



**JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY STEEL BAND**

Thursday, March 7, 2019

4TH - 12TH GRADES

*Compiled and edited by Melanie Darby and Joanne Maples*

**Contents**

**ABOUT THE ARTIST** ..... 2

**ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS** ..... 2

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM** ..... 4

**VOCABULARY** ..... 5

**ACTIVITY: Making Steel Drums Caribbean Style!** ..... 6

**CROSS CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS and STANDARDS**..... 8

**REFERENCES AND RESOURCES** ..... 9

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

At the David L. Walters Department of Music at Jacksonville State University, a diverse and inspiring faculty trained at some of the nation's premier institutions are active as performers, scholars, composers, and teachers. Students have rare opportunities to work closely with and learn from these artist-teachers individually and in a wide variety of ensemble, seminar, and classroom settings. An energetic student body is fully engaged in a wide variety of musical performance and learning activities, and all gain significant experience by playing key leadership roles within them. Dr. Thomas McCutchen, percussion professor and Music Department Head, formed the Jacksonville State University Steel Band in January 2010. Nicknamed "INFERNO," a talented group of students and faculty performs at a variety of venues.

## ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS



**Steelpans** (also known as **steel drums** or **pans**, and sometimes, collectively with other musicians, as a **steel band** or **orchestra**) is a [musical instrument](#) originating from [Trinidad and Tobago](#) about 1880-1937. Steel pan musicians are called pannists. The modern pan is a chromatically pitched percussion instrument made from 55 gallon industrial drums that formerly contained chemicals. Technically, these instruments are not drums but **idiophones** because they do not have a membrane (**membranophone**) to create the sound. A pair of straight sticks tipped in rubber which vary in size and type of rubber tip according to the size of the pan. Some musicians use four pan sticks with two in each hand for the performance. This skill and performance has grown out of Trinidad and Tobago's early 20th-century Carnival percussion group. The pan is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. Click [here](#) for more information.



Steel pans (steel drums) were created on the Caribbean island of Trinidad in the 1930s, but steel pan history can be traced back to the enslaved Africans who were brought to the islands during the 1700s. They carried with them elements of their African culture including the playing of hand drums. These drums became the main percussion instruments in the annual Trinidadian carnival festivities.

In 1877, the ruling British government banned the playing of drums in an effort to suppress aspects of Carnival which were considered offensive. Bamboo stamping tubes were used to replace the hand drums as they produced sounds comparable to the hand drum when they were pounded on the ground.

These tubes were played in ensembles called tamboo bamboo bands. Non-traditional instruments like scrap metal, metal containers, graters and dustbins were also used in tamboo bamboo bands. However, by the 1930's these metal instruments dominated the tamboo bamboo bands. The bamboo tubes were eventually abandoned and replaced by the metal instruments. These early metal pan bands were a rustic combination of a wide variety of metallic containers and kitchen utensils which were struck with open hands, fists or sticks.

The metal pan players discovered that the raised areas of the metal containers made a different sound to those areas that were flat. Through experimentation, coincidence, trial and error, and ingenuity on the part of numerous innovators, the metal pan bands evolved into the steel pan family of instruments.

As the pan makers knowledge and technique improved, so did the sound of the instrument.



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

**Ellie Man** by Jeff Narell

**Jeff Narell** is an internationally known steel pannist, Afro-Caribbean percussionist, educator-clinician, and recording artist. He has dedicated his life to promoting and expanding the musical range of the steel pan. He has performed at schools ranging from elementary to university and with the assistance of the San Francisco Symphony Education Department Narell has introduced tens of thousands of students to steel pans.

[READ more about Jeff Narell](#)  
[LISTEN to Ellie Man](#)

**Birthday Party** by Boogsie Sharpe

**Lennox "Boogsie" Sharpe** is successful Trinidadian composer and arranger of steelpan music. He is mostly strongly associated with the Phase II Pan Groove Steel Orchestra, who he has helped take to numerous finals of the Panorama steelband competition and winning first place in 1987 and 1988. His arrangements and compositions span a variety of musical genres including, Calypso, Classical, and Jazz.

