

Da Camera Music Encounters

Music Encounters is a Da Camera Education Initiative that brings classical music and jazz to students, just feet from their desks. The mission of the program is to establish creative learning environments for the core-curricular subjects, in line with national and state academic standards, by promoting collaboration between artists, students, and classroom teachers. Da Camera brings years of experience working with schools in the Houston Independent School District, surrounding school districts, and various charter schools in the greater-Houston area.

Da Camera Young Artists work in close collaboration with educators to connect music with the content students are learning in school. Research demonstrates a positive correlation between arts-integrated instruction and greater retention and classroom engagement. Students are able to think more critically and communicate more creatively, are more willing to take risks in learning, and are inspired to pursue further educational opportunities outside of the classroom.

Da Camera actively works in coordination with teachers in order to develop lessons on a wide variety of topics and are eager to modify existing lessons or create new lessons. Each lesson is adaptable to different grade levels and is differentiated to meet the unique needs and teaching styles of each partner classroom.

For more information, please contact Craig Hauschildt, Director of Education & Community Initiatives, at chauschildt@dacamera.com or 713-524-7601.



Sample Music Encounters Lessons

Below are just a few examples of recent Music Encounters lessons:

Science Lesson – “Butterfly Ballet”

- Topic: Insect Lifecycle (easily adapted to the Plant Lifecycle)
- Audience: Lower Elementary
- Description: Students learn about the lifecycle of Monarch butterflies and connect the different stages to the acts in a ballet. Students create and improvise their own ballet to represent the four different stages of the insect lifecycle while guest musicians play accompanying music.

Science Lesson – “The Science of Sound”

- Topic: Forms of Energy
- Audience: Lower & Upper Elementary
- Description: Students learn about the different forms of energy with a focus on sound energy and sound traveling as vibrations. They hear, see, and feel the sound vibrations of a variety of instruments, both traditional and non-traditional.

Language Arts Lesson – “Japanese Haiku”

- Topic: Poetry
- Audience: Lower & Upper Elementary
- Description: Students learn about Japanese culture and its unique connection to nature. They examine several examples of haiku and work independently to create their own, following the traditional model. Students are introduced to Japanese folksongs and are given the opportunity to compose a pentatonic melody and counter-melody to accompany their haiku.

Language Arts Lesson – “A Guide to Cuban Clave”

- Topic: Procedural Writing
- Audience: Upper Elementary
- Description: Students learn about procedural writing and how to add personal voice to writing assignments. Students are given a brief introduction into Cuban culture and popular music and are taught how to clap *son clave* while the Da Camera artist plays a timbale solo. Students then write a step-by-step guide for clapping *son clave* through pre-writing, writing, and revising.

Social Studies Lesson – “Decoding Spirituals”

- Topic: African-American Spirituals & Black History Month
- Audience: Upper Elementary
- Description: Students are given the opportunity to decode the hidden meanings and messages in traditional African-American spirituals. Spirituals are introduced as a uniquely American folksong tradition originating during the times of slavery. They were a means for slaves to express their deep sorrow and hope for freedom as well as a means to communicate without their masters’ knowledge. Using helpful clues, the students work in groups to decode the underlying and hidden meaning of lyrics from well-known spirituals and share their findings to the class.