

# Study Guide For Teachers

## Project Trio In *Outside the Bachs*

Presented by

Young Audiences  
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### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Combining the virtuosity of world-class artists with the energy of rock stars, PROJECT Trio remixes traditional ideas of chamber music in *Outside the Bachs*! In this genre-defying performance, students discover the joys of classical and jazz music through exciting arrangements of music from Bach to Beethoven, to Django Reinhardt to Jethro Tull, and plenty of PROJECT Trio originals. By combining classical repertoire with elements of hip-hop and popular music, students experience this trio's innovative process of blending eclectic musical elements into a universal language through the art of collaboration

### LEARNING GOALS

Students will:

- Hear high energy, innovative chamber music
- Explore the timeline of music and the great musicians/composers of the last four centuries
- Be exposed to multiple genres of music including classical, jazz, rock and hip hop.
- Watch demonstrations of new techniques on "classical" instruments

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

**Chamber music** is a form of classical music that is composed for a small group of instruments—traditionally a group that could fit in a palace chamber or a large room. Most broadly, it includes any art music that is performed by a small number of performers, with one performer to a part (in contrast to orchestral music, in which each string part is played by a number of performers). However, by convention, it usually does not include solo instrument performances or performers.

**Classical music** refers to music composed during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, characterized by the development of the sonata by such composers as Mozart. In popular use, however, the term is used to mean any serious art music as distinct from jazz, pop, or folk.

**Jazz music** is style of music, native to America, characterized by a strong but flexible rhythmic understructure with solo and ensemble improvisations on basic tunes and chord patterns and, more recently, a highly sophisticated harmonic idiom.

**Hip hop music**, also called hip-hop or rap music, is a music genre formed in the United States in the 1970s that consists of a stylized rhythmic music that commonly accompanies rapping, a rhythmic and rhyming speech that is chanted.

**Rock music** is a genre of popular music that originated as "rock and roll" in the United States in the 1950s, and developed into a range of different styles in the 1960s and later, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States. It has its roots in 1940s' and 1950s' rock and roll, itself heavily influenced by blues, rhythm and blues and country music. Rock music also drew strongly on several other genres such as electric blues and folk, and incorporated influences from jazz, classical and other musical sources.

## **BEFORE THE PROGRAM**

### **Discussion questions:**

- What is chamber music? Listen together to traditional chamber music.
- Chamber music is just one musical genre. How many musical genres can you identify? Make a list for the classroom.
- What happens when you combine musical genres? What does it sound like? What does it look like?

## **AFTER THE PROGRAM**

### **Discussion questions:**

- How was this chamber music performance different from traditional chamber music? How was it the same?
- What genres did you hear? Make a list of all the genres of music that you heard at the performance
- Which instrument surprised you the most?

## **VOCABULARY WORDS**

**Music:** Sound and silence organized in time

**Genre:** a class or category of artistic endeavor having a particular form, content, technique

**Composer:** a person who creates music, either by musical notation or oral tradition for interpretation and performance.

**Arranger:** a person who takes music that was composed by someone else and recreates it for other instruments and in a new style.

*The three basic and most important elements of music are melody, harmony and rhythm.*

**Melody:** Most simply put: the tune  
Melody is the lead line of a song or piece. It is the musical theme that runs through a piece of music. A Melody is the thing that ties the whole thing together and is the part of the piece that stays stuck in your head. Melody is horizontal.

**Harmony:** Notes sounding together to make a chord. It is the part of the music that fills out the melody and makes it interesting. Harmony is notes sounding together simultaneously. Harmony is vertical.

**Rhythm:** Covers everything that has to do with time. Rhythm is the grouping of notes, beats, and measures. Rhythm makes the music go forward. It is the way the sounds of different lengths are linked together.

## **ARTIST INFORMATION**

Project Trip is a chamber music ensemble based in Brooklyn, New York. It consists of Greg Pattillo (flute), Eric Stephenson (cello), and Peter Seymour (double bass). The three met in 1996 while students at the Cleveland Institute of Music. While members of the Colorado Music Festival, Seymour and Stephenson conceived the idea to start a classical chamber music group that would incorporate elements of the jazz and rock world and provide a different experience than the typical classical concert-going experience.

Their extensive repertoire consists of original compositions and arrangements by the trio members that highlight their versatility by bridging several styles including classical music, jazz, hip hop, rock, Americana, and bluegrass. They have arranged pieces by Charles Mingus, Dave Brubeck, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Bach, Jethro Tull, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, and Guns n' Roses.

The Trio is dedicated to arts education, teaching the art and joy of jamming on classical instruments and opening minds to what instruments can do. PROJECT Trio has performed and led workshops for over 350,000 students on four continents and is instantly recognizable to students of all ages as a result of their YouTube following and appearances on popular TV shows on Nickelodeon and MTV.

## **RESOURCES**

*Project Trio samples:*

<https://www.youtube.com/user/freedomworksfilms>