

Study Guide for Teachers

Musiquita *Musiquita*

Presented by
Young Audiences Arts for Learning
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our program offers an immersive and interactive bilingual music experience for elementary school students. Through captivating performances, students will embark on a musical journey that blends English and Spanish languages, fostering cultural appreciation and language development. Engaging with a diverse range of musical genres, including original compositions, children's classics, Latin folk, rock, and more, students will sing, dance, and participate in rhythmic activities. Our dynamic duo, Blanca (violin, ukulele, vocals) and Jesse (piano, melodica, percussion, vocals), creates an energetic and educational atmosphere, leaving students with lasting memories and a deeper connection to music and language.

LEARNING GOALS

Through our program, students will achieve several learning goals that nurture their musical, linguistic, and cognitive development. They will gain an appreciation for diverse musical genres while improving their language skills through exposure to bilingual lyrics. Students will actively participate in singing, dancing, and rhythmic activities, enhancing their coordination and sense of rhythm. Our program will assist students in beginning to develop a fundamental understanding of melody, rhythm, dynamics, and more. Beyond music, our program promotes cultural awareness and social interaction as students collaborate in a fun and inclusive environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

To fully appreciate our program, students can benefit from a brief introduction to our music through listening to our music on their preferred streaming platform and/or enjoying some of our music videos. Understanding the concept of bilingualism and how language can enhance musical expression will also enhance their experience. By relating our songs and themes to their everyday experiences, students can easily connect to the lyrics and narratives, making the learning process engaging and relatable. We encourage them to come with open minds and a sense of curiosity, ready to embark on a unique musical journey that bridges languages, cultures, and emotions.





BEFORE THE PROGRAM

the program, it would be beneficial for students to engage in activities that introduce them to different musical instruments and genres. They can explore rhythms through simple body percussion exercises, experiment with creating their own melodies using basic instruments or household objects and listen to various types of music to recognize diverse sounds. Discussion questions such as "What is your favorite type of music, and why?" or "Have you heard songs in different languages before?" can prompt them to think about their musical experiences and expand their perspectives. Writing prompts like "Imagine you're writing a song about your favorite place. What kind of music would it have?" can encourage creativity. Additionally, games involving rhythm clapping, call-and-response singing, or matching musical instruments to their sounds can help familiarize them with musical concepts. Ultimately, fostering an open mindset and curiosity about music and culture will best prepare students to fully enjoy and connect with our program.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

After the program, teachers can engage students in activities that reinforce their understanding of our program's themes and concepts. Students can be encouraged to discuss their favorite moments from the performance and share how music made them feel. To deepen their understanding, teachers could guide them in researching the cultural origins of the songs they heard, and even invite students to find songs from their own cultural backgrounds. Classroom activities might include creating artwork inspired by the music, where students express emotions or scenes from the songs they heard. For language reinforcement, teachers can provide bilingual song lyrics and ask students to identify similar words or phrases in English and Spanish. This can lead to interesting discussions about language similarities and differences. Games like musical charades, where students act out a song's emotions through movement, or creating their own rhythm patterns using body percussion, can extend the musical experience. Overall, post-program activities that encourage reflection, cultural exploration, and creative expression will enrich students' engagement and learning.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Arriba: Up
Abajo: Down
Hola: Hi
Chao: bye
Nos Vemos la proxima: We'll see you next time
Para ti: for you
Para mi: for me
Para todos: for everyone
Si: yes
No: no
Forte: loud
Piano: quiet
Crescendo: grow louder
Diminuendo: grow softer
Rapido: fast
Lento: slow
Staccato: short
Legato: long

ARTIST INFORMATION

Join husband and wife duo Blanca Cecilia González and Jesse Elder for Musiquita, a playful exploration of Music in Spanish and English. This program combines music, language, and culture into a joyful celebration, appropriate for all ages. Blanca holds a Master of Music Degree from The Juilliard School in New York City, and Jesse is the former Music Director of Postmodern Jukebox. A passion project for both of these professional musicians, Musiquita builds and strengthens Spanish and English language skills through vibrant and approachable songs. Blanca and Jesse use violin, piano, ukulele, melodica, voice, percussion, and movement to thoughtfully guide listeners through an array of music and verse. As a bilingual Spanish-English family with two young children, González and Elder make learning engaging and enjoyable. Sharing their own experiences in a relaxed and supportive environment, Blanca and Jesse present easy ways to incorporate other cultures into your family's everyday life. Musiquita primarily focuses on Spanish and English tunes, but will also include glimpses into other world cultures. Traditional, classical, jazz, folk, pop, original compositions, and more are all highlighted in Musiquita, appealing to a wide range of taste and energy levels.

RESOURCES

www.musiquita.nyc

www.youtube.com/c/musiquita