

Study Guide for Teachers

CELLO FURY *SONIC EVOLUTION*

Presented by
Young Audiences NJ & Eastern PA
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Classically trained cellists Nicole Myers, Cecilia Caughman, and Simon Cummings, along with drummer David Throckmorton, perform *Sonic Evolution*, a high-energy program with original music as well as classical pieces and cover songs. This cutting-edge quartet's original and organic crossover sound bridges classical and rock music.

A Pittsburgh-based cello rock band, Cello Fury's *Sonic Evolution* performance is designed to let students connect the dots between musical genres and relate to their own musical experiences, while encouraging them in the study of traditionally "classical" instruments. Students learn about the string instrument and percussion families, compare various musical styles, explore sound effects, discover how technology can be applied to an old art form, and participate directly in this exciting and energizing program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Cello Fury is a rock/classical crossover band based in Pittsburgh, PA, featuring three classically trained cellists and a rock drummer. Cello Fury has been presenting educational outreach programs in western Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC, for many years to great acclaim. After joining the roster of Gateway to the Arts, a Young Audiences Arts for Learning affiliate, Cello Fury performed over 100 school assemblies in western Pennsylvania. Cello Fury is now also on the roster of Young Audiences of Rochester in upstate New York and Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern PA. Every year Cello Fury performs for tens of thousands of children through their outreach concerts.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will

- Connect the dots between classical and rock music throughout historical time periods.
- Explore how technology can modernize an old art form.
- Learn about the string and percussion instrument families.
- Compare differing musical styles.
- Participate by listening, responding to questions, clapping, and singing.
- Discover the variety of sounds produced by string instruments.
- Receive encouragement to participate in music as a lifelong activity.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Classroom Discussion Questions:

1. How are classical and rock music similar or different?
2. What kind of music do you expect to hear from a string instrument or the cello?
3. What kind of music do you enjoy listening to and why?
4. Where do you expect to hear classical music?
5. Where do you expect to hear rock music?

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Classroom Discussion Questions:

1. After hearing the program, do you view classical and rock music differently?
2. Did your ideas on what a classical instrument could do change following the program?
3. Do you think Cello Fury's music sounds more classical, more rock, or a combination of both?
4. Would you consider playing an instrument yourself?
5. Who was the leader of the band? How does a band communicate on stage?
6. How is playing music in a rock band or an orchestra like playing on a sports team?

VOCABULARY WORDS

- ❖ String instrument family
- ❖ Cello
- ❖ Acoustic
- ❖ Amplification
- ❖ Classical Music
- ❖ Rock Music
- ❖ Cover song
- ❖ Pizzicato
- ❖ Drum kit
- ❖ Dynamics
- ❖ Melody
- ❖ Harmony
- ❖ Bass Line

ARTIST INFORMATION

A cello rock powerhouse featuring three cellists and a drummer, Cello Fury's original music combines the emotive and symphonic sounds of the cello with driving rock beats to create a cinematic, progressive rock sound. A rarity in the music world, Cello Fury appeals to a diverse audience throughout the United States and abroad, performing in venues ranging from concert halls to rock clubs. Continually developing their own unique style of cello rock music, cellists Simon Cummings, Cecilia Caughman, and Nicole Myers along with drummer David Throckmorton unleash vitality and rhythmic drive in their music and dare to venture past classical expectations. Cello Fury has performed on radio and television, in rock clubs, in concert halls, and at music festivals such as SXSW, performing for audiences as large as 67,000 and touring throughout 25 states and abroad. As an independent band, Cello Fury has released two albums of original music, "Cello Fury" and "Symphony of Shadows," and performs over a hundred live shows each year. Cello Fury has collaborated with other musicians and artists across genres ranging from dance, theater, opera, and orchestra as well as with rock bands and singer-songwriters.