Music Alive! in the Yakima Valley

Project Description: Music Alive! is a collaboration between the University of Washington School of Music schools in the Yakima Valley, with particular focus in Winter 2010 on an elementary school in Toppenish, Washington called “Valley View”. Valley View Elementary School is one of four elementary schools in Toppenish School district, located in the heart of the Yakima Valley on the east side of the Cascade Mountains, within the geographic boundary of the Yakama Nation. The students enrolled in the Toppenish School district, including its elementary, middle, and high schools, constitute a population that is 75% Hispanic, 18% Yakima Nation/Native Americans, and 7% Anglo-American/Caucasian and “other”. At Valley View, Spanish is frequently spoken, such that some of the younger children are learning English for the first time, even as many of the children are bilingual; one estimate is that 98% of the children come from Hispanic homes/families. There are 18 classrooms of 20-30 children each within the school, ranging from kindergarten through the 5th grade, for a total population of about 400 children.

Music in Toppenish ranges from rock to ranchera, and the children grow up with pow-wows and fiestas in close proximity. At the elementary school, the students are exposed to Orff-oriented classes once a week for 30 minutes; there is no beginning strings or band program available to them, though there is a recently formed mariachi band. The extent of music’s presence in the general classroom is not yet discernible. Very few children have after-school music, dance, or drama lessons.

Project Goals: The goal of the project is to integrate music opportunities for children to engage in song, stories, directed listening, movement/dance, and creative expression as these activities can be linked to curricular subjects, particularly the language arts, social studies, and math curriculum, and to provide models and material resources that teachers can access and implement into their daily lessons. This project also serves as a bridge to link the School of Music, and the University of Washington at large, to the Yakima Valley communities.

Opportunities and Expectations: As part of your MUSED 452 class requirements, you will have the opportunity to travel to the Yakima Valley to become engaged in facilitating music learning and participatory experiences in music. There will also be opportunities for you to showcase your performance abilities at several schools during assemblies. Your preparation in advance, your teaching experiences (and experiences in music-making with children), and your reflections following, are all opportunities and expectations of the course.

Logistics:
Dates of MAYV Project Residency: January 26-29, 2010 (Tuesday - Friday)
    Depart UW on Tuesday at 1:45 p.m. from UW at School of Music
    Return to UW on Friday at 6:30 p.m. to the UW at School of Music
Travel (in UW vans and cars) and homestay arrangements will be arranged in advance and will be taken care of by the MAYV program. A small bursary will be provided to each student for basic expenses. This residency is a required component of MUSED 452.

Contacts
Project Coordinator: Ethan Chessin <chessin@u.washington.edu>
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Supervisor: Christopher Roberts <croberts777@aol.com>
Valley View Elementary School: http://www.toppenish.wednet.edu/West/
Toppenish School District: http://www.toppenish.wednet.edu/
MAYV Project Residency Schedule

Tuesday, January 26, 2010
1:30 p.m. – Meet and load at UW School of Music – Music Education Office
2:00 p.m. – Depart
5:00 p.m. – Arrive in Toppenish
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Discuss schedule and homestays
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Drop off students with families
Dinner with family

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
7:15 – 7:30 a.m. – Pick-up from family homestays
7:30 – 8:15 a.m. - Breakfast – McDonalds/Safeway/Starbucks
8:15 – 9:00 a.m. – Arrive at Valley View, set-up, practice
9:30 – 3:30 – Teach in small groups
3:00 – 3:45 – Break/Deconstruct
3:45 – 4:45 p.m. – Yakama Cultural Museum Visit
Dinner with family

Thursday, January 28, 2010
7:15 a.m. – Pick-up from family homestays
7:45 – 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast at Pioneer Kitchen
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Visit Toppenish High School choral program
12:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Tribal School Visit and Performance
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.- Yakima Valley Museum Tour
Dinner in Yakima with UW Student Group

Friday, January 29, 2010
6:45 a.m. – Pick-up from family homestays
7:00 – 7:45 a.m. - Breakfast – McDonalds/Safeway/Starbucks
7:45 – 8:00 a.m. – Drive to Toppenish Middle School
8:00 – 8:30 a.m. – Meet with teacher, prepare
8:30 – 10:40 a.m. – Teach in small groups
10:40 – 11:00 – Depart to Valley View Elementary
11:00 – 11:30 – Reflection, discussion
11:30 -12:30 – Lunch – Visit with school and district officials
12:30 – 1:00 – Assembly preparation
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Concert/Assembly
2:00 p.m. – Say goodbyes, pack up, and head back to Seattle –
6:00 p.m. – Estimated Arrival at UW School of Music
**Tuesday:** Depart, homestays

**Wednesday:** Teaching at Valley View, Tribal Museum, local conversation

**Thursday:** Observation at THS, Tribal School, Yakima Museum, evening in Yakima

**Friday:** Teaching/Observation at TMS, Performance at Valley View, departure