[READ more about Boogsie Sharpe](#)  
[LISTEN to Birthday Party](#)

**Terror's Tribute** by The Mighty Terror

**The Mighty Terror** was dubbed 'the golden voice' in honor of his remarkable baritone. He was a key component of the calypso sound and culture that emerged in Britain in the years following World War II. The success of 1947's "Negroes Know Thyself" earned the Mighty Terror an invitation to play the Calypso Palace Tent.

[READ more about The Mighty Terror](#)  
[LISTEN here for samples of Mighty Terror](#)

**Everlong** by Foo Fighters (arranged for Steel Pan)



**Foo Fighters** is an American rock band formed in 1995. Then band's name derives from a World War II secret term used to describe UFOs. The man who brought the band together was Dave Grohl, who was the original drummer for Nirvana. His desire to form the band came after the death of Nirvana's lead singer Kurt Cobain. *Wasting Light* became their first number one album in America 2011, proving that since their rise in the mid-90s that their modern and classic rock sound can stand the test of time.

[LISTEN to Everlong here](#)

**YYZ by Rush** (was composed to mimic the rhythms (using Morse code) generated by the letters Y, Y and Z (the code for the Toronto airport)



**Rush** is a Canadian rock band that rose to fame in the 1970s with powerful songs that lasted a decade. Their magnum opus *2112* represents progressive rock at its peak, but that did not stop them breaking new ground and with even more epic records such as *Tom Sawyer* and *The Spirit of Radio*. The trio has spent the last 40 years cultivating one of the largest fan base in rock while still managing to sell out arenas around the globe.

[LISTEN to YYZ by Rush](#)

**William Tell by Giacomo Rossini**



**Giacomo Rossini** is an Italian composer noted for his operas. His comic operas, including *Barber of Seville*, *Cinderella*, and *Semiramide* are his most famous works. One of his more dramatic operas that is most known is *William Tell*. Being influenced the German school of composition and hearing composers such as Joseph Hayden and Mozart, he started to write for the Philharmonic School. After that for the next 20 years Rossini went on to compose more than 40 operas.

[LISTEN to William Tell](#)

## VOCABULARY

**Idiophones:** an instrument the whole of which vibrates to produce a sound when struck, shaken, or scraped, such as a bell, gong, or rattle.

**Membranophone:** is any musical instrument which produces sound primarily by way of a vibrating stretched membrane.

### ACTIVITY: Making Steel Drums Caribbean Style!

You will need an empty juice carton. Give it a wash out and with some sharp scissors, carefully cut out two of the sides. Cut off the top but not the bottom. You should end up with a shape like a slanted roof that will be the steel drum's base.

The bottom of the carton is now the shape of a triangle which you can use as a template to make the other end of your base.

To do this, use one of the discarded sides and cut out a big enough oblong for the triangle shape. Its length should be the same as the long triangle side and its height the same as the height of the triangle.



Use a felt tip to mark your triangle and fold these 2 lines. Now check the picture that you have a triangle with sides that will be used to attach it to the base end.

Use a stapler to fix it into place and paper over your base in a paper of your choice. I chose the same color as the steel drum to make it look uniform.



### Making Steel Drums Using Tin Foil

You need a tin foil plate. We got ours from Mr. Kipling tarts. Loved having an excuse to buy and eat 2. It was for a good cause so I`m not suffering any pangs of conscience. We need the plates for our Summer Work Shop you know!

Take the plate and use its diameter to mark out where the holes for the legs (aka) 2 skewers or garden sticks.

Once you have punched your holes, push the skewers through and put a piece of blue tack on the ends. This will support the base by fixing it to the table top. Put this aside until you make the drum.



To make the drum, join two lengthwise strips of A4 metallic card together and then use your tin foil plate upside down as a template by wrapping the metallic card strip around inside the lip. This is important so that the pan can fit inside the drum. Hold it in place while you staple it to make a cylinder.

See how it looks just like a steel drum!

If you want to decorate the drum, punch holes around the edge of the card for ribbons.

Now tape the skewers to the inside of the drum on both side to secure.



If you want a crisscross design, make some holes around the bottom too. You can decorate it any style you like. Try and think of one.



