

Adventures in Music Presents...

Teacher Guide

Unlocking the Mystery of the Banjo

Unit 3: Winter 2021

Performer: Danny Barnes

Goal: To develop an awareness of early stringed instruments and how they work, with particular emphasis on the banjo

Objectives: The Student will:

- Become familiar with the history of the banjo.
- Learn how a banjo works.
- Learn about different playing styles.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE...

Danny Barnes is considered to be one of the foremost banjo players in the world. He lives in the Northwest and we were lucky to get him to agree to a presentation.

In 2015 he won the coveted Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass. In this presentation, Danny demonstrates various banjo styles and different types of picking.

He also talks about and demonstrates "Breakdowns" and "Bluegrass."

Of particular note is his inspirational chat about practicing and how it can improve lives, because his philosophy is applicable to anyone wishing to improve themselves in any field.

VOCABULARY: banjo bluegrass clawhammer
 strumming finger-picking breakdown

POST ASSEMBLY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- ☺ Research the internet to see if you can find various kinds of banjos. There are banjos that have 4, 5, 6 and 8 strings. There are even others that are like two instruments in one – the banjo/mandolin, banjo/ukulele, and a huge banjo/bass.
- ☺ Listen to some recordings of the following players to hear different styles of banjo playing: Earl Scruggs – bluegrass. Eddie Peabody – 4-string banjo. Pete Seeger – 5-string folk banjo. Snuffy Jenkins – 20’s and 30’s music. Rosco Holcomb – mountain music. Doc Boggs – finger-picking. See if you can identify different banjo styles of playing, by hearing them.



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