castanets), and some are generally used as sound effects (i.e. gongs, ratchet, slapstick).

"Holidays in Steel" celebrates the winter holidays with music from around the world. Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa traditions from Ireland, Ukraine, Kenya, Russia, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. will broaden students' horizons as they are entertained and educated.

OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to some of the many winter holiday celebrations and traditions of various cultures around the world
- To compare and contrast music and instruments from around the world
- To use music to reinforce the study of geography
- To reinforce general music concepts such as melody, harmony and rhythm

VOCABULARY

- Percussion- instruments played primarily by striking.
- Winter Solstice- the first day of winter, the day with the fewest hours of daylight, a focal point of many celebrations since ancient times
- Christmas- worldwide celebration December 25th of the birth of Jesus
- Hanukkah- eight-day Jewish celebration of the "Miracle of Lights"
- Trepak- A Russian dance in quick duple meter of Cossack origin.
- Kwanzaa- a holiday observed by the African community worldwide from December 26 to January 1. The name comes from matunda ya kwanza, Swahili for "first fruits," or the harvest celebrations of ancient Africa.
- Parrandas- Puerto Rican Christmas tradition involving lively door-to-door music making, food and dance
- Aguinaldo- traditional Puerto Rican Christmas song
- Boxing Day- celebration on December 26th observed in England and many former British colonies
- Junkanoo- national festival in the Bahamas dating back to the 16th century celebrated with parades featuring elaborate costumes, lively music and dance