



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Oregon & SW Washington

PROGRAM GUIDE

This information is intended to prepare teachers and students for a Young Audiences performance.

TRASHCAN JOE

Music Is All Around Us!

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Trashcan Joe comes out of the gate running with high energy musical theater, engaging the audience from the very first note with animated interpretations of Jazz classics. Following a few songs, they begin to share information about the instruments they play. Each musician takes a turn describing their instrument and then plays a song featuring it. Throughout the performance the ensemble members talk about homemade musical instruments and give examples of how students can make their own from common household items. The audience is encouraged to sing along at many points during the program, culminating with volunteers from the audience joining the band on stage to perform a "Trashcan Orchestra Finale."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

"Trashcan Joe is a marvel, a wonder that defies categorization in any sort of contemporary setting."

Don Campbell, **The Oregonian**

Cap'n James Cook, inventor of the trashcanjo (a four string banjo made out of a trashcan) needed an outlet for all the old-time jazz and folk songs he'd learned performing over the past 20 years. It didn't take much to rustle up some friends willing to take on this oddball assignment. Extraordinary Cornet Stylist **Jason Wells** (March Fourth Marching Band), Trashcan Bassist **Arthur Parker** (Dahoo Chorus), Washboard Percussionist **Kyrstyn Pixton** (March Fourth Marching Band) and Jazz Accordionist **Mike Danner** (Belmont Street Octet) all add distinct personality and flavor to Trashcan Joe's well rounded and always exciting sound.

ABOUT THE ART FORM

Trashcan Joe plays classic standards from early Jazz, Blues and Children's music. A uniquely American art form, early Jazz can be traced to New Orleans in the 1920's and 1930's where such legends as Louis Armstrong and Jellyroll Morton made their start. If Jazz was a "city music," the Blues was its country counterpart. The rural Mississippi Delta just outside the Big Easy was a fertile ground that nurtured the birth of the Blues. Both Jazz and Blues music borrowed ideas, lyrics and melodies from each other to create a sometimes blurry distinction between the two, yet it also fostered a rich and vibrant piece of American musical history.

VOCABULARY

Jazz: An American music based on improvisation

Blues: Also an American art form, simpler than Jazz and thematically influenced by the hard times endured by the people playing the music. "The blues give you a little bit to keep it away." – Wynton Marsalis

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Video: "...Times ain't like they used to be" Yazoo

News reels from the 1920's that depict the music of the time

Book - "How to Play Nearly Everything" by Dallas Cline

This book provides an informative introduction to ten folk instruments and how they were made and played.