Kim and Reggie Harris

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(photo by Tom Radcliffe)

SING TO FREEDOM/SING TO LEARNING: THE ROLE AND VALUE OF ARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Workshop Leaders: Kim and Reggie Harris
For Parents, Administrators, and Community Members
Time Required: 1-1.5 hours
Maximum number of workshop participants: 40

Kim and Reggie Harris lead a participatory workshop focusing on the opportunities and challenges present when the arts are an integral part of the educational process. Participants examine an example of an arts-integrated unit, which focuses on a historical and musical perspective of the Underground Railroad, the multiracial movement for freedom from slavery in the 1800s. Through songs and stories, participants explore the flight of slaves to freedom, and the courageous people of many races and creeds who worked together to help them. Participants reflect on connections to curricular areas as well as the benefits for students and teachers who are engaged in learning through arts integration.

KIM AND REGGIE HARRIS are performers, musicians, and composers who reside in New York. The Harrises tour colleges, universities, and concert and performing venues throughout the world, averaging more than 300 performances a year. Their recording, *Steal Away—Songs of the Underground Railroad*, is included in many museum and library collections. The Harrises are featured performers in the 1988 textbook series, *World of Music*, and have released an Underground Railroad video and game for use by teachers and families. They have performed at such venues as The Smithsonian Institution, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Pike's Peak Center, and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.