

# *Timmy Abell / Teacher Workshop*

**Title:** *Music: A Powerful Tool  
for Transforming the Classroom Atmosphere.*

**Date:** Open

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**Art Form:** Music

**Target Audience:** Classroom school teachers, grades K-5  
(Music teachers also welcome.)

**Topic:** This workshop is designed to examine the effective use of (recorded) music in any primary/elementary school classroom or day care center, with an emphasis on the positive outcomes which will be achieved both in the children's learning process, and in their attitudes and behavior, when the right music is used with care at appropriate times.

**Approach:** The workshop presenter will:

1. **Provide an overview** of ways that teachers (even those not musically inclined) can effectively introduce music into the classroom on a regular basis.

2. **Discuss** *The Mozart Effect*, and its implications for enhancing both students performance and the general classroom atmosphere.

2. **Lead teachers** in several learning activities involving folk songs, which can be taken directly back to the classroom. Intended outcomes for each activity will be discussed. These activities may involve the development of reading & language skills, motor skills, co-operative social skills, etc.

3. **Demonstrate 7 specific ways** that recorded music can be used as a tool to create various desired effects in the classroom while expanding general music appreciation.

4. **Share materials** and resources which will ensure success of the workshop over the long term.

5. **Discuss** the usefulness of music related activities in the context of developing the whole child, with reference to Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences.

3)

**Results for Teachers:** At the end of this workshop, teachers will:

**Have the tools** and knowledge to maintain a clear strategy for using music in unusual and creative ways throughout the school year.

**Have an understanding** of *The Mozart Effect*, and its potential implications for enhancing students' performance and the classroom atmosphere.

**Be prepared** to present some specific activities in their classes which will be fun and effective for reaching specific teaching goals.

**Be familiar** with Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences and how this theory can be implemented using folk music in the classroom.

**Be able** to recognize and utilize materials and resources which are appropriate for similar activities and outcomes.

### **Rationale:**

Why is this worth doing?

1. *"Music programs in our schools have been decimated,"* says John Mahlman, executive director of the National Music Educators Conference.
2. *"The lack of education about just great American folk music and songs in schools today amounts to a kind of cultural disenfranchisement,"* says Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor of Miami's New World Symphony.
3. *"Indeed, I think the very idea that you can educate young people in a balanced and meaningful way, and treat music as optional is simply absurd,"* says Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS).
4. *"Music long has been recognized as a powerful communicative force that affects attitude, mood, emotions and behavior."* from JAMA (Journal of American Medical Association)
5. *Classroom teachers can fulfill the need of the time.*

### **Descriptive Summary:**

This workshop will focus on developing the skills and a strategy for increasing the use of recorded instrumental and vocal folk music as a powerful tool in any learning environment. Teachers do not need to be musicians or singers to take full advantage of this workshop, but it will be assumed that your classroom is now or can eventually be equipped with a CD player.

3)

Teachers will learn about *The Mozart Effect*, and how to use this knowledge and research with purpose and creativity to reach desired outcomes every day. The workshop will be centered around a presentation of seven specific ways to utilize music for the enhancement of the learning environment.

Participants will work interactively with the presenter and within small groups as several examples of classroom activities (and their intended outcomes) are illustrated with the use of simple folk songs. Teachers will learn specific techniques which they can use immediately with their students; and they will develop a specific strategy for implementing similar activities and techniques over the long term.

Part of this workshop will be devoted to an understanding of the multi-dimensional uses of music as it relates to Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences. Teachers will learn not only *how* to use music effectively in the classroom, but also *why* it can have such a transforming influence.

Used creatively, instrumental and vocal music can uplift the atmosphere of your classroom to a level you may never have imagined possible, making your teaching easier, more enjoyable and more effective. Teachers will leave this workshop with renewed knowledge, skills and inspiration for creating music-filled classrooms of happy, caring and intelligent children.

### **Logistical Considerations:**

Maximum 40 participants

2 hours of instruction with one break

Large space with tables and movable chairs for participants if possible

Table (6'-8') for workshop leader

Copy of workshop materials for each participant

### **Attachments:**

1. Artist's vita
2. Artist's brochure