### Making Steel Drums Look Colorful

Get your ribbon and weave it between the holes. If you take a spoon and pull the ribbon between your thumb and the spoon, it will curl up like the ribbon in the photo.

Weave diagonally from hole to hole, then work the other way to get the crisscross effect.

When you're finished, sit the tin foil plate on the top of the drum. It should fit snugly with the lip overlapping the edge. Now get another 2 skewers, put some blue tack on the ends or some large beads to create pan sticks.

## CROSS CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS and STANDARDS

SS6G1 The student will locate selected features of Latin America and the Caribbean.

SS6G4 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

MLEK-5.CU1A Demonstrate knowledge of typical practices and products of target cultures.

MLEK-5.CU1B Participate in culturally-authentic simulations, such greetings and celebrations.

MLEK-5.CU1C Identify countries where target language is spoken. Name selected countries where the target language is spoken. Identify selected symbols and landmarks of target cultures.

MLE3-5.CU1E Identify similarities and differences among a variety of cultures.

MLEK-5.CCC4A Identify places where target language is found beyond the classroom setting.

MLEK-5.CCC4B Identify places where target cultures are found beyond the classroom setting.

MLE1-5.CCC2B Compare cultural products, practices, and perspectives.

MLE3.CCC2A Identify age-appropriate patterns of cultural behavior and interaction.

MLE3-5.CCC3A Compare patterns of spoken communication such as intonation and pronunciation

MLE4-5.CCC4A Document and describe encounters with the target language beyond the classroom setting.

MLE4-5.CCC4B Document and describe encounters with the target cultures beyond the classroom setting

MLI.CU1C Describe cultural customs and traditions.

MLI.CCC1A Demonstrate basic geographical knowledge.

MLII.CU1A Participate in real or simulated cultural events, such as family activities and holiday celebrations.

MLII.CU1B Identify patterns of behavior typically associated with cultures, such as eating and shopping customs, leisure activities, and celebration of national holidays.

MLII.CU1C Examine the influence of the geography of the countries studied on cultural elements such as food, clothing, dwellings, transportation, language, and art.

MK-5GM.9 – Understanding music in relation to history and culture

a. Perform, listen, move and/or distinguish between music from various historical periods and cultures (e.g., various world regions). b. Describe how music and musicians function in various cultures.

M5-8GM.7 – Evaluating music and music performances

a. Evaluate musical performances of themselves and others. b. Explain personal preferences for specific musical works and styles using appropriate vocabulary.

M5-8GM.8 – Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts

a. Describe the relationship between music and the other arts.

M6-8GM.6 – Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

b. Recognize characteristics of musical elements in music, which represent diverse genres and cultures.

M6-8GM.9 – Understanding music in relation to history and culture

a. Identify distinguishing characteristics of representative music genres and styles from a variety of cultures. c. Compare music of two or more world cultures identifying function and role of music, their musicians, and their respective performance conditions.

## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Click [here](#) view a video of the JSU Steel Band in performance.

<http://www.steelpan-steeldrums-information.com/steel-pan-history.html>

Steelpan Odyssey -- Trinidad and Tobago <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL1RQ9FGZyE>

The Map of Notes on a Steel Pan <http://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/24611688558>

<http://www.koolkidscrafts.com/making-steel-drums.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steelpan>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-history-of-salsa-music-2141563>

<http://www.salsagente.com/history-of-salsa-music-dance/>

Lennox Sharpe. (2018, September 03). Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lennox\\_Sharpe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lennox_Sharpe)

Ankeny, J. (n.d.). The Mighty Terror | Biography & History. Retrieved from

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/the-mighty-terror-mn0000403110>

Erlewine, S. T. (n.d.). Foo Fighters | Biography & History. Retrieved from

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/foo-fighters-mn0000184043/biography>

About Rush. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.rush.com/band/>

Caussou, J. (2018, November 09). Gioachino Rossini. Retrieved from

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gioachino-Rossini#googDisableSync>

Narell, J. (n.d.). Jeff Narell. Retrieved from <http://www.jeffnarell.com/bio.html>