

Kelly Thibodeaux –Violin (Fiddle) Musician

About the Artist

I am a working musician with 35 years of professional experience as a fiddle player and over 12 years as a teaching artist teaching K-12 students how to play one of the world's most powerful instruments, the violin. I present the violin as a folk music instrument and stress accessibility over perfection with the focus being individual achievement. Everybody learns how to make it work. My entire approach is based on rhythm, as we are all born with an innate sense of this and it is a natural part of our physiology. By utilizing this understanding I am able to achieve amazing results in a very short period of time (one week or less).

Grade levels – 1-6

Program Description and Objectives

This is an amazing string teaching program/residency designed for an entire school, with the objective of students acquiring in a very short period of time enough basic skills on the violin (fiddle) to be able to solo perform a 3-chord fiddle tune with guitar accompaniment provided by the instructor. In addition students will learn enough technique to produce sound effects to musically illustrate a short folk story narrated by the instructor. A minimum of four 45 minute consecutive sessions per class (25 to 30 plus students) is recommended, with the 4th session serving as a recital performed for attending parents and students.

Arts Integration

This program is primarily a musical instrument (fiddle) instruction program that incorporates basic state criteria for music education in its curriculum: rhythm, timing, and dynamics. However, it goes much further by including historical and cultural information on the instrument itself as well as the cultural perspectives of the music. Louisiana culture, with its rich and colorful heritage, provides the material and anecdotes utilized in explaining and understanding the music presented in the program. In addition, students participating in this activity experience increased achievement and improved self-esteem. This program also encourages greater parent participation along with a corresponding enhanced sense of community, as there is a great pride to be derived from musical abilities.

Supplies: Fiddles are supplied for every student by the Artist. A short video documentary of the program is available by clicking on "fiddle workshops" at www.etoouffee.com.

Housing: This residency will require a home stay for the Artist.