



Mercury Baroque

“Animalia”

Grades: 1-6

Assembly Performance

Performance Length: 45 minutes

Audience Limit: 325

About the Artists

Mercury Baroque, Houston's own Baroque Orchestra, explores 17th and 18th century music from a variety of cultures. Using period instruments, historically informed performance methods and imaginative programming, the highly accomplished musicians of the ensemble bring the passion of Baroque music to life with an uncompromising attention to quality. Antoine Plante is Artistic Director; Deborah Lugo is Executive Director.

Before the performance:

- Find out what students already know about classical music, violin, cello, and harpsichord.
- Have students relate their experiences with farm animals. Have they ever been to a farm? What do they see portrayed on television and films?
- (Younger students) What animal sounds can they already make?
- (Older students) What do they know about onomatopoeia? How many sound words can they name?

After the performance:

- Have students tell or write their favorite part of the performance. Discuss how the instruments were used to make sounds.
- Listen to more Baroque music.

About the Program

If you like animals and music, you are in luck. Mercury Baroque brings a love of both to the classroom as they perform H.I.F. Biber's *Sonata Representativa*. This imaginative piece takes the listener on a tour of a farm by portraying different animals through the sounds of the violin, the cello, and the harpsichord. Hear the soothing call of the cuckoo, the purring and meowing of the cat, and, everyone's favorite, the croaking of the frog. Students will use their imagination and guess the animal by the instruments' sounds while learning fun facts.

Performance Set-up Requirements:

A performance area of at least 10' x 10', a table, 3 chairs, and a simple PA system with microphone. Students may be seated on floor or in rows of chairs.

Classroom Management

Please note that Young Audiences' policy mandates that the classroom teacher is to be present during the entire program or residency. Should the teacher leave, the artist is instructed to leave also. The teacher is responsible for managing classroom behavior during the program or residency.

Word List

- violin—highest string instrument; played with a bow
- cello—a bass instrument of the violin family; held upright on the floor and between the legs of a seated player
- harpsichord—a keyboard instrument with horizontal strings which are plucked mechanically
- onomatopoeia—the formation of a word from the sound associated with what is named

Resources:

- H.I.F. Biber:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Ignaz_Franz_Biber
- (Younger students) *The Cow That Went Oink* by Bernard Most. (Contains farm animal sounds; promotes persistence; celebrates bilingualism)
- (Younger students) *Piggy in the Puddle* by Charlotte Pomerantz. (Wonderful use of rhyme and alliteration)
- (Younger students) *Wake Up! Wake Up!* by Brian and Rebecca Wildsmith (Farm animals; chain story)
- Why *Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* by Verna Aardema (Uses sounds of jungle animals)
- *MouthSounds* by Fred Newman. (How to make animal and other sounds)

Thank you for allowing Young Audiences of Northeast Texas to share these artists and performances with your students. The students' written thank you notes may be sent to:

Young Audiences of Northeast Texas
200 East Amherst
Tyler, Texas 75701

TEKS:

Language Arts. 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.3, 5.3, 6.3 Science. 1.6, 2.8, 2.9, 3.8, 3.9.
Music. 1.5, 1.6, 2.5, 2.6, 3.5, 4.6, 4.5, 4.6, 5.5, 5.6, 6.5, 6.6

Classroom Connections

Language Arts:

- Dramatize stories about farm animals, such as *Henny Penny* by Stephen Butler or *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach.
- Use animal sounds (or everyday sounds) to create poems, stories, or songs:
 - buzz • meow • tweet • chirp • cluck • cackle
 - howl • caw • coo • quack • hoot • cock-a-doodle-doo • moo • baa • woof • roar • snort • neigh • whinny • squeak • oink • beep • boing • boom • clap • crackle • hiccup • click
 - plop • poof • thud • tick-tock • swoosh • zap • brouhaha

Math:

- Make up original math problems about farms and farm animals.
- (Younger students) Read books with farm animals and math concepts, such as *Rooster's Off to See the World* by Eric Carle, *Who Sank the Boat?* by Pamela Allen or *When Sheep Cannot Sleep* by Satoshi Kitamura.

Social Studies:

- Research: What resources and products come from farms?
- Trace a product from the farm to your home.

Science:

- Compare domesticated and wild animals.
- Research how animals communicate and defend themselves through sounds.

Information in this Study Guide was provided by Young Audiences of Houston.