

Curriculum Guide

The Fratello Marionettes

Peter & The Wolf

Teacher Guide

K-8

About the Artist

The Fratello Marionettes began entertaining audiences in 1989 by bringing the ancient art of marionettes to audiences throughout the world. We have toured extensively throughout the United States and internationally.

The Fratello Marionettes produce high quality marionette shows using the “cabaret style” of manipulation. In this truly American style the puppet and puppeteer perform in full view of the audience. Our shows present intricately handcrafted marionettes that range in size from one foot to three feet tall. Our shows are geared for children of all ages, and some of our work is performed without dialog. These music-based programs are designed to surmount the language barrier.

About the Program

“Peter and the Wolf” was written by Sergei Prokofiev in 1936 for the Central Children’s Theater in Moscow, Russia. The story was written to introduce children to the instruments of the symphony orchestra. Each character in the story is represented by a different instrument of the orchestra. The bird is represented by the flute; the duck is the oboe; the cat is the clarinet; the grandfather is the bassoon; Peter is the strings; the wolf is the french horns; and the hunters are the percussion.

“Peter and the Wolf” is the story of a mischevious boy living with his grandfather. Against his grandfathers wishes, Peter wanders out into the meadow to play with his animal friends. His grandfather has warned him of a wolf in the nearby forest, and not heeding his advice, he finds himself in peril. Find out how this clever boy with his animal friends triumphs in this classic tale.

Learning Objectives

- To introduce children to the art of Puppetry
- To open children’s imagination to theater
- To learn about Symphonic musical instruments
- To listen to classical music
- To show how to follow one’s dreams (Both puppeteers started in puppetry at a young age)
- Peter learns to follow directions

Teacher Preparation for the Program

Discussing the History of Puppetry

- What is a puppet?
- What is a marionette?
- How many types of puppets are there?
- How can I make a simple puppet?
- When did the art of puppetry begin?

Peter & the Wolf

- Where is Russia?
- What is classical music?
- What are the different animals in the story?
- How did Peter disobey his grandfather?
- What animals are represented by each of the instruments?

Follow-Up Ideas and Activities

How to Create a Puppet Show

- Think of a clever story to tell.
- Writing the script.
- Develop what characters are involved.
- Decide what type of puppets to use to tell the story.
- Determine how and when to use sound effects or music.
- Decide who is going to play which characters.
- Rehearse the show.
- Put on a performance.
- Have fun!

Vocabulary and Key Concepts

Classical Music: A form of music played by symphony orchestras using strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments.

Sergei Prokofiev: 1891-1953 ; Prolific Russian composer of such works as “Peter & the Wolf,” “The Love for Three Oranges,” and “War and Peace.”

Marionette: mar-i-o-nette ; a puppet manipulated from above by strings attached to its jointed limbs.

English-Language Arts Content Standards

This puppetry program meets the VAPA and ELAC standards:

- 1.1 Artistic Perception: puppets, story, classical music, conflict
- 2.1 Creative Expression: Students connect emotional bonds with the characters portrayed in the puppet show presentation
- 3.2 Historical and Cultural Context: Students are enlightened on one of the earliest forms of performance art. They are also encouraged to ask questions following the performance.

Resources

Sergei Prokofiev, Charles Mikolaycak, Peter & the Wolf, Puffin, 1986

Sergei Prokofiev, Eugene Ormandy, David Bowie, Philadelphia Orchestra, Peter & the Wolf, RCA label, 1994

Suzie Tempelton (dir), Peter & the Wolf, Animated dvd, 2006

Luman Coad, Marionette Sourcebook, Charlamagne Press, 2007

Mabel and Les Beaton, The Complete Book of Marionettes, Dover Publications, 2005

David Currell, Making and Manipulating Marionettes, Crowood Press, 2005

Mark Mazzarella, Stories of the American Puppet, DVD, 2007