

## ATLANTA PERCUSSION TRIO

### **Our American Music Heritage**

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Percussion is the name given to any instrument whose sound is created by striking. The percussion family of instruments is the largest and most diverse family. Percussion instruments are some of the oldest and newest instruments known to man. Some percussion instruments are melodic in nature (i.e. xylophone, marimba, bells), some are characteristically rhythmic (i.e. drums, tambourines, castanets), and some are generally used as sound effects (i.e. gongs, ratchet, slapstick).

"Our American Music Heritage" is a highly participatory look at America's musical history. Students journey through time and explore the development of original American art forms. The program includes Native American music, Colonial drumming, music of the immigrants, Bluegrass, Blues, Ragtime, Dixieland, Cajun, Rock'n'Roll. Students also help create a live soundtrack for a "Silent Movie".

#### OBJECTIVES

- To explore the unique circumstances that led to the diverse styles of music created in America
- To show the influence of the immigration of many nationalities of people on American music
- To demonstrate the importance of music in American life throughout history

#### VOCABULARY

- Jazz - a kind of music often said to be the only art form to originate in the United States. Influences include African rhythms and African-American songs, American band traditions and European harmonies and forms.
- Dixieland - early form of jazz originating in New Orleans
- Blues - style of music important to the development of jazz. Developed out of the work songs of the slaves and characterized by slow, mournful melodies
- Louis Armstrong - cornet and trumpet player considered to be one of the most famous and influential performers in the history of jazz.
- Bluegrass - style of country music that originated in rural areas of the South
- Ragtime - type of music popular in the U.S. from around 1895-1915 characterized by highly syncopated (irregularly accented) melodies
- Scott Joplin - the "King of Ragtime"
- Cajun music - developed in southern Louisiana during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The term Cajun refers to French-speaking people from Canada who settled in Louisiana and Texas in the mid-1700s.
- Rock'n'roll - one of the world's most popular and adaptable musical forms. Originated in the United States in the early 1950's and characterized by a strongly marked, regular beat