

Dr. Craig Woodson

K-8 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING ASSEMBLIES AND WORKSHOPS

“A World Orchestra You Can Build”

Dr. Woodson uses simple tools and materials to build twelve easy-to-make musical instruments based on ideas from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. After the audience tries four body sounds—hair, cheeks, lip buzz, hand clap—representing the families of sound Dr. Woodson assembles homemade versions of folk instruments like a Chinese violin from a Styrofoam cup, tube, dental floss, and coat hanger, a German bugle from a garden hose and funnel, a bobby pin African "thumb piano," and a Middle Eastern drum with plastic tape on a picture frame. At the assembly's end, Dr. Woodson leads students and teachers on stage in a fun-filled improvisation as a World Orchestra.



“To Mars with Music in 2030”

In his space program, Dr. Woodson shows how we might find musical instruments on a trip to Mars in the year 2030. Based on his participation in a NASA video “Windows on Mars,” he takes the audience into the adventure of space travel making instruments along the way by recycling objects in the space ship and later combining these items with materials on Mars. Volunteers from the audience help him demonstrate his ideas such as a fire extinguisher bell, food container violin, clay pressure drum, and bamboo horn. The school receives a copy of the one-hour NASA video with Dr. Woodson.

INSTRUMENT MAKING WORKSHOPS

Under Dr. Woodson's entertaining direction, each student and teacher makes a grade-appropriate instrument, converting common items into instruments the way children do in other countries. Students decorate their instrument, compose and perform music, and even conduct music. The Drumpet which includes a drum, trumpet, drum, scraper, and string—all in one is a favorite.. Teachers with or without a musical background learn practical activities for immediate classroom use. Several parent volunteers are welcome to attend.

For information and booking information contact:

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